

# THE KLONDIKE SUN



DAWSON CITY, YUKON

THE KLONDIKE SUN

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1992

VOL. 3 NO. 12

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Photo courtesy of Phil Eccles

## A 1937 Ice Folly

Phil Eccles, spring 1937, clutching the spoils of his folly, a Russian Jack, rescued from the Yukon River. For story see page 16.

**PERCY DEWOLFE RACE - page17**

### COMMENTARY:

## Bear Creek besieged again

submitted by  
Palma Berger,  
a Bear Creek resident

In 1985/86 Bear Creek had a protracted debate with the Water Board over allowing mining effluents to settle into our Bear Creek slough. This would silt up our wells.

Bear Creek did not win. The Water Board made no decisions as to whether they would consider small domestic water users such as Bear Creek important enough to ensure clean domestic water supply for their use. The matter was resolved by the Territorial Government building a diversion at Hunker Creek to allow the water to enter the Klondike River.

(The Territorial Govt. was criticized for this by the Water Board for not applying for a water license, as per the Northern Inland Waters Act! The same act that governed our domestic use, we thought!)

Now once again, a mining company has applied for a water

license to mine an area adjoining Bear Creek rural residential subdivision. Once again, Bear Creek residents have a stressful summer preparing a protest against miners, Water Board and their lawyers.

In this case we would still have this problem even if the Territorial Government had followed the recommendations of the Klondike Valley Land Use Plan. The Plan recommended that the Federal Government withdraw from staking the whole of the Klondike Valley. No use! These claims were staked many years ago, and just now are being activated.

Apparently we are not large enough users of domestic water to warrant a water license and thus automatically be included and protected in any process when a water use application is presented. We have to continually watch the papers and keep alert as to when a water use application comes up. In some

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## Klondike Valley residents say NO!

by Dan Davidson

If the matter were left strictly up to the residents of the Klondike Valley, there seems to be no question that the present proposal to annex the area to the City of Dawson would be dealt a resounding defeat.

Of the 120 people who attended the March 25 hearing of the Yukon Municipal Board there were probably not more than a handful of people who supported the original proposal, and most of them sat on the municipal council.

There were 49 written interventions to the expansion proposal when the Municipal Board arrived in town. Board member Geoff Latin says he can't recall seeing that many ever in such a case. There were more speakers at the evening meeting, and while some of them were the same peo-

ple as those who wrote, still there were more than 40 people who walked up to one of the three microphones in the Trondik Hall to express their opposition to the proposal.

Nearly every one who spoke against the city's plan to expand its boundaries south along the Klondike Valley to Flat Creek and across the Yukon River to West Dawson was applauded and sometimes cheered.

Rock Creek resident Glen Bowers was cheered when he requested that a vote be taken of Valley residents. Henderson Corner resident Ron Ryant got applause when he spoke.

"I moved out (of the city)," Ryant said, "to escape most of the bylaws."

"Why don't you leave us

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## Bear Creek besieged

Continued from front page

other provinces and the N.W.T., domestic water users have priority over industrial users of water.

Among our requests at the last Water Board hearing were included pleas that: (a) a means of preventing mining operations from adversely affecting the subdivision be implemented and, (b) any water use applications that affect the water supply or quality of life in the subdivision be held in Dawson City.

Both of these requests were ignored.

The recommendation of the Klondike Placer Miners Association at the hearings that the Yukon Government not allow small settlements to spring up willy-nilly was not well thought out. Yukon is no longer the wide open space it used to be, and we must rub shoulders with our neighbours in the valley whatever their activity in the rural area.

It is most unfortunate that the Federal Acts that most affect us, the Placer Mining Act, the Fisheries Act and the Northern Inland Waters Act zero in on their own specific areas of concern, and do not offer a common base from which a common standard for all can be arrived at. For example, if we were fish, we would be well looked after. Or perhaps one just needs a fairer interpretation of the Northern Inland Waters Act.

The Water Board, instead of seeking a solution for Bear Creek's potable water problem, chose the easy way out by also criticizing the Territorial Government for establishing Bear Creek in the first place. They thereby neglected their duty of ensuring that all Yukoners have good quality water as it is spelled out in the Northern Inland Waters Act. Besides, whatever flows through Bear Creek ends up in Dawson City, which they did not consider also.

Bear Creek's problem is not only contamination of water, it is a quality of life that is being destroyed. We who are year round dwellers here, do not want the roar of machinery around in our too brief summer, or the speeding vehicles we have to contend with, or the dust, or having to deal with strangers who are here for the job only, and cannot wait to get out come Fall.

We have already lost the beauty of the Bear Creek slough to the last mining activity, as the clear water now reveals algae encrusted rocks. Algae that grew on the silt deposited from the last mining operation's water. That is, of course, the rocks we can see. Others are covered by green or yellow tendrils that reach up from the depths to float near the surface.

We just do not want to lose anything more.

## Residents say NO!

Continued from front page

alone?" pleaded Richard Saunders, a valley miner who lives on his claim.

The city's submissions so far have not convinced anyone in the valley that expansion will benefit them in terms of services offered to residents there.

"What can you give me that I don't supply for myself already?" asked Richard Zimmer, whose property on Sisters Island would be cut in two by the boundary expansion if the new line was approved. "We're kinda independent and we'd like to stay that way."

Several residents, including West Dawsonite Steely Cash, continued to say that the city had been hiding its true intentions and planning this expansion as a surprise, but Municipal Board Chair Craig Tutin dismissed this line of thinking, reminding the audience that the issue was already being discussed in public forums when the board sat here to review the city's Official Community Plan over 8 months ago.

Mayor Peter Jenkins reminded the audience that bi-weekly council meetings are open to the public and that their major topics of discussion, including this expansion request, have been reported regularly in both the Klondike Sun and the two Whitehorse papers for the last three years.

Jenkins was not able to reassure the audience about taxes and made a major gaff when he said that tax rates were already different for different classes of residential land in the existing city boundaries. He was corrected by a whispered consultation from city manager Carol Murray, but not in time to keep from making a bad impression. In the end the best he could say was that the matter was under study and that differential tax rates were being planned for next year. The audience appeared skeptical.

Bear Creek resident Gary Parker accused the city council of "making a land grab based on the ...principle of Manifest Destiny."

Rod Dewell, also of Bear Creek, underlined the point, but also revealed the deep distrust that some valley residents seem to feel for Dawson's long time mayor.

"A group of people are being jerked around by one person and subjected to his dreams," said Dewell. "This is a scam. This folly is a tax grab, plain and simple."

Reminded by Tutin that it was council, in fact, two different councils, that had submitted this proposal to the board, Dewell muttered, "Well, some of us know better."

Wanda Schmidt spoke for many people when she complained that, "most of all, our feelings have not been consulted."

Many voices from the floor pressed for a referendum, and Tutin was forced to restate several times that this was one of the options his board could recommend to the Minister of Community and Transportation Services, Maurice Byblow, to take back to the territorial cabinet.

What people did not seem to understand, Tutin said in an interview later on, is that any referendum would have to include current residents of Dawson as well as those in the proposed zone of expansion. In such a vote, the valley might just lose.

Many questions were asked about the Municipal Board's role and how the expansion process works, in a legal sense. Craig Tutin was quick to point out that, while perhaps the city would have been smart to woo the valley residents more carefully, nothing the city had done was improper. The board itself is set up partly to provide the public with the forum that people at the meeting said should have taken place much sooner. That people should complain about lack of public consultation at a meeting called for just that purpose seemed to exasperate Tutin after a time, and he eventually refused to deal with any further comments on that subject.

Tutin said that all the evidence would be weighed, the interventions as well as the original proposal. The board may recommend acceptance, rejection or modification, he noted, but the final decision rests with the Yukon cabinet. He also stressed that, while the messages at the meeting were coming through loud and clear, there was another side to the debate - the City of Dawson's side - and that, too, would have to be considered. The board should report to the minister in about 30 days.

## OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES REMAIN:

# Dawson First Nation Returns to Opposition

by Dan Davidson

The Dawson First Nation has returned to its original position of opposing the Dawson City boundary expansion on the grounds that Land Claims must be settled first. Though a letter dated March 11, 1992 had indicated that a deal might be in the works between the two councils, and though Mayor Peter Jenkins had anticipated such a deal in an interview on the weekend, the statement read to the Municipal Board by band councillor Debbie Nagano was nearly identical with wording of the First Nation's original response in February 1992.

Nagano indicated that negotiations had not resolved all the outstanding differences between the two councils. She refused to answer any questions from the Municipal Board except to say that Land Claims negotiations here begin on April 7 and 8.

Quizzed by Municipal Board Chair Craig Tutin, Mayor Peter Jenkins agreed that it was most desirable to have the First Nation's concurrence to the expansion plan before it could go ahead, but he indicated further that talks were continuing on a regular basis and the issues might still be resolved.

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## Lousetown Placer Applications Closely Scrutinized

by Dan Davidson

The proposed Lousetown operations of 9740 Yukon Ltd. will be opposed by a wide range of interveners. These include the Dawson First Nation, the City of Dawson, the Yukon Historical and Museums Society, Energy and Mines Branch (YTG), Renewable Resources Branch (YTG), Heritage Branch (YTG), Environment Canada, the Environmental Protection Service and Klondike National Historic Sites.

The 9740 hearing was postponed earlier in the month partly at the request of Eric Bergvinson, in order that the various interveners against his license should have the "additional time to collect, summarize, and identify the various sites and concerns in the Klondike City property".

Bergvinson's Feb. 26, 1992 letter indicated that "I feel comfortable that with the situation the way it is presently the result of the public hearing would have ruled in my favor and allowed the

continued on page 7

## Lousetown RERC Hearings Postponed

by Dan Davidson

Further postponements to the hearings into possible placer mining in the Lousetown area took a new twist early last week when the RERC (Regional Environmental Review Committee) Hearings, scheduled for March 31, 1992, were postponed. The change in plans was the result of the entrance of a new player in the Lousetown stakes - or was it?

According to a letter from Lois Craig (Northern Affairs Program), dated March 25, 1992, the public meeting was postponed "due to the Yukon Territory Water Boards' receipt of a new water use application from Arkona Resources (formerly Berglynn Resources) to mine the same mineral claims as 9740 Yukon Ltd."

Puzzled readers will recall that 9740 Yukon Ltd. has a president named Eric Bergvinson, whom various sources have described as being connected with Berglynn Resources, Ltd., the company which backed away from a Lousetown operation in the 1980's.

Why is one Berglynn related company apparently messing in a claim already being worked on by another one? Dawson City councillor and Dawson Indian Band Land Claims Coordinator Tim Gerberding says he has received communications in the name of a gentleman called Mark Aplas, who appears to be the new head of Berglynn Resources, or Arkona Resources, or whatever it may be called this week. It appears that Aplas has displaced Bergvinson, information which Mayor Peter Jenkins says he can confirm from other sources.

The communication to Gerberding was to the effect that Bergvinson was no longer to be considered a bona fide player in the Lousetown staking race.

If this is some sort of attempt on the part of the company to avoid the scrutiny being given to the 9740 water use applications by playing name games, it isn't working. Craig's letter indicates that "the Arkona Resources Inc. placer mining proposal will be subject to a level II EARP review as it is similar in all key respects to the 9740 Yukon Ltd. proposal."

## Alternatives to the Dawson expansion proposal

by Dan Davidson

While no one other than Dawson council appeared to champion the present proposal for boundary expansion, there were voices at the Municipal Board hearings to support some of the concerns that led to the proposal and to agree that Dawson does need room to grow. Two submissions in particular dealt with compromise solutions which went beyond a simple "yes" or "no" to expansion.

Art Webster, the MLA for Klondike, supported the need of Dawson City to expand at least as far as the Callison Industrial sub-division, an area which has just been transferred from federal to territorial control and an area for which implementation strategies for the Klondike Valley Land Use Plan have already been approved by the YTG.

The Yukon Municipal Board has twice before (1986 and 1987) encouraged Dawson City to push its boundaries out to Callison.

Webster felt that an expansion decision should be delayed by one year. During that year there would be time for the Han First Nation's Land Claims to be resolved; YTG would be able to solve the question of surface rights to mining interests; and the city would have the time to prepare a detailed cost/benefit analysis based on its existing Official Community Plan.

The city could then resubmit

its request, revising its application to take in a smaller area, one more consistent with its actual needs and ability to manage the area.

