

# THE KLONDIKE SUN

DAWSON CITY, YUKON

THE KLONDIKE SUN

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## Handing Back Dredge #4

by Kathy Jones-Gates

"It's incredible to see Dredge #4 in its new place; it has just made my year" said longtime Klondike placer miner Mike Stutter. Stutter was one of the invited guests at the June 24 ceremony to hand back the dredge to the Canadian Parks Service by the No. 1 Construction unit of the Royal Canadian Corps of Engineers.

For the past two summers, the No. 1 Construction unit has been prying the old dredge away from its muddy resting place on Claim 17 Bonanza Creek (see Dan Davidson's complete story elsewhere on these pages). Now that the Dredge was settling onto its new foundation, the Unit's task was almost complete.

One hundred fifty or so invited guests and visitors turned up to the Dredge site for the ceremonies with K.N.H.S. superintendent

Al Fisk acting as MC. Following the singing of O Canada by 1992 'Miss Diamond Tooth Gertie', the platform guests were introduced. In addition to Stutter and Fisk, the Director General for Prairie and Northern Region of the Canadian Parks Service, Doug Harper, was also on hand, as well as Mayor Peter Jenkins and Major Gareth Jones.

From the various speeches, it became obvious that many people around the country had had their doubts that the Dredge could ever be pried loose from its mucky resting place, let alone re-floated. Much of the credit has been attributed to the project commander, Major Gareth Jones, on loan from the Royal Engineers, U.K., but Jones was quick to acknowledge the tremen-

Cont'd on Page 10

out of the 25,000 built. He has travelled throughout Europe and Japan and has now set his sights on the Klondike.

Three years ago Caron and his friend John Wolfe (an amazingly youthful 65 year old) surveyed the Yukon river, then decided to wait until the Al-Can celebrations in '92 before running it. The DUKW's had been used in building the Al-Can, but under severe restrictions that no photos be taken. They were a top secret vehicle and the government was worried that the Axis might find out about this little surprise that was waiting in the wings. They saw their first action in March 1943 during the U.S. landing at New Caledonia.

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## Amphibious Adventures

by Brent Morrison

When Jean-Paul Caron was seven years old he witnessed the liberation of France from the Nazis first hand. The year was 1944 and the allied troops rolled back the German army assisted by the GMC built DUKW 353, an amphibious vehicle designed to carry troops and supplies from the beaches inland. It was this strange hybrid of a vehicle, nicknamed "the Duck" by the G.I.'s, that captured the young Caron's attention.

Now at age fifty-five he is the proud owner of his own DUKW, one of only 150 still operational



Photo by Namiko Saito

Pierre Monfette panned up a trip to Scotland along with all ten flakes of gold at the Yukon Goldpanning Championships on Canada Day.

## Pierre Wins Birthday Gold

by Joanie Veitch

July 1 was an eventful day for Pierre Monfette. It's not only Canada's 125th Birthday, it was also his own birthday and his present this year was to become the Yukon Goldpanning Champion after he recovered ten flakes of gold in four minutes, twenty-five seconds.

"This year I got them all," he said, adding that this is his first time winning and he's been trying for years. Monfette has been hand mining in Dawson since he came here 17 years ago.

Monfette will be representing the Yukon in the World Goldpanning Championship in

Scotland during the first week of September.

He's excited about going and vows to win it "and bring it to Canada next year".

Second place went to last year's winner Art Sailer, who panned nine flakes of gold in four minutes, twenty-seven seconds. Sailer will now go on to represent the Yukon at Klondike Days in Edmonton.

David Millar placed third, recovering nine flakes of gold with a time of four minutes, forty-seven seconds.

The Cheechako seemed to be the most popular events as 27 newcomers tried their luck with gold.

Germany was well represented with Kurt Stabel of Frankfurt coming in first place, and Stefan Brand of Heidelberg in second. Third place went to Albertan Gary Santa.

The Klondike Open had ten panners with Zeman Herbert claiming first, recovering eight flakes in five minutes. Margaret Erickson was second with four flakes. Mike Craven took third with two flakes in his pan.