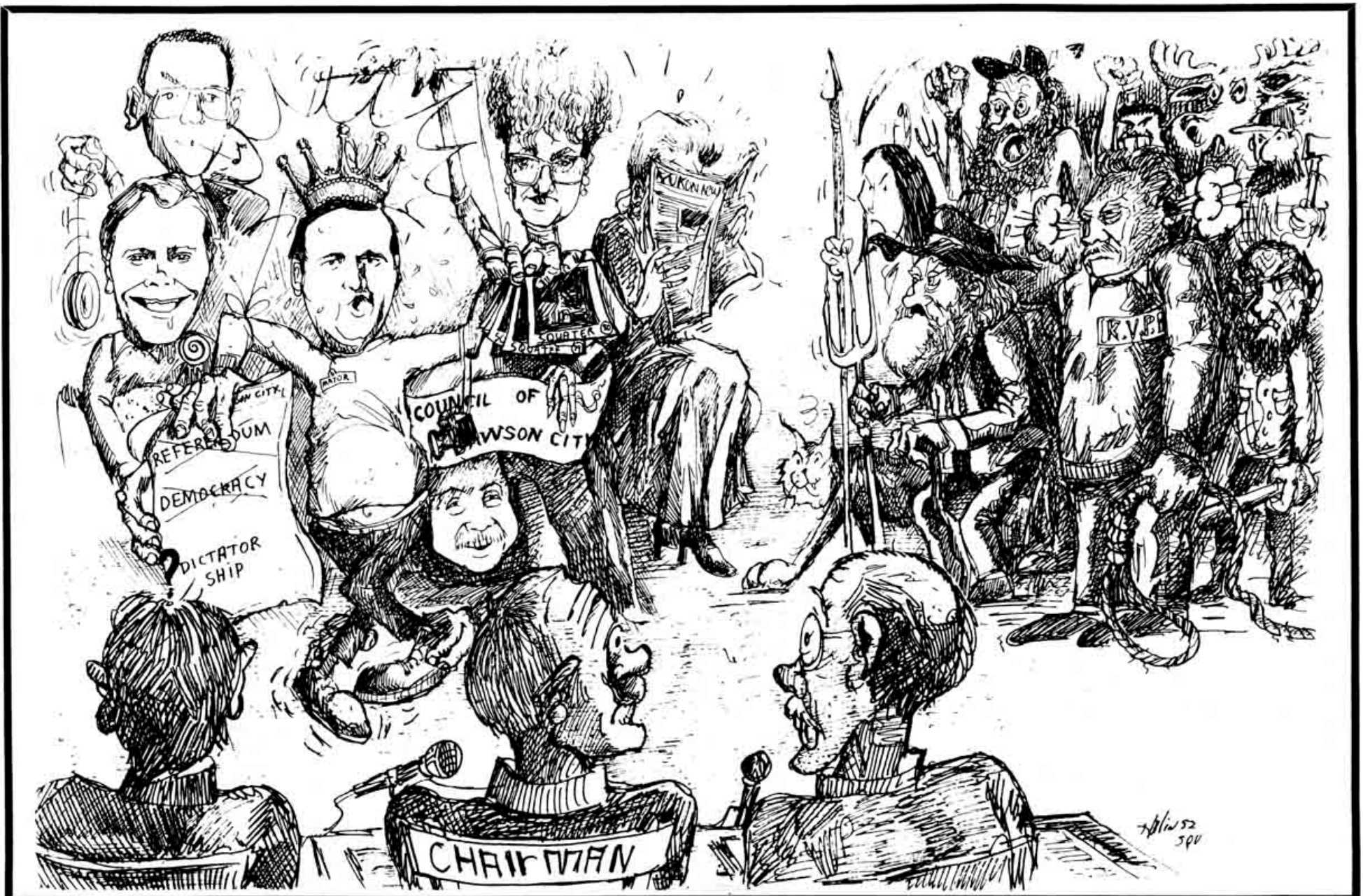
Fred Berger, the man who chaired the Klondike Valley Land Use Plan committee, called for a cooperative approach to resolving some of the environmental and development problems the city says it would like to solve by itself. Berger feels that a permanent committee should be set up to represent all the interests in the valley - the City being one of those interests - in their quest for solutions to valley problems.

Asked by Municipal Board chair Craig Tutin if this committee would be a form of regional management board, Berger replied that he would not like to see it develop that far.

Berger said that he was hesitant to say much of anything at this meeting because his argument with Mayor Jenkins at an expansion forum in January appeared to have led to a city office boycott of his store, Arctic Drugs, which also sells office supplies and recycles used computer printer ribbons.

Other people also raised the issue of the city's competence to manage an area more than 30 miles in diameter. Some were more cutting than Webster and Berger; others simply agreed.

**OH NO, YOU DON'T!** - This issue, local artist Halin deRepentigny offers up his rendition of the March 25, 1992 Territorial Municipal Board hearing into the City of Dawson's proposal to expand its boundaries further into the Klondike Valley - and some of the Valley residents' reactions!





# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

My name is Gordon McKay and along with my parents George and Nan McKay and my sister Marjorie arrived in Dawson City in 1930.

We were residents of Dawson until 1946, my father was the Government telegraph operator working out of the Administration Building on 5th Avenue, my father passed away in Vancouver B.C. in June of 1971.

My mother Nan McKay was a housewife and worked part-time as a telephone operator in Dawson, my mother passed away in Richmond, B.C. in August of 1983.

My sister Marjorie is married and resides in Windsor, California. I am married and reside in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

While back, I received a few copies of The Klondike Sun from Michael Gates of Historic Resource Conservation in Dawson. I cannot tell you how pleased I was to receive the papers and learn of all the changes that have taken place over the last 46 years.

I have planned for many years to return to my home town and this summer it's the Yukon or bust.

I am sure there are still some folks that my parents, sister, or myself knew and still reside in Dawson, and my wife Evelyn and I are looking forward to meeting them around the end of June 1992.

My mother took quite a few 8mm. home movies of Dawson, the Klondike Valley, and the stern-wheeler trips along the Yukon River. I am in the process of editing these movies and putting them on VHS tape. When I arrive in Dawson I would be most pleased to present a copy to the Archives of Dawson City.

Enclosed, please find my cheque for \$17.12 for my subscription to the Klondike Sun.

Best of luck for the future.

Gordon McKay  
851 Dale Blvd.  
Winnipeg, MB.  
R3R 1R4

Dear Editor:

I wish to comment on Mr. Gerberding's column in the last Klondike Sun issue. Initially the article was good until Mr. Gerberding started commenting on an issue he was not totally knowledgeable. I have mined for the past thirteen years and have seen both good and bad miners. As in all areas of life there are the good and bad. I agree that total disconcert for land use by some miners is inexcusable, but the public should realize that the Klondike Placer Mining Association has been working hard with all levels of government to see the abuses addressed. Miners see the need for regulation to protect not only the environment but one miner from another. We must not forget though, the responsible miner, whom I feel is in a majority. He has to be able to function in the new regulations. All mine sites pose different problems, ie. permafrost can safely be stripped at a 1-1 slope, where material as on the Dome Road should have been stripped at a safe and acceptable slope. We have to be careful as we regulate this industry, not quench the enterprising spirit of the individual to the point of non-existence.

How would you like to put up a bond for your job, just in case you screw up? Would it be fair if all employees put up a bond just in case they screw up or should only the ones that show lack of responsibility? All responsible miners should not have the burden of putting up a bond. Miners have always said "We want a one window approach to regulation of the industry." This means our water license, land use permit and any other relative regulation come in one application. This way we can simplify the application and have one regulatory body to make sure the license format is followed.

I would suggest that you, Mr. Gerberding, spend more time in research and a little less time on expressing your personal opinion, because, it really is only yours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colin N. Mayes

To the Editor:

Do you recall the present and previous water license hearings held in Dawson City, where the town in its wisdom intervened? How about the current ongoing boundary expansion hearings. The town leaders, Mayor Jenkins; councillors Tim Gerberding, Shirley Pennell, Hugh Gouthro and Henry Procyk in their wisdom are going to protect the town water supply from a supposed sewage threat from the outlying areas. They intervene in water license hearings to protect our water from silt from a mining operation that pours thousands of dollars into the local economy and very little if any silt or other pollutants into the water supply. Besides, the Hall mining operation is a tourist attraction; thousands of feet of video tape and many snapshots every year go to many world points to lure more people.

The leaders and their underlings, city manager Carol Murray and works manager Norm Carlson, are probably the worst offenders, contributing more to the possible pollution of our water supply than the people they are protecting us from.

Maybe you have noticed the disappearance of the winter's accumulation of snow from the streets of town. Maybe you have noticed the blocked streets and the blocked access to business in town, but guess what? The snow is gone, but where did it go? Norm Carlson in all his wisdom or lack of it, had the snow put just around the corner from Crocus Bluff. The area for dumpers is within 600 meters of the well at the end of 5th Avenue. The snow dump is on river gravel with a slight covering of other material dumped in the area before the snow.

The snow, although white and pretty when it fell, now contains some foreign substance. The following are some of the contaminants: dog secretes, and human urine from the bargoers, vomit from the same, many litres of engine oil that drips off of automotive engines, containing carcinogenic agents and ethylene glycol (anti-freeze) from boiled-over engines.

Where do our leaders have their heads? Do they really think 20 or 30 meters of porous river rock will clear these items before potentially getting into our water supply? The snow and other items, agents, etc. removed from the streets of Dawson, should be held in a safe disposal area. Also get off the case of the residents who are not polluting our water supply. As you can see, Peter, Norm, Carol, Tim, Shirley, Henry and Hugh, you are contributing more to its fouling by not using your heads.

Gene Gritner



You want to go where?

Photo by Madeleine Gould

Dear Editor:

It seems that every time we pick up a newspaper there is an article about dogs. I decided to write about what I think of dogs. To begin with I think they are great pets and I wouldn't be without one. My dog is always there for me whether I am sad or happy.

What I object to is that when I go shopping or to the bank, a dog is left tied at the door or to the steps. I think to myself, "should I go in or not. I wonder if this dog is friendly. Why didn't this person leave their dog at home." Then I see the owner and when I mention that maybe they should tie the dog somewhere else, they say, "Oh my dog wouldn't hurt anyone, he's as friendly as a pussy cat". Well let me tell you I've known some pussy cats with sharp claws. The point is: How am I to know this dog is friendly, or any other dog for that matter? When there are events at the park some people bring their dogs, then there are dog fights and dogs doing their business all over the park. I never see the owners clean it up. Others will tell you, "They are my family".

One day I went downtown and decided to go and have coffee. Would you believe there was a dog sled and a dog tied to a post on the walk. Now this was a husky dog. I couldn't get around it so I finally got enough courage to step over it. I think people who do things like this are very inconsiderate. Other small puppies are left tied to a post for an hour or so, while the owner is in the lounge or coffee shop. Yet these people will tell you they love their pets. Give me a break.

There are some dogs who are tied up all the time, yet if sometime they should break their chain, and if we are lucky enough to have a dog catcher at the time, this will be the dog who will get caught, not the ones who are running loose all the time.

I would like to think that some day soon people who own dogs will realize that many people are not dog lovers and others have a great fear of them. Maybe the solution is a hitching rail outside of each business establishment like they used to have for horses.

Madeleine Gould

Dear Editor,

In 1974, a trade dollar was issued and circulated in Dawson. It was bronze and featured a Husky. If anyone reading this has one or more of these or knows of family members, relatives or friends who might have one, please get in touch with me and name a price. There are other trade tokens and medallions from the 1970's that I would be eager to buy if possible. Other communities in the Yukon and the NWT, issued trade dollars in the 70's and if you have any from Inuvik, Whitehorse, etc. or have a name I can contact, it would be greatly appreciated.

I have had contact with a couple of residents of Dawson and have been pleased with their help. Please call (416) 623-3785.

Doug Jackson  
21 Driftwood Lane,  
Newcastle, Ontario

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Renewal

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## Editorial: Implications - Thoughts on Current Issues

by Dan Davidson

### Piping in the Spring

It's interesting to note that, at the same time as YTG grants to most municipalities have increased in a range from 1.9% (Haines Junction) to 14.8% (Watson Lake), the money coming to Dawson City has actually been cut by .4%, dropping from \$1,370,666.00 to \$1,365,129.00. While the reduction is only about \$5500.00 overall, it comes at a time when it appears that the town really can't afford it.

This reduction is supposed to take into account the decline in the payments that covered the annual deficit for the operating and maintenance costs on our sewer and water system, but the actual cut-back is probably quite a bit more than that if the city's numbers are correct.

It's the reduction in funding for this essential service that is causing the most trouble, if the word from city council is to be believed. Mayor Jenkins notes that city actually managed to run the system more efficiently last year, with the net result that the transfer payments dropped.

Word comes from the recent meeting of the Yukon Party that the opposition will raise the issue of Dawson's need in the legislature when it reconvenes. It would certainly be nice to discuss the idea of renegotiating the deals that were made on the pipes beneath our streets, many of which have had to be replaced in the time since they were installed just a decade ago.

Politics is sometimes a matter of seizing an opportunity, though, and we shouldn't forget that the same folks who now wish to play white knight for us were in charge of the castle when our troublesome sewer and water system was installed in the first place.

### S'no Problem?

Some letters have crossed my desk complaining about the town's practice of clearing off the streets and piling the surplus at opposite ends of the community. The matter also came up at the Municipal Board Hearings. The suggestion has been made that the concentrated pile of packed down snow will leave behind a concentrated pile of whatever was in it when it was picked up. Since a large pile has been dumped near the city's water intake, concern has been expressed over the impact on the purity of the town's water system. Thinking about what local dogs have left on my lawn since last fall, I can see why there is a concern.

No one really knows what the result will be, but council has decided to take water samples from the area to see if there is anything nasty in the runoff. One thing that won't be there is calcium chloride, which the mayor says we don't use on streets here in the winter.

### A Matter of Definition

"Arbitrary" is an interesting word. Its second and third meanings (Random House Dictionary) convey the ideas of "despotic" and "unfair", and these seem to be the meanings in most peoples' minds when the word is used. We tend to forget that meaning #1 simply means "subject to individual judgement", without any sense of prejudice at all.

We tend to forget that the word has the same root as "arbiter", a person with the ability to decide, and "arbitrator", the person chosen to settle a dispute. The Latin root of the word (from Webster's New World Dictionary) contains the notion of someone who goes to a place in order to witness and make a decision.

That pretty much covers what the Yukon Municipal Board did when it sat here a week or so ago. The decision they come out with in about 20 days will be arbitrary, in the first sense of the word. It will probably be a decision that pleases no one at first, but I hope it will be one that will take some of the bitterness out of the issue simply because it was made by a disinterested party.

As many people, myself included, have noted during this debate over municipal expansion, we are all from the Klondike, and we are united by things which should count for more than those things which divide us. Here's hoping this family quarrel we are having doesn't lead to some kind of divorce.

### Copy of letter to:

The Honourable Margaret Joe  
Minister of Consumer and Corporate  
Affairs  
Government of Yukon

Re: Slot Machines in Dawson City

I am writing to ask you to fast track the decision for approval by the Cabinet for changes needed to allow the use of slot machines in Diamond Tooth Gerties.

We are possibly on the brink of one of the best tourism seasons the Yukon has had for several years. It would be a shame if the K.V.A. missed this great revenue opportunity because of something as simple as a Cabinet decision.

If I or my colleagues can assist you in expediting the decisions required please call.

Yours truly,  
**Doug Phillips**  
M.L.A. Riverdale North  
Justice/Tourism Critic



## DAWSON CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Call 993-5584 for more information



Spring cleaning - Dawson City style. This mountain of snow was removed from our streets during the middle of last month.

photo by Brent Morrison

"Morar"

Lower Platts

Ticehurst, Wadhurst,

E. Sussex, England TN5 7DB

Dear Bonnie (Barber),

Harold Woodman gave me your name and address and I meant to write long before this but so many things have been happening with me here that letter writing took about 10th place!

As I figure it you and I are cousins - you are my first cousin, once removed - is that correct?

I was pleased to read the newspaper column Harold W. had in the *Advertiser* and sent on to me by various friends - I've always wanted to be in touch with Dad's brothers but never expected it. You are the daughter of one of Uncle Percy's sons - is that correct? Have you ever been in touch with Percy's and my Dad's brother, Walter, in California? If you know anything of them perhaps you would let me know or perhaps an address??

I can remember as a child my brother Don getting "Chum" a Boys Annual for a present and we found an account of Percy's prowess in the Yukon delivering mail and one his huskies rescuing him when he went through the ice.

In April (27) I shall be going to Nova Scotia for a month to stay with one of my daughters (who has just bought a house there and settled with her husband) so I hope to be able to meet Harold Woodman some time during my visit. I hope you will write to me.

Sincerely,

**Margaret Tulloch**

Please see page 19 this is a result of Harold Woodman's research.

## IMPORTANT NEWS from Motor Vehicles

### Illegal front plates:

Motorist are reminded that it is illegal to have a plate on the front of a vehicle that resembles any official plate in North America. This includes any old Yukon plates, sample plates and gold plates, but **excludes** designer plates such as the 50th Anniversary plate. A fine of \$40.00 could result.

### Vehicle registration and driver's licenses:

Motorists are reminded to check the expiry date on their license plates. Renewal deadline is the end of the month indicated on the plate. Please remember to check the expiry date on your **driver's license** too.

Licenses can be renewed up to two full months prior to renewal month at no extra cost.

If it's time to renew your registration, just bring your current registration and pink card (proof of insurance) to the Motor Vehicles Branch. If you live outside Whitehorse, you can go to the territorial agent in Dawson City, Mayo, Watson Lake, Haines Junction or Faro. Or watch for the mobile registration service which covers most other communities every two or three months.

The following chart shows the month of renewal for individuals. Just look for the month opposite the first letter of your surname. Businesses or corporations should contact the branch at 667-5315, for their renewal month.

### Private Vehicle

First letter of surname	Renewal Month
F or H	January
M	February
B	March
D, V, O, or E	April
N or T	May
W, Y, or R	July
K, J, or I	August
C, Q, or X	September
A or P	October
S, U, or Z	November
G or L	December

**Yukon**

Community and Transportation  
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# CITY COUNCIL NEWS

## Old Water Rates Tapped Out

by Dan Davidson

If a proposed latest revision of Dawson's sewer and water bylaw is passed into law in the next few weeks, home owners in the community will face whopping increases in their bills later this spring. The flat rate will jump from \$375.00 to \$636.00. Bylaw 92-06 proposes rates that exceed even the large increases of bylaw 95-25, which was scrapped to make way for the next rates before it got to third reading.

A rational for the increases proposed earlier was given in the

explanatory notes appended to bylaw 91-25. The rate increase is due to the cost of last spring and summer's intensive examination of the system and the replacement work which subsequently had to be carried out. This bylaw was prepared to bring bylaw 88-07 up to date.

According to the 1987 sewer and water agreement with the territorial government the rates in Dawson must be set to at least the same level as those in Whitehorse. The present rate in the capital city is \$33.28 per month or \$399.36 per year. Dawson's bill is sent out as a flat yearly fee and residents who pay off their S & W charges before the deadline on the bill receive a 5% discount.

The 1987 agreement also included an agreement by the YTG to pick up the operating deficit on the then controversial new system. As Mayor Peter Jenkins explains it, the annual O & M costs on the system run to about \$1 million yearly, of which the city has been able to collect around \$300,000.00, leaving the YTG to pick up the rest.

All good things come to an end, it seems, and the territory announced three years ago that it was phasing out that part of the agreement at 25% per year. Dawson has been able to carry the loss without major rate adjustments for the last two years, but this year, with 75% of the cushion deflated, the budget hit the ground with a bump.

Other rates may go into effect for other types of buildings. Hotels, bed and breakfasts and hostels are being asked to pay \$115.44 per rentable room. Territorial and federal government buildings may be charged \$1,062.14 per dwelling, business establishment or room (in the case of the school) per year. Restaurants will face \$482.88 per washroom and a service station or campground would have to pay \$1,152.00 to operate a car wash, in addition to \$420.00 per washroom. Trailer courts must pay \$220.56 for each space.

Metered water will be set at 94 cents per cubic litre, with a minimum yearly bill of \$420.00. Klondike Valley residents outside of the city limits who fill up at the pump station can expect to pay full recovery costs on their water, increasing its costs still more.

The impact of these rates, if they become law, will be to just about double the amount of money Dawson takes in for providing sewer and water services. But \$600,000.00 still won't pay the entire bill, which the Mayor says is the single highest item on the Dawson budget, including, as it does, electrical costs (the major portion), repair costs, treatment costs, circulation costs and several other factors. A "user pay" bill would be some-where in the range of \$1400.00 for a regular residence if the costs were spread evenly over the whole town.

## Council Promises to Consult Citizens

by Dan Davidson

Dawson City Council has pledged itself to get as much public input into its new sewer and water rates as time will allow. Councillors Gouthro, Pennell and Gerberding, along with Mayor Jenkins, were at great pains to reassure the public present at the April 2 meeting that Bylaw 92-06, the new Sewer and Water Bylaw, would not be given second or third reading until more study had been given and reaction taken from a representative group of citizens.

Discussion of the bylaw took up over an hour, beginning with an impassioned address by contractor Gail Hendley, a regular council watcher who had been flabbergasted to discover, earlier in the week, that the bylaw had been given first reading at the March 18 council meeting. Neither Hendley nor the two reporters present at the meeting could recall a mention of the bill.

Hendley said she had moved through various stages of shock, anger and disbelief during the days just before the meeting, trying to understand just what could have happened. (It eventually turned out that the second page of the city manager's report had been omitted by accident from the press and Chamber of Commerce information packages, and that the three spectators had failed to notice when discussion of a routine land transfer bylaw turned into a first reading on the other matter.) Hendley pleaded with council to reassure her in some way that this was not some sort of underhanded plot.

Tim Gerberding stated firmly that the new water bylaw had been discussed openly, not in camera, and tried to clarify the matter of council procedure. First readings, he said, are really carried out in order to bring draft bylaws into the open for discussion. At that point they may be obtained from the city office by any member of the public.

One of the problems with the system seems to be that people don't know that. Council discussed with the spectators ways

to get this news across to the public and intends to post notices at the post office on a regular basis after each meeting.

As regards the new bylaw, each councillor seemed to have a slightly different problem with the draft as it was circulated and agreed to hear representations on the matter.

Shirley Pennell and Hugh Gouthro agreed that there was lots of fine tuning to be done yet. Pennell, who had not been present at the previous meeting, said she could not possibly consent to a second or third reading until she had studied the bill more carefully.

Hendley is taking the bylaw to the Chamber of Commerce to get reaction. She discussed with council the need for a committee to include system users, water delivery users, and the business sector.

Council had already contacted by mail those persons who were on water delivery rather than the town system, so that they could be at the meeting to learn more about the cost recovery plans in their area.

The consensus that emerged at the end of the discussion was unusual in that it saw such firm council critics as Gordon Woodley and Karen McCann thank council for being open and candid about the whole issue.

Council does have some deadlines to meet. It is supposed to submit a budget plan to the YTG by April 15, and needs an indication of the direction the rates will take close to then. This year's budget exercise has been difficult, and Dawsonites will be facing higher user fees for recreation facilities as one part of the balancing act.

When the city began work on its budget the projected deficit was about \$1 million. It has been whittled down to \$65 thousand over the last few weeks, but at some cost. The fire department members will be paid for training sessions only twice a month now instead of every week. The city's administrative staff has been reduced by one person, and all departments have been told to cut costs and operate more efficiently.

## Public Tender

### Construction

Sealed tenders, completed in accordance with the specifications of tender on the forms provided and plainly marked "Dawson Liquor Store/Red Feather Saloon, Dawson City, Yukon, 1992" will be received up to 4:00 p.m. PST, Thursday, April 23, 1992 at Contract Administration, (403) 667-5385. Technical questions may be directed to Michael Cowper at 667-5134.

The Bid Depository, which applies for this project, closes Tuesday, April 21, 1992 at 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Yukon Contractors Association, (403) 667-2451.

Project Description: Construction of a new Liquor Retail Store and Warehouse incorporating elements of the historical Red Feather Saloon.

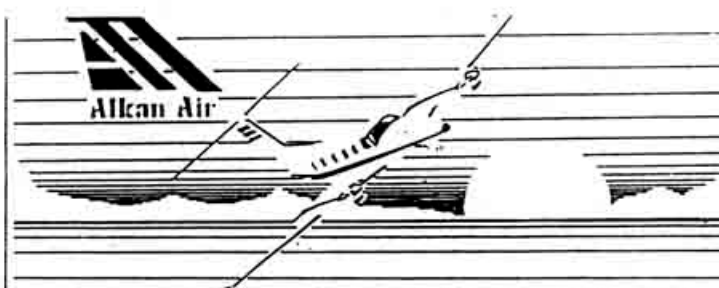
Tender documents may be obtained from any territorial agent or at Contract Administration, Department of Government Services, 2nd Floor, 302 Jarvis St., P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 on deposit of \$50 cash, certified cheque or money order drawn in favour of the Government of Yukon. The deposit is refundable if the tender documents are returned, in good condition, within 60 days of tender closing.

Specifications are available for viewing at the office of the Yukon Contractors' Association, #6 - 106 Main St., Whitehorse, Yukon; Amalgamated Construction Association, Vancouver, B.C.; Northern B.C. Construction Association, Prince George, B.C.; Edmonton Construction Association, Edmonton, Alberta; Calgary Construction Association, Calgary, Alberta; Regina Construction Association, Regina Saskatchewan; Saskatoon Construction Association, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and Winnipeg Construction Association, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The Yukon Business Incentive Policy will apply to this project. This policy encourages the use of Yukon labour and materials in construction projects, but does not interfere with the competitive bidding process. There are no bidding preferences for any contractors.

GST does not apply to this project. The lowest or any tender is not necessarily accepted.

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# These Pictures Are Worth Many Words

by Dan Davidson

A wall of picture posters intended to show the type and diversity of so-called "placer squats" in the area near Dawson City was one of the more controversial exhibits produced by the City of Dawson to make its case regarding the haphazard style of development in the Klondike Valley and the need for zoning control.

"Placer squatters" is the term often used to describe people who stake mining claims and do minimum assessment work on them in order to be able to put up a house and live on the land. Dawson council is opposed to this method of residential expansion, saying that most of these residences are poorly planned and show little regard for proper sewage disposal.

The pictures infuriated many of the people at the municipal board hearing, and at least one person ripped their picture from the poster during the recess period.

Richard Saunders, a miner, was incensed that his residence was one shown in the pictures. He admitted to living on a claim, but defended his right to do so.

"Why does someone want to take my land away?" he asked.

Wayne Hawks lives on a claim

just outside of town along the Klondike Highway, but maintained that his is a bona fide mining operation of many year's standing, that he and other miners like him have benefited the Dawson economy for many years, and that they should be left alone.

Some pictures were of properly titled land, according to the owners. Steely Cash, from across the Yukon River reported that "I've got titled property ... but my picture is on the wall."

"I'm not a squatter," he went on. "That is an assumption. If you want something to destroy your rights, it's when you give power to people who 'assume'."

"Those pictures are mean," said Ed Kerklywich. He went on to say that, with prices for housing what they are in this area, squatting is often the only way a person can afford housing.

Barb Wood, owner of another picture on the wall, took the matter in stride. Besides, she said, the picture was of her greenhouse, not her residence.

"It's a graphic illustration of how the city operates," she quipped. "And, as far as I know, there's no one squatting in my greenhouse."



## Lousetown intervenors

continued from page 3

mining to proceed...The postponement of the Public Hearing is not to be construed to indicate that there will be a change of heart to proceed or not with the proposed plans, but simply, wait for all the interventions to collect their data and handle the controversy at one time."

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada also requested the delay. A Feb. 20, 1992 letter to the Water Board from David Latoski (Head, Placer Mining Section; Chief Claims Inspector, Mineral Development Division, Northern Affairs Program) indicated that DIAND had still to complete the environmental screening for the 9740 project.

The environmental review on the project has since been upgraded from RERC level 1 to RERC level 2, a request put forward by the Dawson First Nation and Dawson City Council with support from Dawson's MLA, Art Webster.

In a letter to Mayor Peter Jenkins, Webster noted that he looked forward "to seeing this issue addressed by the Federal Government through a Level 2 RERC and to the outcome of the Water Board Hearing. The cooperative efforts of all concerned will ensure that Klondike City (Lousetown) heritage resources are available for public use and enjoyment.



## Red Reather Revival: The Sequel

by Kathy Jones-Gates

The Yukon Liquor Corporation let the tenders for the new government Liquor store on March 27. This is a second attempt to get the building project underway. Back in 1990, the project was put on hold when tender bids came in way over budget. Bidders have until April 23 to submit their bid on the entire project. One week later, the corporation hopes to announce the successful bid and work should begin in early May. Completion date is scheduled for December 31 of this year.

The new liquor store will comprise approximately 8,600 square feet, with about 900 square feet set aside for the reconstruction of the Red Feather Saloon. The new building's location is to be on the site of the former Red Feather Saloon spreading south along 3rd Avenue. The structure is to house an expanded Liquor Store facility as well as offices for the local

Territorial Agent. Klondike National Historic Sites, involved with the authenticity of the building's facade, will have responsibility for interpretation of the Red Feather Saloon portion of the structure at the corner of 3rd and Princess.