The Corporate Challenge winner this year was Ace Placer Mines with nine flakes recovered in a total time of 17.75. Second and third place went to Claim 33

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Photo by Mike Gates

Jean-Paul Caron gets to be Mayor of Dawson for two minutes - after being welcomed to Dawson by Mayor Peter Jenkins on June 27.

## Adventures (cont. from front page)

The DUKW weighs in at seven tons, can carry a five ton payload on water, and travels about 8 m.p.h. on lakes, faster downstream, but does very poorly going upstream. Because of this Wolfe uses a nineteen foot aluminum boat, powered by twin Yamaha 35's, to scout ahead and find eddies where the DUKW can go ashore for the evening. The only problems they have encountered thus far were at Stewart Island where the engine was flooded, and at Selkirk where they overshot their landing point and had to continue on down river.

They began this spring in Skagway, Alaska, and have been following the route of the Gold Rush. Three other DUKWs were to travel with Caron, but backed out at the last minute. Caron's crew have traversed lakes Bennett, Laberge, Schwaika (to name a few), and have gone through

Miles Canyon, Five Finger Rapids. They arrived in Dawson on Saturday, June 27, and pulled into the Gold Rush Campground for a few days.

The DUKW, christened Petite Plume (little feather) by Caron, bears a fiftieth anniversary Alaska Highway plate on the front end and has been attracting a lot of attention in the RV Park. Caron and Wolfe both mentioned that this was an unlikely place to find them, as they prefer to stay in the bush. Wolfe and his wife even met a couple from their home town in California. The group also picked up a passenger, a woman who volunteered to do the cooking in exchange for a chance to travel the Yukon on the strange vehicle.

On Tuesday, June 30, John returned to Anchorage to pilot a fishing boat leaving the Petite Plume without a scout. He had



Photo by Mike Gates

The DUKW 'motoring' down the Yukon river about three miles south of Dawson.

agreed to go at least this far because his companions considered the Whitehorse to Dawson stretch the most dangerous section of their journey. Caron and the others continued their journey a few days later, heading for Eagle, Alaska, where they had been invited to participate in the Fourth of July celebrations taking place there.

From Eagle they will journey

to Circle City, then travel overland to Fairbanks and on to Anchorage where this journey will end.

Caron is already planning to return to the Yukon in the near future. He was impressed by the system of lakes in the south and is looking forward to doing them again.

It will also give the people of the Yukon another chance to wit-

ness not only a piece of their history, but the world's.