According to project manager Michael Cowper, only slight changes from the 1990 package have been made, namely in the roof design, where it will be made simpler. He also pointed out that the new tender package includes support to encourage local hire on the Dawson project. The successful bidder will have to pay for room and board for any person hired more than 25 miles outside Dawson, as well as pay their travel to the building site. As this will reflect a change in possible price of the bid, he hopes that the contractors can be encouraged to hire locally.

Cowper also pointed out that

Dawson building contractors and tradespeople should check the tender package out to see where their local expertise could come into play on this project. He points to local skills learned in putting historic facades on buildings and replacing original facades onto new structures as areas where Dawsonites would have expertise to assist the successful bidder. By pooling their knowledge and submitting a proposal for the special areas of the work, they might get sub-contracts on the job site.

As a result of the advanced decay to the Red Feather Saloon, KNHS dismantled the structure and were able to salvage enough to re-introduce to the new structure. In 1990, local Superintendent Al Fisk indicated that the interpretation of the Red Feather would likely take until the upcoming Centennials to complete.

### Sourdough Sunshine

(Dawson Daily News, April 18, 1918)

Mother: What is the plural of man, Willie?

Willie: Men.

Mother: What is the plural of child?

Willie: Twins.

### Funding is Available for Access Projects Through the Resource Transportation Access Program (RTAP)

Funding assistance of up to 75% to a maximum of \$50,000 per project is available to individuals, private developers, and community groups for roads, airstrips, boat docks, float plane bases, helicopter landing pads, winter roads and similar projects in:

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You can get more information from the Yukon Government's Business Development Offices in: Dawson City, Watson Lake, Whitehorse, Haines Junction, Faro, Mayo, Ross River, Pelly Crossing and Carmacks.

Information is also available from the Transportation Planning & Programming Office in the Lynn Building in Whitehorse.

Phone (403) 667-5663

Outside Whitehorse call toll free 1-800-661-0408.

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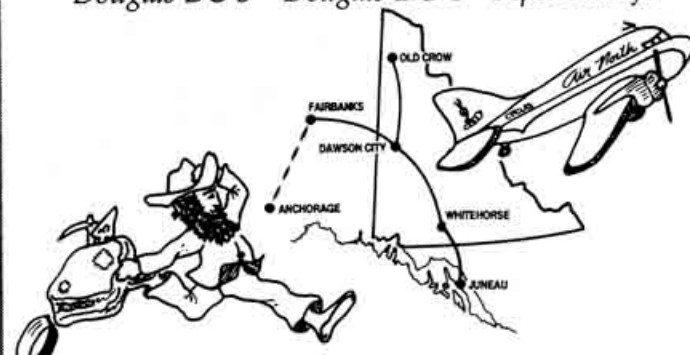
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# Lip-Sync was fun and revealed much talent

by Palma Berger

Anyone who missed the evening of lip sync missed an evening of great fun and surprisingly great talent. Who would have thought this area would produce so much latent talent. Of course there may have been some singers among them, but we will never know.

The too-loud music to entertain us while we waited for the show to begin finally stopped and on came the first spellbinding act - a song from "Phantom of the Opera" performed by Margie Mann, we think. This was followed by "Elvis Presley" in white suit, wide white belt, and sparkles from the decorations. Mark Kearns was the much photographed "Pelvis".

"Bangles" was set in an Egyptian setting complete with two sarcophagi. The 'singing' was done by two beautiful Egyptian ladies and two mummies trailing bandages. Two members of the R.C.M.P., Bruce Kirkpatrick and John Gillen, dressed in full uniform strolled across the stage in the middle of this exotic act and brought a roar of disbelief and laughter. They were followed by the "Right Said

Fred" group in top hats and holey black shirts. Little Eva sang "Locomotion". One could recognise Lambert, Lori and Karen from the Post Office.

Rock Creek organised themselves into The Travelling Wilburys when Ron Ryant, Chuck Margeson, Chris Sorg, and Bud Docken sang "Poor House".

The Beatles brought cheers before they had even opened their mouths when they strolled on stage in dark suits and wigs of long hair made up of long strands of black wool. At the microphone doing the singing were Dwayne Orvis and Gerrard Parsons, on drums was Rod Dewell and on guitar was an unrecognisable Bob Sutherland. Unrecognisable because he had

shaved for the event. The first time that face has been that bare for 12 years I hear.

Gwen McIntyre did a great K.T. Oslund looking for "A Younger Man".

The Jamaican Postal Beans did "Oh-La-Soca" in beautiful ruffles and with maracas. Lively and colourful.

The Bush Bunnies dressed in long Johns and revealing varying stages of pregnancy, one even

with a wee baby clinging to her leg, brought roars of laughter as they sang "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman" to a laid back, tooth picking, Ed Kerkyllwich. Obviously set in hillbilly country, the three bunnies, Gwen McIntyre, Brenda Baxter and Loralyn Cleland, did the family wash by hand and hung it to dry while they sang.

We had Rocky Balbao doing "Eye of the Tiger".

We had Bette Midler from Whitehorse dressed in black lace underwear and wearing a red satin robe on stage, and performing with all of Midler's verve. Also from Whitehorse was an impressive Aretha Franklin in a light grey dress and sequins. Aretha was a "he".

The final great act was put on by Dawson Hockey team, made up of the ladies of Dawson and 'brought to you by P.M.S. and Shell Oil'.

A lot of work and a lot of imagination went into each performance, all greatly appreciated. I do not know who won what, nor do I care. It was an evening of great enjoyment and too bad if any of you missed it. Perhaps you can catch one of the many videos that recorded the evening. Good luck.



High School Carnival King and Queen: Ryan Peterson and Tundra Sprokkreeff

photo by Madeleine Gould

## Static Hair Contest Winners



Axel Nordling and Mindy Anderson

photo by Madeleine Gould

The Static Hair Contest was a new event held for Spring Carnival this year. A balloon rubbed against acrylic was then held over

each individual's head to help them to strut their stuff. Prizes were awarded as follows:

Forty-seven contestants received pictures of themselves, donated by Fred Berger of Arctic Drugs. Much appreciation for all that film! K.V.A. contributed the T-Shirts. Hair Cabaret gave a gift certificate for a hair condition treatment. Farmer's Market provided the box of Bounce. Raven's Nook bestowed the paper King and Queen crowns. Extra thanks goes to Xpressions, Sonny Parker, Chris Johnson and Coleman Johnson.

For next year's contest we look forward to having a static generator to help promote this hair-raising event.

Draw	T-Shirt	Monica Nordling
Best Height	Box of Bounce	Sherry Lindley
	Hair condition Treatment	Kyrsti Reaume
Funniest	T-Shirt	Milo Jordon
	T-Shirts	Steve Williams
Most Royal	King Crown	Axel Nordling
	Queen Crown	Mindy Anderson

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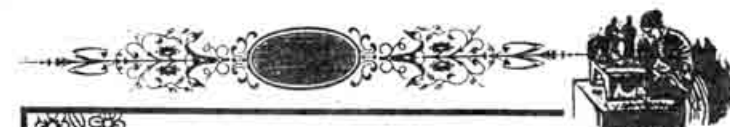
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# Dawson Parades Its Dogs



Sarah and Sammy

Photo by Madeleine Gould

by Sue Ward

On the last Saturday in March, Dawson once again went to the dogs, in a big way, as sixteen canines of various and sundry breeds, took their owners to Gertie's for the eleven o'clock Annual Spring Carnival Dog Show, where a large audience assembled. It was a well-publicized and well-organized event, with prizes enough for every entrant to receive a souvenir of great variety, from 20 kilos of dry dog food, to beauty aids and rawhide bones, all of which had been donated by local merchants and assembled in display for viewing by organizer Lori Sprokkreeff, on behalf of sponsors K.V.A. The show area was large and adequately roped off, giving everyone a ringside view.

At the Judges table, three well-known citizens did a great job of registering everything from Toy Poms to a huge black Lab, from owner-and-dog-look-alikes, to tykes in over-size cowboy boots being taken around the course in record time by a freshly clipped young Miniature Schnauzer. Celeste Michon presented "Lady", a small Border Collie giving a remarkable obedience exhibition, which delighted everyone including Lady, who capped her act by allowing Celeste to brush her teeth complete with toothpaste! Lisa Anderson and family gave the entire gathering a heart-warm-

ing experience when two Toy Pomeranians were coupled to a wagon, one in a tiny snowsuit as passenger, and the second in decorative harness pulling the miniature wagon with such ease and pride as if knowing they could steal the show. Janet Howell with Zinger, a Golden Retriever were decked out in evening formal as "A Touch of Class".

It was not only a first-time round for some of the dogs, but several children were experiencing their first appearance before a large crowd of onlookers, which though scary, is a wonderful way to break the ice, with a trusty friend sharing the focus. Many entrants exhibited very little Obedience Training and this scribe considered how worthwhile it would be if more of Dawson's dogs were trained to "sit" and "stay" on command, especially when dogs accompany their owners to shops and offices and are left to their own discretions while owners are nowhere near.

The judges enjoyed their tasks with Joan Harvey, who for many years took care of us at the Nursing Station, being put "to work" when back in town for several days. Andrew Wilson, our Rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, joined the fun with this old soul who seldom travels without dogs completing the trio.



Emily Lindley in Static Hair Contest

Photo by Madeleine Gould



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This dog is worth its weight in dog food.

photo by Dan Davidson



Mrs. Judy Ross Nelson was crowned Westminster Queen Thursday, March 26 - Ladies' Night - at the Westminster Cocktail Lounge. Judy was the only Carnival Queen candidate this year. Despite the disappointing cancellation of the Carnival Queen Contest by the KVA, Judy continued with her energetic community spirit and sold tickets to support Dawson's Spring Carnival. Congratulations, Judy!



The Gas Shack served up its great annual donation of food during Spring Carnival

photo by Madeline Gould

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## "Like Shopping for Groceries"



by Sue Ward

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board were in town last Friday night to hear the complaints and suggestions of those who hunt and fish in this grand piece of real estate. I know little about such matters in this day and age of skidoos and semi-automatic rifles with scopes. In my pioneering days in B.C.'s Cariboo country, settlers obtained deer and moose tags from the Game Department allowing two bucks and one moose per season, which explains why I was sickened to hear of First Nations men from Ft. MacPherson allegedly roaring through the Corridor in which non-native Yukoners are forbidden, on skidoos which cost \$8,000, aiming semi-automatic rifles into the caribou herd, killing everything within range, and "stacking them up like cordwood."

I arrived as one local resident

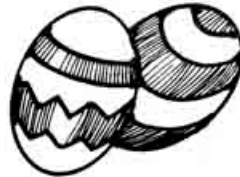
asked if there are two sets of regulations, one for non-native Yukoners and a second for First Nations hunters. Then the pros and cons of corridors were discussed, followed by open or closed season on cow moose on the river. The problem of taking your moose early while the meat was sweet and tender but having no way of keeping the meat because the temperatures weren't cold enough (Oh, have I got a story for you about putting a hind quarter of moose into tin cans!)

Endangered species became another topic as a CBC Program on *Ideas* had presented two women commentators, one of whom claimed there was no way a wild animal could be managed for sustainable yield.

A trapper suggested the program transcript should be acquired and a rebuttal prepared. I volunteered to write Lister

Sinclair for the script. Another bone of contention was the "Five day trap check" legislation being pushed for where traplines could be only half as long as Yukon lines.

By now I knew I had entered a whole new world, yet one that influences the lives of my neighbors. Lorrina Mitchell, of Atlin, as chairperson handled issues so well that I dared ask her for some input for this chronicle. Beginning next issue a column on these and many other issues will be forthcoming from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. Perhaps I will realign my shocked thinking as I ponder the older trappers' remark "For the First Nations men from Ft. MacPherson it is like shopping for groceries. Their food prices are a lot higher than ours. They need all of that meat." Now just a minute...



## My Day - Our Day

by Interagency Committee

There's a new day coming. **My Day - Our Day** on April 11, 1-5 p.m. in the Tro'ondek Hall is a trade fair bursting with ideas and information about personal wellness. This is the Gold Show of Active Living. It's a celebration of the health and vigor alive in Dawson already and gives everyone a chance to find out how other people keep young.

Purveyors of reflexology, Tai Chi, massage therapy and healing will be on hand to talk about and

demonstrate their skills. Blood pressure and cholesterol information will get you ready to fill in your very own computerized health assessment. There will also be old fashioned games for the young people and a table on Healthy Aging for the rest of us.

The highlight of the afternoon is a guest speaker, Bertha Blondin, a First Nation's Elder, teacher and speaker who is known in many parts of the world. Bertha shares her customs and teachings in a warm-hearted

manner and offers a traditional approach to the wholeness of the individual in society. Bertha starts at 4:15 and a place will be available upstairs for younger children. Please come at 4:00 and have some of SEVEC's muffins - they're the best deal in town.

Sponsored by Dawson's own Recreation Department and Y.T.G.'s Health Investment Fund, the day promises to get you energized for spring!

For more information contact Bonnie Lyn Nordling; 993-6729



Janet Leary closes up shop at Sears

Photo by Michael Gates

## Sears Confirms Dawson Closure

by Dan Davidson

Dawson households have received from Sears Canada their official notification that the catalogue shopping center here will close on April 1, 1992. The notice comes as part of a one page flier delivered by bulk mail on March 18.

In large type the flier announces "Important News From Sears", goes on to spend 7 lines describing "enhanced Catalogue Ordering" and covers the benefits of being a Sears Club Member for the next 14 lines.

Following that there is a line in smaller, bold type which reads "Note: Effective April 1 the Sears Merchant in Your Community will close." No

explanation is offered for the termination.

Orders may be placed to a toll-free number, from which merchandise will be confirmed and dispatched via Canada Post or a "local carrier". This will cut delivery time by 50%, according to the notice. Catalogues will come automatically to any household which places at least one Sears order every six months.

The envelope also contains a gummed sticker with the toll-free number so that people can place it by their telephones. This should be useful. In this town, anyone who wants to order from Sears after April 1 won't have any other choice.

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### Would you like to honour an OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR in your community?

Perhaps you know of a teacher, a parent, a school council member or an organization that's significantly enhanced the quality of education in the classroom or the community. If so, you can show your appreciation through a nomination for one of five:

### Innovations in Teaching Awards

For the third year, the Department of Education will recognize the Yukon's most innovative educators with \$2,000 bursaries and other gifts. The awards will be presented at the annual general meeting of the Yukon Teachers' Association on April 25 in Whitehorse.

The award can acknowledge the development of new teaching methods or materials, the completion of an innovative project, or the continuing contribution of outstanding service to education.

For more information or to obtain a nomination form, call 667-5127. Nominations should be in to the Department no later than April 15.

**Yukon**  
Education



## Public Meetings

Public consultation meetings will be held throughout the Yukon to gather information and hear suggestions regarding the Arctic Environmental Strategy. Meetings will be held:

Monday, April 13 - Dawson Library at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14 - Mayo Community Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15 - Selkirk Band Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 16 - Old Crow Community Hall at 1:00 p.m.

For more information, please call Communication Services at 667-3221.



## NEWS FROM THE ROCK

Correspondent - Marjie Mann



It has been a couple of months since I have come across one of those elusive "round-to-its" and managed to get my article in the paper. And so much has happened!! Most importantly (to me, at least) is that the sun is back! The days are glorious and bright, and if you can ignore the muck and debris showing up in the melting snow, it is a very pleasant time of year!

Some of the Rock Creek residents were able to enjoy particularly memorable vacations over the last couple of months. Mexico was the hot spot-even "Himself" was smiling after vacationing in sunny Mazatlan. I'd like to publicly thank Gord Woodley and Lee Juniper, Virginia Mahoney, and Robbie Van Rump and Pat Russell for watching our youngsters for us while we enjoyed our first ever kidless holiday!

The store a Rock Creek is under new management-local resident Ev Webster and her sister Leslie Greenwood are now operating the store. The shelves are still well-stocked, the video selection is better than ever and they are offering fresh baked goods and longer hours, so it seems residents will benefit from the ever-improving store. Ev and Leslie welcome special orders and suggestions-drop in on them soon!

Welcome back to the neighbourhood Jussi Laitinen-nice to see the home fires burning again. You will have to come by and fill us in on the exotic country you visited this winter. Also back are Joe Fraughton, Jane McArthur and family. Joe and Jane were both taking courses at Yukon College in Whitehorse this winter and enjoying "city life". We sure did miss you folks!

I guess the proposed boundary expansion remains as the major topic of conversation. There are a couple of things I have really noticed during the debate of the last few months.

One is that I have always considered myself a "Dawsonite"-when people "outside" ask where I live, I proudly tell them "Dawson City" (unless we are in Mexico where "Canada" is about as specific as most can understand). I have always felt that the residents of Dawson "proper" and the surrounding areas have all been part of the same family. We work in Dawson, our kids go to school in

Dawson, we spend our money in Dawson, we attend and/or participate in Dawson events, we all endure the long winters and hectic summers.

Now it seems that an imaginary line has been drawn and it is "them and us". Rightly or wrongly, residents of the Klondike have been polarised. That is an uncomfortable place to be and I wonder what the long term impact will be, regardless of the final decision on the proposal.

The other thing I noticed is how incredibly intelligent and diverse our general population is. Sitting through the public meeting on March 25 and listening to the many individuals that spoke, most of whom were well informed and well researched, spoke very well, highlighted some very good points, made valid and reasonable suggestions, I was reminded that you truly cannot judge a book by its cover. It is so easy for society in general to pigeon-hole those people who choose to rough it or live an alternate life style as ignorant or stupid or losers or whatever other term seems to fit. But these people are in fact a treasure chest of knowledge and values who have made deliberate and thoughtful choices. I am proud to be able to call some of these people my friends and delighted that all of them were able to speak so eloquently on behalf of those of us that have the same feelings and ideas but are not able to express them easily in a forum of this nature.

The March 25 meeting was interesting on all kinds of levels. I noticed that, although the people in attendance prompted on several occasions and in several different ways for some sort of guarantee of a democratic process, the Board was unable to provide this. So, even though the Board will weigh all the information carefully and make good recommendations, the actual decision will be an arbitrary decision by Cabinet. All in all though, it seems all sides of the issue have been presented and it will be a waiting game from here on. Whatever the outcome, the residents of the Klondike Valley have presented a strong and unified voice of opposition to the City proposal, and I think we can all be very proud of that effort.

## National Neighbor-hood Party June 14

by Kathy Jones-Gates

It could be the largest party that Canada has ever seen! Street by street, community by community, Joannie Halas is encouraging Canadians to get together on June 14th and get to know your neighbour.

Halas says the idea is wide open. Have a barbeque, a brunch, get together for baseball, have tea on the lawns of a historic building but, "get together and celebrate community goodwill," she said.

Sponsored by the Canada 125 corporation, Winnipeg native Joannie Halas spent a week in the Yukon in early March spreading the word about an idea she came up with over a year ago. Having travelled around the world a year earlier and enjoying all the complements sent Canada's way when people saw that she was from Canada, she was disconcerted to return home to the intolerance that was evident by the glaring headlines and events. She lives in a multi-cultural neighbourhood in Winnipeg, and had her home broken into. Friends blamed the incident on the neighbourhood that she lived in. That is when the idea first came to her to have a neighbourhood party. "I felt that the break-in was because I didn't know my neighbours", she explained.

So, last April, she began knocking on doors and introducing herself, and inviting people to a party. National media coverage of that party, plus 20 others that she instigated across Canada and abroad, brought her to the attention of the Canada 125 Corporation. She has taken a year off teaching to spread the idea of the neighbourhood party, and it seems to be catching on!

Last year, the idea was known as the neighbourhood "Block Party". The name had to be changed because some people associated the event with the Bloc Quebecois. Halas joked to the thirty or so residents assembled in the Library on March 13th that this was the



Vi Campbell and Joanie Halas talk up Canada's birthday. Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

fastest-growing apolitical party in the country.

Encouraged in her efforts by Yukon's Canada 125 representative, Vi Campbell, Halas felt that the enthusiasm she has heard from across the North leads her to conclude that people in the south could learn from Northerners. The neighbourhood party idea is definitely not new in Dawson, where organized and impromptu parties seem to be the order of the day.

Party ideas ranged from suggesting the idea to Campground

owners, a party for kids in Minto Park, to businesses on one street,

neighbourhoods, and theme parties.

Joannie Halas wants Canadians to get to know one another on June 14th and raise a toast "To all our neighbours, a tous nos voisins" precisely at 2 p.m. and then to organize a postcard signing session. any size of postcard will do... homemade, store-bought, get the people to sign the cards and mail them to: Joannie and the Neighbours, Canada 125, #6 - 433 River Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 2V1.

## Load Restriction Warning

Trucking and transportation companies are advised that road restrictions may be imposed on all Yukon highways during spring break up.

These restrictions may be imposed at any time with 48 hours notice.

# Yukon

Community & Transportation Services



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# Coming of Age



by Joanne Smith

## Healthy, happy aging

Aging is a process of accumulating experiences, enriching our lives through knowledge and physical skills. This acquired wisdom gives us the potential to make sensible and beneficial decisions about ourselves.

The fullness and richness of our remaining years is in our hands. Barring accidents and disease, the quality of our later years is resolved primarily by ourselves. The more we control our lives, the more enjoyable the remaining years can be.

*The degree of independence we have in our lives is directly related to how active we are in body, mind and spirit.*

In spite of some decreases in efficiency and capacity with increasing age, a relatively high level of physical and mental function can be maintained for years.

## We have a choice.

- A choice to give up our independence and fade away or to take control and remain vigorously active, fully enjoying our remaining years.

Use it or lose it is a rule that applies to our bodies and minds. It is even more significant as we age, since we gradually lose intellectual and physical capacity with increasing years.

Keeping mentally and physically active reduces the rate at which we lose our functions and enables us to more fully enjoy and increase the quality of the later years of our life. (Excerpt from *Healthy, Happy Aging - Positive Health for Seniors* by Yvonne Wagorn, Sonia Theberge and Dr. William Orban.)

Don't forget to participate in **My Day, Your Day** on April 11, from 1:00 to 5:00. More details in this month's paper.

## HAPPY MARCH AND APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!

Angela Lopuschuck  
Allen Gould  
Art Anderson  
Willie DeWolfe  
Bill Hakonson

Tony Kosuta  
Herb DeWald  
Susan Joseph

Sheila Jones  
Lorenzo Grimard  
Marge Fry  
Jane Cook  
Pat Clelland

## ON THE FIRE SCENE



by Fire Chief Pat Cayen

Here is a spot quiz for you: *what is the emergency phone number of the Dawson City Fire Department?*

Anyone who answered 993-5555 is right, and anyone who answered 993-2222 will be right as of May 1, 1992.

Sound confusing? Well, in an effort to have all Police and Fire Department phone numbers in the Yukon coincide, the Fire Department will be changing its emergency phone number to 993-2222, as of May 1.

What's happening to the old number, you ask? The new emergency number for the RCMP Detachment will then be 993-5555 (they liked the Fire Department number so much that we decided to give it to them).

Starting May 2, whenever you go to a community in the Yukon, the Fire Department emergency number will be the three-digit local (in Dawson, that means 993), and then 2222. The RCMP emergency number will be the three-digit local and then 5555.

Look for more information on these changes throughout the month on local TV, radio, newspapers, mail and posters.

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility, and you can help us to help you by teaching the new numbers to your children. Remind your babysitters that the numbers have changed, and post the numbers by your phones to remind yourself.

Now, once again: *what is the emergency phone number for the Dawson City Fire Department?*

UNTIL THE END OF APRIL: 993-5555  
STARTING MAY 1: 993-2222

Now you've got it!

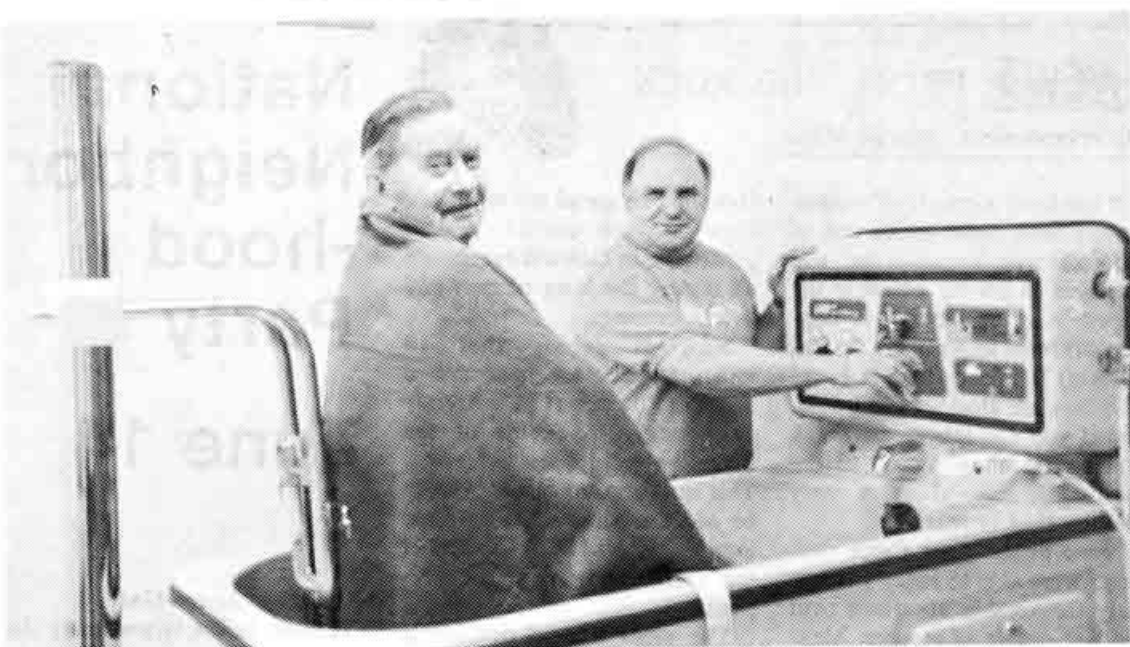


photo by Joanne Smith

John Kolida takes Ole Lunde for a spin at the Lodge.

## Bathing Can Be an Uplifting Experience

by Joanne Smith

McDonald Lodge now has a state of the art bathtub called a Century Whirlpool Bathing System. This system enables people to be mechanically lifted and transferred with ease, safety and security. Special features of the tub include whirlpool outlets that can be turned on from soft

to more vigorous degrees and the structure of the tub allows a person to be bathed in a normal sitting position in deep water that gives privacy and dignity.

Residents of the lodge have been enthusiastic users and some people from the community have also tried it out. It will be of service to seniors and persons

with disabilities who require assistance with bathing. Arthritic people may also find this tub quite relaxing and healing.

If you are interested in viewing the tub just call or drop in. If you are a senior or require assistance in; ways already mentioned, but, just want to check it out, I encourage you to do so!

## Tr'odek Hatr'unotan Zho News: Dawson Campus

Over the years, the Dawson Campus has expanded the number and types of courses that it offers. In 1990/91 more than 200 people took courses through the campus. This year, those numbers will easily be exceeded. Our campus staff are always eager to increase the community's awareness of what we have to offer and to meet changing community needs for full and part time learning.

In the fall of 1992, we are presenting proposals to offer three new programs, including a month long *Log Home Building Course*, *Administrative Services Program* and *Skills for Life and Learning*, a new approach to our present Developmental Studies (Grade 10) program. Money is always the bottom line and the Campus is no exception. However, pending approval of funding, the fall

of 1992 could see our campus even busier than this year.

Log Home Building is a month long course that may run through October. Because of its potential for future business and employment, we are hoping to see this course come to Dawson.

Administrative Services courses have been offered in Dawson for many years, first as a part time program and then as a full time program for the last two years. Dawson is the first community to have a full time student graduate outside of Whitehorse. Next year, we would like to see the program expand to accommodate a minimum of eight students. Such a program holds many benefits for both students and their potential employers.