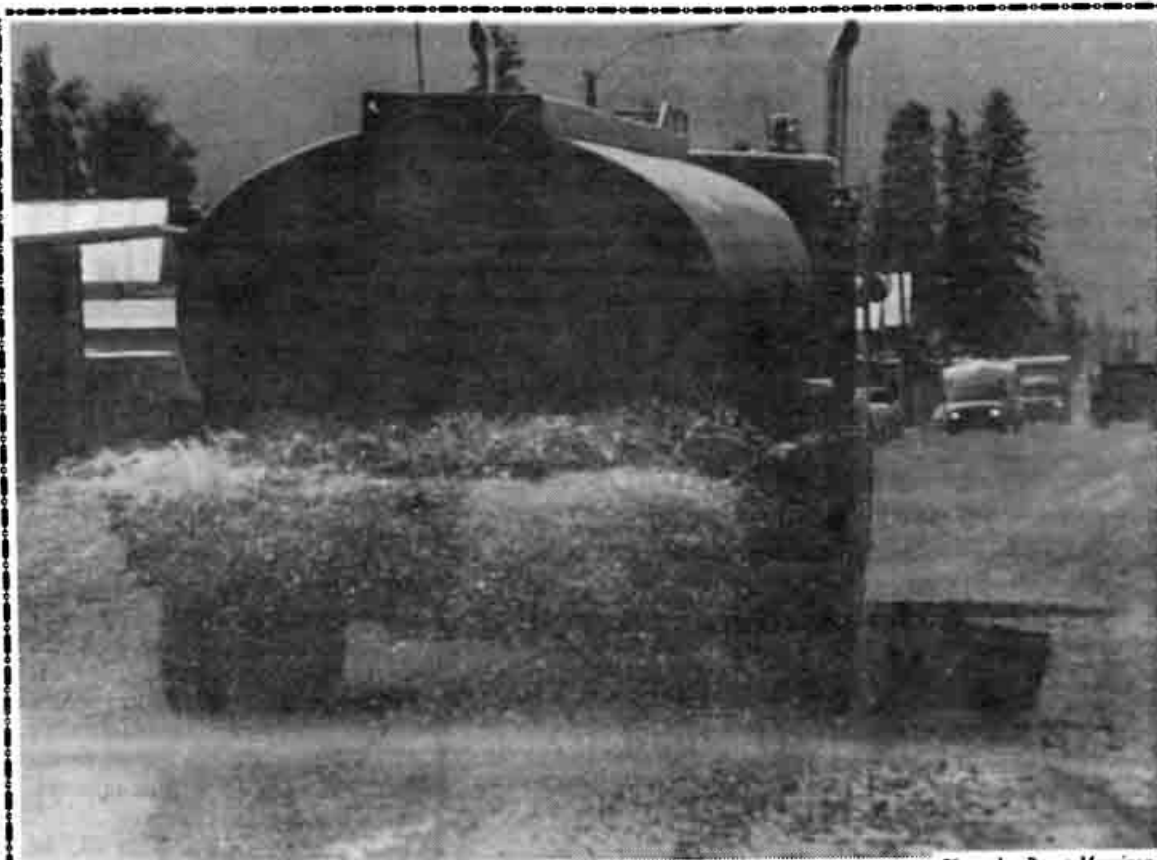


Photo by Brent Morrison

# Hot Hot Hot!

When summer takes hold in Dawson City it's not just the mercury that rises. The dust from our dirt roads form choking clouds that seem to penetrate everything. In an attempt to combat this, the City water trucks shower the roads with water to keep the dust down.

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## 15th Annual Yukon Goldpanning Championships

Cont'd from front page

and French Hill Mining respectively.

Five people competed in the seniors category and Peter Erickson won the day. He was followed by Irene Crayford in second and Peter Foth in third.

The two youth categories

panned together. Sam McCullough was number one in the ten and under category. Doug Gritner and Lianne Bilideau were the winners in the over ten and under 15 category.

Over seventy panners took part in this year's championships.

## What's that stench?

by Joanie Veitch

It was a great idea at first, but when it was piled high and stinking it was obvious that something was not quite working out.

The smelly object in question was a garbage container in West Dawson, put there by the Dawson First Nation to be used by the many campers who live on the hill for the summer.

"For the past few years everyone has noticed that a lot of garbage gets left behind," said Margie Kormendy, Band Manager.

Last year the Dawson First Nation applied for a government grant and hired people to clean up the garbage. They also decided to put a garbage container there to encourage future campers to dispose of waste.

All seemed fine until last week when Kormendy was informed by a concerned camper that the container was overflowing with rubbish.

"Basically the problem is that no one looks after West Dawson," said Kormendy.

It is Yukon Territorial Government land and the Band was hoping the container would be emptied along with other garbage collection further up the highway. That didn't happen and Kormendy wasn't aware of the problem it was causing until it was brought to her attention.

In an interview last week Kormendy said she is going to call Whitehorse to find out what the government can do to help the situation.

But for now she's hoping the campers themselves will perhaps do their bit and only use it as a temporary deposit area to keep the campsite safe from bears during the night.

"We sent over a truck to get the garbage," she said. "And along with that truck we sent a sign asking for people to please assist in emptying it."



Photo by Namiko Saito

Over seventy contestants entered in this year's Yukon Goldpanning Championships held on Canada Day. Pierre Monfette was the winner of the Yukon Open.

# Local contracting supports communities.

## Suppliers, contractors and consultants have more opportunities to do business with the Yukon government right in their own communities.



Madley's General Store in Haines Junction expands to meet a growing demand.

There's not much point in having government jobs decentralized to communities if employees have to turn to Whitehorse every time they need to make a purchase.

That's the way it used to be - but not any more thanks to innovative thinking in Government Services.