The Skills for Life and

Learning project will run from September to December in combination with our regular full time Developmental Studies program. Students will focus on skills such as assertive communication, stress management, creative problem solving and employment skills as they relate to life and learning. This project is joint venture between the Dawson Indian Band and the Dawson Community Campus Committee.

All of these programs are major initiatives that we hope will better meet the needs of the Dawson Community. If you are interested in more information about any of these projects, please contact the Dawson campus.

# Arctic Drugs

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# Y.O.O.P. Centennial

by John Gould

Maybe this would be a good time to write a little of the history of some of the groups, organizations, that will be celebrating their centennials.

## Yukon Order of Pioneers

After the discovery of gold in 1886 in Franklin Gulch on the Alaskan side of the Forty Mile River, the resulting gold discoveries along the Forty Mile River and the upper reaches of the Sixty Mile caused a settlement to be established at the confluence of the Forty Mile and the Yukon Rivers. It was evident that some kind of law and order was needed. A group of miners and residents of the new settlement got together and formed the Yukon Miners Committee. The job of this committee was to settle disputes between the miners, such as claim jumping and overstaking, etc. They also asked the Canadian government to have some kind of police force sent into the Territory. (The Yukon Territory was not as yet formed, Forty Mile was still in the North West Territory.) In 1894 Inspector Constantine of the North West Mounted Police came to Forty Mile to locate a place where a police fort could be set up. In 1895 he came back with a force of men and Fort Constantine was erected on the left bank of the Forty Mile where it joins the Yukon River.

Once the local miners knew that regular law and order was coming to the area, there was no longer any need for their committee. It is very possible that a decision was made to form some kind of an organization to replace the committee. One that they could use as a social gathering and enjoy the comradeship that probably existed in the Miners Committee.

In July of 1894 a meeting was held in Snows Opera House, chaired by George T. Snow, to organize the new group. At this meeting committees were formed to come up with a constitution.

A point of interest, the author of this article met a man in San Francisco in 1973 who mentioned that his grandfather had had a banner in his basement for many years, that was the Yukon

Miners Committee banner from Forty Mile. When asked where it was he said he did not know. But it has come to the knowledge of the author that there now hangs a banner in a museum in Virginia City, Nevada that appears to be the one from Forty Mile.

It wasn't until December 1, 1894 that the constitution was ready. Then on that day another meeting was held, again in the Snow Opera House and again chaired by George T. Snow. At this meeting the Yukon Order of Pioneers was formed and elections were held.

Leroy Napoleon McQuesten was born in Portland, Maine in 1835. As a young man he worked his way west and eventually into the far north of Canada and Alaska. He and his companions, James McKnipp, Arthur Harper, Fred Hart and Al Mayo, arrived at Fort Yukon in Alaska, on June



13, 1873. McQuesten built a trading post at the mouth of the Forty Mile, after the discovery of gold on Franklin Gulch, a tributary of Forty Mile. The Indians that he traded with in the north, and many of the miners, had a hard time pronouncing his name so he was nicknamed "Jack" this name stuck. He was well liked by the miners and the Indians.

At the formation meeting of the Yukon Order of Pioneers on December 1, 1894, nominations and elections were held. The following were elected to be the first officers of the newly formed Yukon Order of Pioneers.

President: Leroy N. (Jack) McQuesten  
Vice Pres. Frank Dinsmore  
Treas. William McPhee  
Sec'y Fred Hart  
Guard Joe A. Cooper  
Warden Frank Buteau  
At this meeting there were

also two committees formed. The Finance Committee were Pete Nelson, Tom W. O'Brien and Charles Levantie. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee were Frank Bowker, Pete Wilburg and Robert English.

There were 70 members who signed up at that history-making event. Article 2 of the Constitution stated that a person may become a member upon the recommendation of two members in good standing, providing he has been resident of the Yukon Valley as early as the 1888, and is a man of truth, honour and integrity. The Constitution that was presented and accepted at that first meeting was put together by a committee formed in July, 1894 of George T. Snow, Chairman, Peter August Wilburg, Francis G. H. Bowker and Robert J. English.

A charter to form a lodge in Circle City was issued in 1895. The Circle City lodge was No. 2, with an enrolment of 200 sourdoughs. When the Circle lodge was disbanded some time after the stampede to the Klondike, No. 2 was given to Seattle when it was formed in 1915. In 1899 a lodge was started in Rampart. It became Lodge No. 3 and was active until the late teens. When the Rampart lodge closed down, Mayo received No. 3 when a lodge was formed there. In October, 1914 a lodge was formed in Whitehorse, No. 4. It was started by a dozen qualified men with the help of George Brimstone and Charles F. Johnston, both members of the Dawson Lodge. The following were elected to hold office:

President	W.A. Pucket
Vice Pres.	J.E. White
Sec'y	W.W. Dickinson
Guard	Captain Martin
Treasurer	W.E. Sime
Warden	C.H. Johnson
Chaplain	Isaac Taylor



DAWSON CITY YOB IGO



## Committee Seeks our Vision for the Future

by Kathy Jones-Gates

Despite local T.V. live coverage and advance publicity, only 16 people showed up to a planning meeting of the Klondike Centennial Society at City Hall on March 30. It also took most of the meeting time to fully understand what the Society was asking the community to do. However, following the meeting, committee chairman, Akio Saito took responsibility for that, suggesting that he had not fully briefed the meeting spokesperson, Robert McConkey about the two years of work already under the committee's belt regarding the forthcoming Centennials, that will focus primarily on Dawson City.

Saito explained that the Klondike Centennial Committee is asking residents to either write, phone or drop into his office and over the next two months, give him some idea of the kind of community they envision Dawson to be, ten years from now, and what would be important for them to want to keep living in the area.

He pointed out that much has been done in the way of listing events, new projects etc. for the many centennials; however, these events are meaningless if they have a negative impact on the community, our lifestyles, culture and social fabric. There would be no point spending money on attracting hundreds and thousands of visitors, say, to the 1998 centennial, unless accommodation, parking, and other facilities were available to accommodate them.. Yet, the very nature of that type of influx coupled with the added facilities would seem at first hand to crowd out the essence of Dawson, the community.

Ideas that have taken flight of late include keeping visitor traffic outside town with parking facilities there and bussing the visitors into town; only residents and ferry traffic would be permitted vehicle entry. Others have suggested that the centennials would promote vast numbers of visitors and therefore congestion at the

ferry area unless we lobby for a second or larger ferry, or alternatively a bridge spanning the Yukon river.

Whatever the vision ten years hence may be, Saito and other Centennial Committee members would like everyone to respond. The committee will consolidate the ideas in two months time and use that information coupled with other material to present to the Yukon Anniversaries Commission in the early summer. The "Vision" process won't end two months from now however; if ideas keep presenting themselves after that deadline, they will be included with later reports.

Whatever the outcome of the submissions, there will still be a tentative list of projects, and Saito encourages people to include project ideas with their vision of Dawson as well. He would like to see both the report and the actual Centennial celebrations become a community led decade, and not result from outside led celebrations.

For more information, to submit your thoughts, contact the Klondike Centennial Committee care of the City of Dawson, Box 308, Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B 1G0, or by phoning Akio Saito at 993-5035, or by passing your ideas along to the other committee members: John Gould, Sharon Edmonds, John Magnusson, Carol Murray, Peter Menzies, or Lesley Greenwood.

Arrangements have been made with C.F.Y.T. to provide regular weekly broadcasts so that discussion of all aspects of the Centennials can be made available between 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays on the T.V. channel, starting April 9.

So, here's your chance, Dawsonites....what do you want protected, free from development? How do you see our community ten years from now, and what would encourage you to want to remain here at that time? There's two months to get your thoughts on paper and submit them to the committee.

## Did you know that...

if you don't keep the Yukon Health Care Insurance Plan informed of your current address, you could be dropped from the plan because it will be assumed you have left the territory? The Yukon must be your primary residence for you to receive benefits under YHCIP.

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For more information call 667-5318.  
Outside of Whitehorse call 1-800-661-0408, local 5318.

# Yukon

Health and Social Services  
Health Services



# Lousetown: Through The Eyes Of History

by Dan Davidson

Dawson City's two mainstays, history and mining, are going to clash resoundingly at the Environmental Review Process hearings on several placer mining claims in Lousetown when they are finally held. (For more on postponements, see elsewhere this issue.) At stake are the proven gold resources of the area which was once called Klondike City, versus the potential historical recovery that may be done in the same area.

One of the many parties intervening against the application by 9740 Yukon Ltd. will be the Yukon's Historical and Museums Association. Speaking on their behalf will be Michael Gates, the mild voiced curator of Klondike National Historic Sites. Gates realizes that the narrow environmental focus of the Water Board may preclude any attention being paid to historical matters, but he is happy to be the spear carrier on this intervention.

"I guess it's kind of a personal cause for me," he says. "One of the reasons I came to the Yukon in the first place - and was attracted to the Yukon - is that the history is so close."

"I remember going to Dalton Post in 1972, and one of the things that disturbed me about that old, abandoned settlement was that a guy with a cat was out there on some kind of marginal mining operation. He went in with his bulldozer and just pushed those buildings over, and destroyed some very, very important pieces of our past. I can see that happening in Lousetown."

Lousetown has not been thoroughly examined, in spite of strong recommendations to do so that came out of hearings back in 1988 when Berglynn Resources, the company that has spawned 9740 Yukon Ltd., originally expressed an interest in the property. Gates says that Eric Bergvinson paid lip service to the idea of historical research and preservation at that time, but feels the miner showed his true colours when Berglynn leased the area to Gary Crawford in the summer of 1991 and let him cut a swath through the area.

There was a local uproar last summer when Crawford's operation destroyed much of the flora in the Lousetown area, dug up the ground to a considerable extent and imperiled Klondike era artifacts at the site. The Dawson City Museum assisted Heritage Branch in trying to make some sense out of the mess at the time. Crawford operated without a water license for much of the summer until he was finally shut



View from the bluffs above Klondike City (Lousetown), looking north, across the Klondike River to Dawson City - circa 1902.

photo courtesy of Yukon Archives - Voege Collection #123

down for failing to control his silt discharge. The 9740 application is for much the same area, only on a larger scale.

The survey by the museum group identified 16 possible sites in the area that 9740 wants to use this year. Gates says they include the remains of the following buildings and equipment: the old ferry house, rolling stock from the Klondike Mines Railway, the ruins of what was once the largest sawmill in the Klondike, the terminus for the Klondike Mines Railway, the O'Brien Brewery, and various other house or structural remains. In addition, Gates believes there will be prehistoric material found beneath the surface of the flats, if a cat doesn't get to it first.

He says that Lousetown is important to Dawson City "because it is very close. It has very strong ties with the Gold Rush era at the turn of the century, and (from before that) it has an identifiable aboriginal component."

Gates likens the human artifacts in the Dawson area to a "quilt that overlays the topography. And it's becoming very patchy these days - very threadbare. That's the result of many years of human activity and mining."

Lousetown is special to the historian, Gates says, "because of the fact that it has survived. Grand Forks doesn't exist any more. Gold Bottom doesn't. The town site at Hunker Creek is ... going. Sulfur Creek is going. All the little bits and pieces in between are gone because of the mining activity, which is into it's third generation now."

Gates says there is a choice looming as the result of a century of mining activity in the area.

"We have before us a crisis," he says. "The crisis is that placer

mining is dwindling. You can hear it in hushed tones amongst the miners and I think they recognize that it's not a renewable resource. Someday it'll be gone and so will they."

"That's sadly the case at Lousetown or Klondike City, because they're going to mine out the area, and in the process ruin any prospects for the future ... What we have is a marginal operation. It is going to last 3 short seasons before they pack up and move away, according to their application."

In that amount of time the proposed stripping and sluicing over the 200 foot wide arc in 9740's mine plan can irretrievably wreck any chance of historical work being done at the Lousetown site.

Gates says a properly worked historical site could be of long lasting value to the community as a whole.

"In my estimation there is considerable potential in these (historical) resources, and development of that potential could have a lot to do with the interpretation of Dawson City and the tourism industry."

"Tourism is very important," Gates says, "and can provide a viable future, provided we don't ruin everything, or make it so unattractive that people will want to go somewhere else."

To allow 9740 to work its will is to accept what Gates calls "short term pain for long term pain".

"The only gain is for a gentleman who operates a business in Vancouver. His profits are going to be siphoned out of this area. None of it's going to be reinvested in any significant way, I suspect."

So Gates has been reading water use applications and sharpening his arguments for use at the Water Board Hearings, which were postponed earlier this month. There's an echo of his memories of Dalton Post as he concludes the interview.

"I'm quite concerned about what is going to happen to these remains, and the evidence is quite clear that they (Berglynn Resources) have no concern whatsoever."

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# Gold Show Update

by Glenn Mullen

It's after 6:00 p.m. on a chilly Friday afternoon as I write an update that I hope won't be too late for this month's paper.

This year's Gold Show is rapidly coming together and promises to be better than ever. I don't mean just better than last year or the year before, I mean better than ever!

By expanding our focus to include a great and varied amount of entertainment for the whole family, the 1992 Gold Show has met with an enormous degree of enthusiasm from exhibitors both old and new as well as many community groups and businesses here in Dawson.

Some of the new events this year are: a Gold panning competition, beer gardens and Bar-B-Q, an Art exhibition, an agricultural and craft fair, and live television and radio coverage!

And I must not forget to include the Dawson City Music Festival's Spring Concert on Saturday night with Blue Rodeo scheduled to knock yer socks off.

Advanced tickets will be available exclusively to Gold Show delegates and exhibitors. There is only a limited amount of these tickets so don't delay! Only one ticket per delegate or exhibitor so look for your delegate registration form in next week's mail.

Like last year's wildly suc-

cessful Fashion Show at Gertie's, Gold Show '92 promises another exciting Fashion Show. In addition to last year's entertaining fashion format, included will be a Jeweller's Market.