Now, Government Services managers in Haines Junction, Dawson City and Watson Lake can buy goods locally and hire local trades people to maintain government facilities.

Government Services is also developing community source lists of local suppliers, contractors and consultants interested in doing business with the Yukon government.

Community based contracting brings more opportunities for work but it also means that local businesses can come to tender openings in their own communities.

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businesses benefit and government employees can do their best work - it's all an investment in healthy Yukon communities.

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The slot machines are a popular item at Diamond Tooth Gerties

Photo by Mike Gates

## Now They're Really Here

by Joanie Veitch

They took a while to get here but the slot machines finally made it and are now at Gerties where happy gamblers are lining up to deposit their coins, and hopefully win big money.

Not all 50 slot machines are working yet but Bob McConkey, general manager of the Klondike Visitors Association, said they should be up and paying soon.

The KVA received a licence for 52 slots, two of them being bar top models. The bar tops could not be safety approved in time, but three nickel slots, 39 quarter slots and eight loonie slots all

passed approval.

The nickel slots are not in operation at the moment, unless you use a coin that predates 1981. At that time the Canadian Mint changed the content of the metal used in the nickels and the slot machines don't seem to like the new mix.

One of the quarter slots is not working and is waiting for a part. That leaves a total of 46 in operation.

It was a long road to get them all here, longer than it should have been according to McConkey.

The machines were supposed

to be picked up in Reno, Nevada on June 15 and begin their journey to Dawson. McConkey was told that everything was on schedule, but then when the truck didn't show he began to wonder what was going on.

At first the trucking company told him that the driver had injured his back and was receiving medical attention. Then they said there was a delay at customs.

McConkey said he has since found out that none of this was true.

"It was just an out and out lie," he said. "The trucking company picked up the load and

didn't leave until Friday night. So we lost four days of operating time.

"Now they're saying they just couldn't get a driver so they had to come up with a story."

With such a high profile cargo, McConkey said this just isn't good enough and he will be following up on it to make sure everything gets sorted out.

"We are going to deal with this issue," said McConkey, adding that it may even go to court.

When the machines were finally installed at Diamond Tooth Gerties there was some complaint of the increase in noise level due to their electronic sounds. In parts of the hall people couldn't hear the show over the din.

The KVA decided that the electronic sounds should be turned off so as not to interrupt the acts on stage.

But there's not much they can do about the sound of the payouts, and there have been plenty of those. One player won \$2,500 one night, then two nights later tried his luck again and won another \$2,700.

McConkey said that so far the slots are a hit with locals and tourists alike, and general opinion seems to be that they add a new energy to Gerties that's more like the old atmosphere it used to have.

It all points to enhancing the Gold Rush experience, said McConkey. Slot machines were used in Dawson around the turn of the century, although it is still uncertain exactly where they were located.

"We know that we've reintroduced them," said McConkey. "We know they were here."

## Lotteries Yukon Funding Approved

by Joanie Veitch

Four Dawson organizations are among the fifty successful applicants to receive funding from the Yukon Lotteries Commission this session.

The Dawson City First Nation, the Community Radio Society, the Museum and Historical Society, and the Music Festival Association all received funding approval for their projects.

The Yukon Lotteries Commission helps non-profit groups fund projects specific to the community. Net profits from the sale of lottery tickets are split between government recreation programs (48%) and Yukon Lottery Commission programs (52%).

The Dawson First Nation received \$1,250 to go towards buying a couple of fish nets and some tents, according to manager Margie Komendy.

The Music Festival was pleased with their \$8,000 which is buying a new tent top and gin pole. Treasurer Karen Dubois said the new top is much easier to put up and will save a lot of time, that's if it gets here in time for the festival.

The radio station will be using their \$1,162 to buy some new studio equipment.

The Museum has three projects they are working on, although Heather Smith, director, is not certain yet how the \$3,275 they received will be allocated.

Some will be added to \$6,700 funding already received from Community Development to research and survey the Northfork Power Plant, the Yukon Ditch and the Klondike Mines Railways. This is an eight-month project that will involve photographing the sites, writing academic articles and coordinating travelling exhibits.