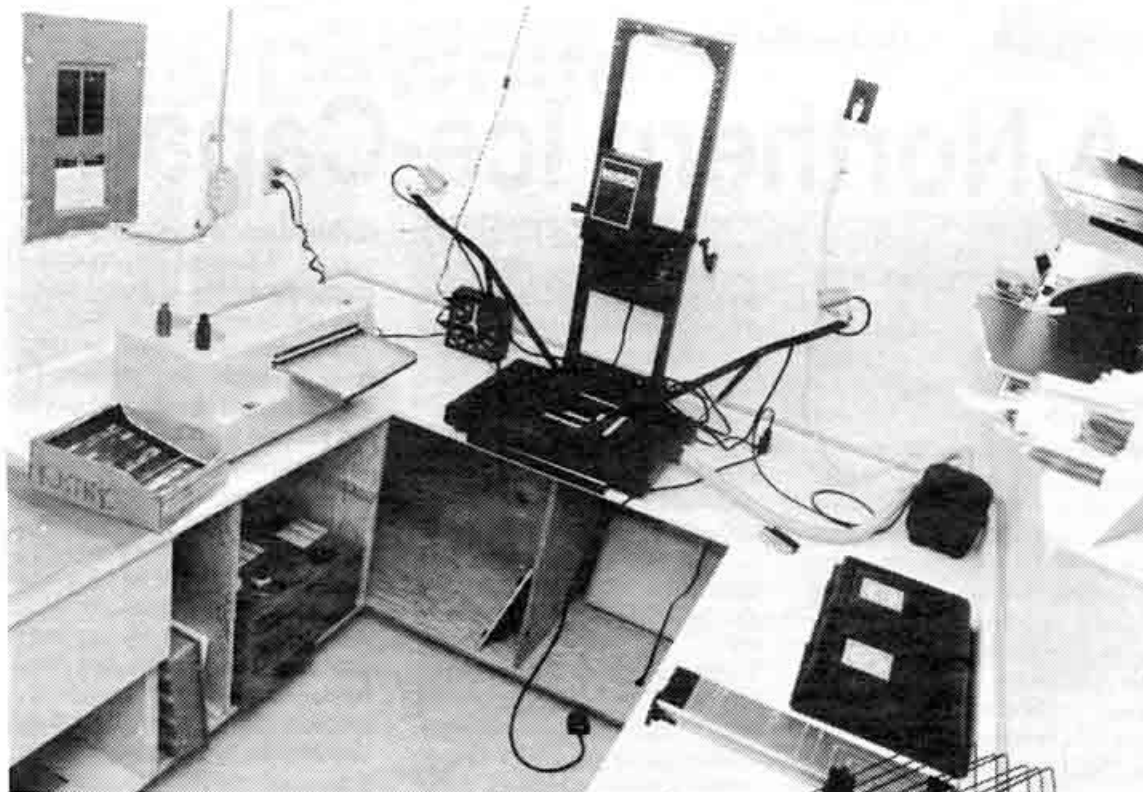
This "market" will feature the unique works of many local jewellers as well as some surprises from Outside. This event will provide buyers with an opportunity to purchase quality wholesale jewellery, available nowhere else.

The popular Jewellery Contest will once again be held in conjunction with the Jeweller's Market with winners being selected by a distinguished panel of judges.

The Yukon Fire Safety House will be coming to the Gold Show and will offer a fun way for children, young and old, to learn all about fire safety in the home.

And as ever there will be plenty of exciting displays and demonstrations.

To find out how you can participate in this year's Gold Show, whether as an exhibitor or a delegate, a jeweller or an artist, a craftsperson, or a model, a sponsor, or a volunteer, contact Glenn Mullen at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Cable, Veale building behind Klondike Nugget and Ivory 993-6720 or fax 993-6817, Box 812 Dawson City, Yukon. Y0B 1G0.



The Sun is as home-made as we can get it, now that we can prepare all our pictures for printing in our new darkroom. It's state of the art technology, bought entirely with our own money. That's why we're so broke!

Photo by Michael Gates

## HOLLYWOOD NORTH

### Academy Awards Nite in Dawson

About twenty people enjoyed Academy Awards Night at the Downtown Hotel on Monday, March 30th. For a modest fee, participants were served a full course meal, and took part in an inter-active video game where they tried to predict the winners and answer trivia questions about the Academy Awards. For instance, "What does the Oscar hold in his hands?" If you want to know, ask Bob Laking, who won the first prize, 30 free videos from Alive. Todd Dewald came second, winning two free passes to the next Drama Club production.

## Daylight Savings

by John Gould

Saturday April 4th at midnight we set our clocks forward one hour.

Dawson Daily News of April 15, 1918

OTTAWA, Daylight saving measures went into effect at 2 o'clock Sunday, April 14th.

Dawson adopts new daylight

saving plan. Clocks are turned forward one hour on advice from Ottawa.

Local jewellers change their chronometers and clocks to confirm with the telegraphed time.

Post Master McCarter announces the out going mail will close at 10 AM old time 11 AM new time.

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# A Northern Ice-Capade

by Phil Eccles

May of 1937 found me wandering the streets of Dawson City, soaking up the local history, making new friends and getting to know some of the routines. Uppermost in the minds of the citizens at that time was the imminent break-up of the ice on the Yukon River. Tickets were being sold on a pool based on the day, hour and minute when the ice would move out. This time would be recorded on a clock located on the premises of the Bank of Commerce at the river's edge and connected by a wire to a flag pole imbedded in mid-stream ice. Excitement was building up. The locals would wander along the river's edge, assess the amount of thaw, the air temperature and the condition of the ice and then purchase more guesses on the pool.

Some friends and I were having coffee in a cafe on Front Street, adjacent to the river, when the fire whistle went mad. Instinctively, everyone knew there was not a fire. The ice was on the move! All business and other activities came to a halt as the town converged on the river. A narrow ribbon of water was beginning to show along the river's edge. So far the movement was not readily noticeable and the flag appeared to be in its original position but the recording wire had stretched and pulled loose. The flag appeared to be a Union Jack about four feet by five feet in size and was still upright on this vast expanse of unbroken

ice. It was then that I conceived the idea, ridiculous and utterly preposterous, of retrieving that flag as a souvenir. I wanted that flag. I was going to get it!

I had previously noticed a pile of lodgepoles on the river bank and I dashed over to the pile, selected one of suitable length and weight, balanced this tool across my mid-section and took off across the ice towards my intended prize. When the crowd on the bank saw me sprinting out on the ice they realized by intent and let out a roar. In my isolation, (pun not intended) I could hear individual shouts of encouragement such as "come back you bloody fool" and many other admonitions equally as complimentary. Comprehension suddenly came to me of the danger I had put myself into and I wanted to turn back, but having committed myself in front of the whole town I just could not give up my venture.

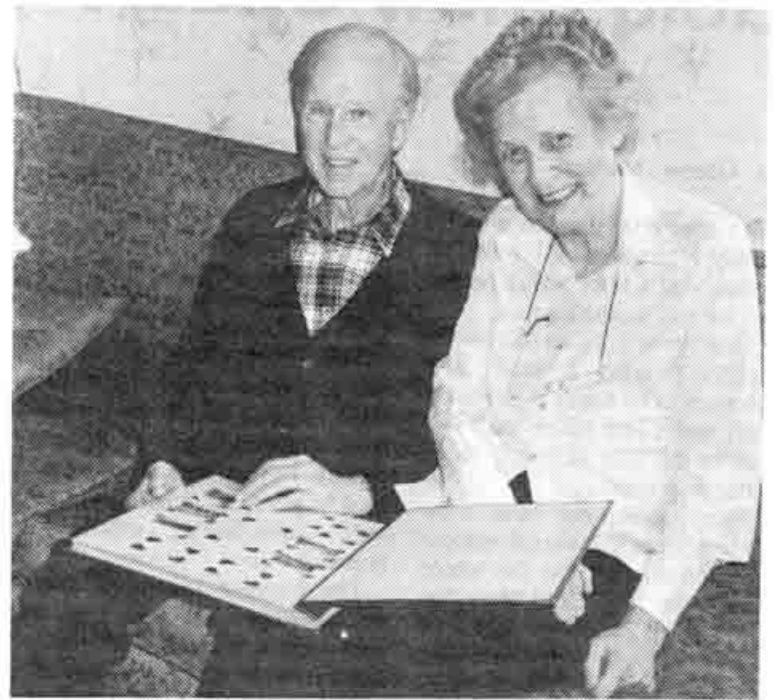
I reached my goal, untied the flag, wrapped it around my waist and headed back towards shore, still on firm, unbroken ice. About mid-way back I began to feel a slight rolling motion on the surface and on looking ahead I saw the ice beginning to rear up and break into huge chunks along the bank. That sight plus the grinding rumbles I could now hear and feel beneath me put wings to my feet. Now I had floating ice floes to hurdle for the final section of the run. Holding my lodgepole firmly across me I skipped over possibly five or

six of these rearing, bucking chunks of floating ice, spurred on by my newly acquired fear and the now frantic shouts of encouragement called to me from the bank. Seconds later I was flying off the ice and over the narrow stretch of water at the river's edge and willing hands reached down and hauled me up and on to safer terrain. Congratulations were heaped on me, my hands were thoroughly pumped and my back solidly thumped, not just for having procured my trophy, but for having survived my idiotic fling on the river. I believe that I did detect a few pitying glances also thrown in my direction.

It was with a great feeling of achievement and some considerable relief that I unwrapped the flag from around my middle and proudly displayed it to the gathering. It was then that we made a discovery: I had not retrieved a Union Jack. I had retrieved a Russian Jack!

We did give pause to wonder if my trophy was Symbolic or perhaps Prophetic.

That night I could not purchase a drink in any of the bars. Everyone insisted on buying me drinks. I was the town hero (and idiot) of that day. My return to the hotel that night was not as nimble-footed as was my return from the flag pole in center ice. That was a day and a night to remember - I wish I could remember all of the night! As for winning that cash pool -- this just was not my lucky day. Dam!



Phil and Vivien Eccles

Photo by Michael Gates

## Glimpses from a Northern Album

by Michael Gates

I would like to introduce you to Phil and Vivien Eccles. They live in North Vancouver, B.C. They are retired, living in a bungalow that overlooks Vancouver harbour. More than fifty years ago, they made their way to Dawson separately. Phil arrived in 1937, encouraged by stories in the Vancouver newspapers, written by Martha Black, that there was plenty of work in the Yukon. Vivien arrived a little later, to take up employment as a teacher at the Public school. They were both looking for something, and what they found was each other. They spent five years here, before the war and other events drew them away, never to return.

I recently found myself a guest in their North Vancouver home, sharing their vivid recollections of the good times spent in the Klondike. They shared

photo albums and memories of a Dawson past that is seldom ever written about. Phil had recently compiled short stories of their time in the north for an organisation to which he belongs. They describe the events and people, the beauty of the north and the opportunities presented them both in such a cheery, optimistic manner, that I thought the Klondike Sun readers may enjoy sharing this segment of the Eccles' life.

During the next few months, Phil and Vivien have kindly permitted the Klondike Sun to publish Phil's stories and reproduce photos from their Dawson albums. We hope it sparks memories for long time residents, and provides new knowledge to more recent residents. If your memories of that period surface, maybe you also would enjoy writing them down and sharing them with our Sun readers.

The *Canadian Illustrated News* was the first periodical in the world to reproduce a photograph.

The picture was of Prince Arthur, third son of Queen Victoria, and appeared on the publication's front page.



## Fireweed Debut Set for July in Ontario

by Sue Ward

Cathy Elliott writes: "Fireweeds opens July 21 at the Red Barn Theatre in Jackson's Point, Ontario (an hour's drive from Toronto). I'm going to put the Yukon state of mind in the middle of cottage country! I'm still working on getting the show up to Whitehorse and Dawson. I want to again thank everybody who helped me out last February and throughout the whole process (three years!).

I'm putting together a theatre programme that looks like the Dawson newspaper. There's a point in the play where Donna shows the audience an article in the want-ads. I would like to use the *Klondike Sun* name, header and format. Is this possible? May I have the paper's permission?" (You've got it, Cathy!)

Her letter goes on to solicit

Dawson advertising to defray cost of programming. "Do you think Dawson businesses would like to advertise in Ontario? (Travel companies, tourist operations, mining suppliers?) The paper would serve as an information package as well as a programme." Cathy is gathering articles from Yukon Archives.

It should be noted that Cathy Elliott, who did such a fine job as Gerties, has not severed her Dawson ties as she contributed to the 1991 Follies with well-received script material.

If any of our sponsors or readers would care to take advantage of this unique advertising opportunity, you might put your wishes and ideas on paper to Cathy Elliott, 248 Wright Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M6R 1L5.

"Break a leg, Cathy!"



Photo by Sue Ward

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# Rookie Wins DeWolfe



by Brent Morrison

The 16th Annual Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race began Thursday March 19, 1992 as 15 mushers set out from the Palace Grande on King Street and began a round trip run from Dawson, Yukon to Eagle, Alaska and back, a 210-mile race along the Yukon River.

The race began at 10:00 a.m. under overcast skies, with Dawson's John Anderson heading out first with the official mail bag, and the number two bib. For some reason Willie DeWolfe (Percy's son) did not start this year's race as he had done in the past. Fire Chief Pat Cayen sent the teams out at two-minute intervals along what was probably the only street in Dawson that had not been graded.

The 15 teams represented the third-largest number of racers in the history of the DeWolfe. Five of the mushers were from the

Dawson area, while eight mushers were competing in their final race for the Northgate Cup.

A large number of people turned out for the race, many equipped with cameras and camcorders to record the action. Down at the ice bridge, there was a pile-up of teams that the cameras missed.

With the teams gone, there was little else to do but come back the next day to see how things were progressing.

By two o'clock the next afternoon, Front Street was filling up with race watchers. Word had come in that William Kleedehn of Carcross was just a few miles from Dawson, running the race at record speed. At 2:15 p.m., Kleedehn crossed the finish line at the KVA's Front Street headquarters, clocking in a total time (including a mandatory four-hour stop in Eagle) of 28 hours and five minutes, over 20 minutes off the previous record. While people tried to congratulate the winner, Customs Canada checked out the sled's contents, and the paperwork on the dogs.

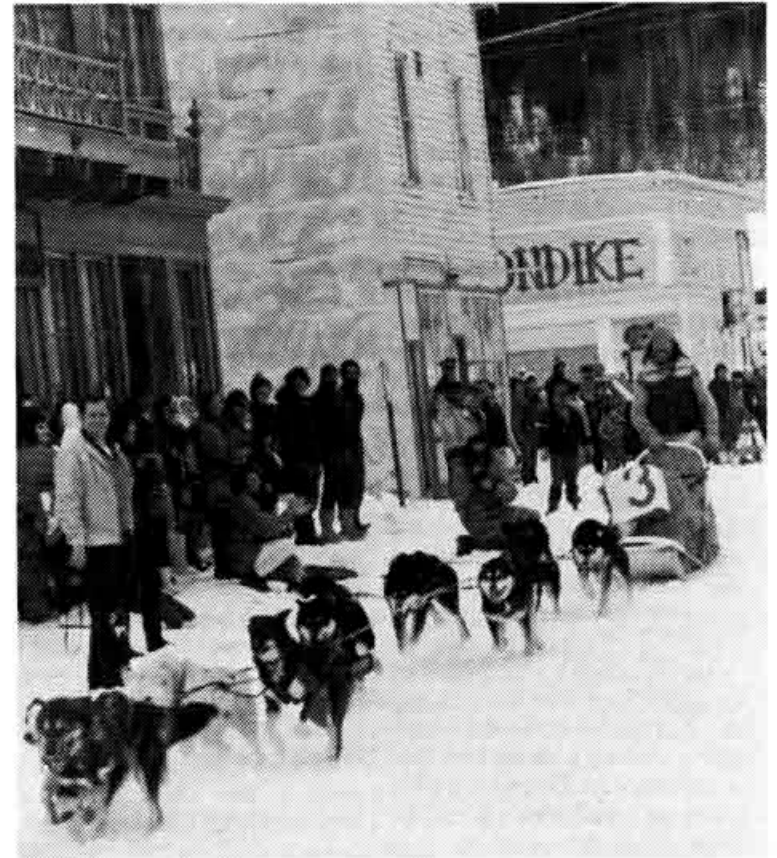
Several minutes later, two mushers were spotted on the

river in a neck-and-neck race. Excitement filled the air as the crowd anticipated a photo-finish. The first sled crested the hill and made it onto Front Street, but the second sled was close behind. The dogs ran straight for the Band Hall, and their musher got off of the sled and parked them there. The crowd went wild, yelling to the musher to move it to the KVA check point before the next musher passed. The next musher also pulled into the Band Hall, and it was quickly revealed that neither were in the race.

It was nearly an hour later before the second-place finisher Larry (Cowboy) Smith of Dawson crossed the finish line.

The majority of the mushers made it in later that afternoon, although a few did not arrive until the evening, and Dawson's Dale Braga waited until 11:45 p.m. to cross the finish line and officially end the race, more than 60 hours after he began his first race.

Many of the mushers are already talking about next year's race. It seems the oldest dog race in the North still has some life left in it.



Al Pope of Whitehorse Heads Out

Photo by Michael Gates



## DeWolfe winner didn't set out to break any records

by Dan Davidson

William Kleedehn was philosophical about breaking the race record on the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Run.

"Is that true?" he replies, his "th" sounds coming out as "z's" and his "ve's" sounding "f's" as he spoke. "I didn't even know that. Someone said it was a fast race, but I lost my watch. It fell off. I had one of those several crashes that you have on ice sometimes, and then it was gone. So after that, who cares?"

Not that watches aren't useful on a race. Oh no.

"It's really terrible, usually, when you lose your watch. You use it to find out where the heck you are at. You know just how fast you usually travel by experience, and you look on the watch... So that thing is gone... so what the hey? So all you do is go by how the dogs look."

The dogs looked fine. One of the eight was riding in the sled as it pulled up to the finish line by the Visitors Information Centre. An accident?

"No. Actually, I had that planned," he replies. The dog is new to his team and new to running. The race was a training exercise for an animal that shows promise, that he would like to use in next year's Yukon Quest.

Does this mean that Kleedehn sees the DeWolfe race as a simple matter? Far from it.

"This was by far the toughest one (of the middle distance races this year). This is a tough race - not Mickey Mouse any more.

You know, like, here you gotta have your act together... Until you cross the finish line you haven't won that thing. The weather, the trails ... those types of races are tough."

"This is a good, tough finish of those middle distance Yukon races," he says as if to underline it again, "there is no doubt. I have been racing all over the place, like in Alaska and the Lower 48 (U.S. states) and just about anywhere from coast to coast. This compares to one of their tougher races to manage. Whether you wanna go in there for finishing the race to you wanna win, it's a job."

Kleedehn does speak from experience. He started mushing 6 seasons ago when he was living in Northern Ontario and operating a lodge there. Why did he get started?

"No special reason," he says, "I figured it was a good thing to do in the winter."

So far he hasn't really done anything else since arriving in the Yukon and settling down in Carcross last August. So when asked what he does he does when he's not racing, he laughs and says, "Training."

Dawson may have been grey and cloudy on Thursday when the mushers left, but the route to Eagle wasn't.

"The trail was as bright as it could ever get just 25 miles out," Kleedehn says. "The sun was just hammering down."

Halfway to Eagle, he pulled up for 45 minutes.

"I figured my dogs were going a little too fast, so I stopped and waited until the first bunch of teams showed up. I just watered my dogs. It was hot anyways in the afternoon and I wanted to see how the other guys are doing and how they are doing it."

The weather was a bit hard to take.

"It's too warm," Kleedehn says. "This makes the race even tougher. You know, on the river, you just look out there and then you know how it is. It's just not level going. It's most of the time ice cracks up and down and whatnot."

Kleedehn says the timing of the mail run actually makes it a harder race. Though there was one year of miserable weather in last 6, several years have been like this one: sunny and warm. So you start in the morning and run all day in the heat. Then at night, when the dogs would run better, you're sitting at Eagle for four hours resting. You get some night running on the return - Kleedehn left Eagle at 1:14 a.m. - but it warms up.

At one point on the return trip the trail itself disappeared into an open leads on the river.

"It was about 25 miles out, you know. We had to cross a river and there was lots of pack ice and stuff ... real rough going there. Right there was an open water lead. All of a sudden the trail was gone. So me and a trapper that was doing a fun run with some tourists - they were going in front of me at that point, and

they had already backtracked - we decided that we had to make a new trail. So we made it. The guy made a new trail around, used his dogs and I went behind. Oh, that took like forever and ever. We lost at least an hour."

The dogs suffered from the uneven trail.

"River ice was so rough this year ... there were so many cracks, even under the snow, that a couple of dogs got their legs stuck in there. And then the rest of the team was dragging them and before the dog pulled the leg out, the other dogs pulled him out. This is pretty tough."

Despite this, there were no serious injuries. His dogs stood, tails wagging, when they pulled up. In minutes Kleedehn had them tethered to his truck and was feeding them. They tucked into food and water and helped as best as they could when hoisted into their travelling boxes on the truck.

Kleedehn brushes off the fact that he's trimmed 20 minutes from the course record.

"I'm not entering races that I don't know to be setting records," he says lightly. "You want to run and have a good run, and if you can win, that's good, but forget about records. I'm not into setting records. They happen ... they just happen."

He dismisses his missing leg almost as easily as he forgot about his watch after he lost it. Watching him get around with so much energy as he tends his dogs after the race, one does

wonder what he could do with two real legs.

"I answer it every time," he says with a big grin and a chuckle, "but that's good. That's all right. It doesn't speed me up, I mean, that's for sure. But if I think about how much it would slow me down, then I wouldn't go race at all. So I'm not worried. I might as well forget about it. Oh, I'm a little sore after races, but if you look for a reason or excuses, of course ... I would never bother racing."

Watching him in action, the very idea seems silly.

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## No Mush at Awards Dinner

by Brent Morrison

The Downtown Hotel hosted the Awards Banquet for the 16th Annual Percy deWolfe Memorial Mail Race on Saturday March 21. Over fifty people attended the \$25.00 a plate dinner which began at 7:30. The dinner consisted of a choice between Roast Beef with Pan Gravy, and Chicken Champignon, served with Mint Carrots, Princess Potatoes, and Broccoli with cheese sauce.

There was a steady flow of drinks while the competitors reminisced about this race and others. Gordon Wood of Whitehorse declared that this race featured "A great trail on a rough river." Others joked about the fear of passing Moosehide (just a few miles north of Dawson) and realizing they had left gear behind.

The race, which was completed in record time, took place during an extremely mild weekend. Some mushers remarked that while official temperatures were given as 2-3°C, that out on the river where they were the only dark spot in an otherwise white landscape, the temperature was more like 10 above.

After dinner and a desert of White Cake with Cherry Filling and Brandy Icing, the deWolfe's President Brad Keenan passed out ballots so that the mushers could vote for the Best Lead Dog and the musher who showed the most Sportsmanship. Around 9:30 Keenan made a short speech, then introduced Race Marshall Mark Pierson to present the awards.

Mark Elliot received \$300.00 for his fifth place finish, Ben Lefebvre won \$500.00 for his fourth place finish. Alan Pope, the third place finisher received \$700.00 and a Yukon-shaped trophy that was made by Jim Williams, and featured a carving by John Semple. Second place went to Larry (Cowboy) Smith,

he also received a trophy, \$900.00, and a trip for two on the Yukon Lou. The race's winner William Kleedenh received the first place trophy, \$1600.00, ten ounces of silver, and his name on the permanent trophy. Kleedenh is the first rookie to win the race, and set a new record in the process.

In his speech he thanked the many supporters of the race, but seemed most impressed by the people who lived along the trail and kept the pioneer spirit of the Yukon alive. Kleedenh's lead dog "Fruitcake", to whom he gave much credit for his success, won the Golden Harness as Best Lead Dog.

The Red Lantern Award, for the last musher to finish the race went to Dawson's Dale Braga, although he was still on the trail when the award was presented. Braga, who was competing in his first dog race ever was also voted the Sportsmanship Award by his fellow racers. He eventually made it into the check point around 11:45 p.m. more than sixty hours after he left the starting line.

After the awards were given out Cathy Laking drew the ticket for a print by wildlife artist Colbert-Kiersted entitled *Return Of The Black* that had been donated by Ducks Unlimited. Reinald Nohal was the lucky winner.

The diners were then treated to a video, shot and edited by Mikin Bilina. Complete with a soundtrack, the video showed the start of the race, a mushers-eye-view of dog sledding, and a few mushers at Cassair Creek whose dogs seemed reluctant to go any further. After the video most of the guests left the Dining Room and headed for Dawson's night life.

After nearly dying out a few years ago the race seems to be alive and well once more.



Photo by Michael Gates

## 16th Annual Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race Results

Name	Starting Time	Arrive Eagle	Leave Eagle	Layover Time	Arrive Dawson	Net Time*
William Kleedenh	10:10 am.	8:56 pm.	1:14 am.	4 hrs. 18 min.	Mar. 20, 2:15 pm.	23 hrs. 47 min.
Larry Smith	10:26 am.	9:56 pm.	1:58 am.	4 hrs. 2 min.	Mar. 20, 3:17 pm.	24 hrs. 49 min.
Al Pope	10:02 am.	9:29 pm.	1:55 am.	4 hrs. 26 min.	Mar. 20, 3:23 pm.	24 hrs. 56 min.
Ben Lefebvre	10:22 am.	9:33 pm.	1:39 am.	4 hrs. 6 min.	Mar. 20, 3:29 pm.	25 hrs. 1 min.
Mark Elliot	10:18 am.	10:10 pm.	2:20 am.	4 hrs. 10 min.	Mar. 20, 4:32 pm.	26 hrs. 4 min.
Gordon Wood	10:16 am.	10:47 pm.	2:59 am.	4 hrs. 12 min.	Mar. 20, 6:25 pm.	27 hrs. 57 min.
Terry McMullen	10:20 am.	10:07 pm.	2:15 am.	4 hrs. 8 min.	Mar. 20, 6:28 pm.	28 hours.
Ed Hopkins	10:28 am.	11:30 pm.	3:45 am.	4 hrs 15 min.	Mar. 20, 7:40 pm.	28 hrs. 7 min.
David O'Farrel	10:06 am.	10:25 pm.	2:47 am.	4 hrs 22 min.	Mar. 20, 8:09 pm.	29 hrs. 41 min.
Ryan Turner	10:04 am.	10:50 pm.	3:31 am.	4 hrs. 41 min.	Mar. 20, 10:00 pm.	31 hrs. 15 min.
Doug Harris	10:24 am.	1:14 am.	5:20 am.	4 hrs. 6 min.	Mar. 20, 10:27 pm.	31 hrs. 59 min.
Bob Zeidler	10:14 am.	10:06 pm.	2:20 am.	4 hrs. 14 min.	Mar. 20, 11:07 pm.	32 hrs. 39 min.
John Anderson	10:00 am.	11:37 pm.	4:03 am.	4 hrs. 26 min.	Mar. 20, 11:06 pm.	32 hrs. 40 min.
Geoff Zapranuk	10:12 am.	2:10 am.	6:26 am.	4 hrs. 16 min.	Mar. 21, 8:45 pm.	54 hrs. 17 min.
Dale Braga	10:08 am.	2:12 am.	6:32 am.	4 hrs. 20 min.	Mar. 21, 11:45 pm.	57 hrs. 17 min.

\*Net time is the total time taken to complete the race, minus the layover time in Eagle, Alaska.



John Anderson starts the 16th Annual Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race, carrying the official mail bag and wearing bib #2

photo by Anne Bilina



DeWolfe winner William Kleedenh and his lead dog Fruitcake accepting their awards

Photo by Brent Morrison

### GOLD CITY TRAVEL



Employment Opportunity  
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Gold City Travel is looking for a full-time travel agent. a minimum of 2 years experience is preferred. The successful candidate will also have other related duties : general office work, selling sightseeing tours, airport limousine, airline check-ins. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit resume to : Box 960, Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B-1G0.

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