The Museum is also organizing an oral history workshop to examine how to break down oral history to study and learn from it.

And anyone who's ever sat on the benches for any length of time will be relieved to know that the Museum will be using some of the Lotteries funding to buy bench cushions.

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# Editorial

by Sue Ward

In watching TV coverage of the Border-Crossing Shopping dilemma my total Canadian pride was spared such choices. Or so it seemed. Now the problem arises: to shop at my local foodstore or to save bucks by signing up with a trucking outfit which will deliver almost anything at bargain prices. The whole issue becomes extremely parochial, nothing so big as international.

But we are being forced to make choices, big choices, if viewed through the eyes of local merchants. For a long time there was only one supplier, after Mr. Caley closed up shop. Then came a second choice with the opening by the Kerr Family of the Farmer's Market which offered extra produce from their farm in the Klondike Valley. Some folk retained the habit of shopping in Whitehorse, mostly when they had to travel up there for other purposes, and a few still do. But more and more we felt the two food outlets kept a reasonable margin of profit and though we paid high prices, the merchandise was of good quality, and we even enjoyed Specials. Now we are being canvassed by mailbox and telephone to Buy Bulk from a truck which will be here in summer months.

But where will that trucker be when the snow flies and the temps hit minus twenty to forty? Who cares? Foodstuffs can be stuffed under the kids' beds, in the clothes cupboard, behind the door, in the bathroom. Anywhere it won't freeze; the freezer being loaded with 'truck meats'. We have beaten the system. Or have we?

Only if we are prepared to buy all of those donations previously provided again and again by our local merchants. This newspaper is the product of thousands of donated hours by the crew, but subscriptions alone would not permit us to have the state of the art equipment, through which a surprising number of Dawson's citizens are able to hone their craft in computer technology, photography, and journalism. Our local business community had faith in us. Our Ads Manager has been kept hopping covering our many sponsors. The point is, we need each other. No one in this town exists without the support and caring of fellow citizens.

The Klondike Sun does appreciate our Whitehorse advertisers. We hope all townsfolk will visit their businesses when in the capital. But this issue is cheap food. In these new times, food costs do rise in importance in our budgeting. But we all know 'Man does not live by bread alone.'

That out-of-town trucker has no overhead but his truck and his gas and insurance, etc. Our merchants face high power prices for refrigeration in the summer and above-freezing storage in the winters. Buildings depreciate, equipment wears out, and above all, local people find jobs in our markets. Teenager learn business and marketing skills when working during the summer season.

The out-of-town trucker pays a one hundred dollar license fee to the City and, when dealing in foods, he must have a certificate from the Yukon Health Department to ensure the merchandise is handled under the same standards as our shopkeepers, whose license is also one hundred dollars.

Now Mr. Shopkeeper, it is only fair to tell you that quite a number of folk will retort "some of their prices are a rip-off." If this should be true, folks are going to give that trucker the eye. Not at thirty below, but that is a time that most folks don't want to think about at thirty Celsius.

There's no such thing as a free lunch, is there?

## The Klondike Sun

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Dawson's version of the "Walling Wall?" Or just praying for lots of summer customers? Actually, it's Bent, Benta and Kim Gulstad attempting to locate a key that fell through the sidewalk near their store "The Gold Poke." They were caught in the act by an anonymous photographer.



## Letters

Dear Editor:

When I was reading about Andy Cruikshank and the "Queen of the Yukon" monoplane, it took me back to 1927, when I was seven years old and the plane came over the hills of Dawson and landed on the river. I remember my friend, Jay Jay Van Bibber running along Fifth Avenue with me trying to reach up and grab the plane which looked like a big butterfly. His two brothers, Alex and George, didn't waste any time carving accurate models of the plane and selling them to us kids at school the next day for twenty-five cents. Andy Cruikshank was a great hero of all of us and I still have some of the covers of the first air mail out of Dawson with the stamps on it showing the Queen of the Yukon.

Sincerely,  
Pierre Berton



The Klondike Sun accepts letters to the editor on local issues. All letters must be signed, preferably typewritten, double spaced and no longer than 500 words. Letters must be in good taste and may be edited for length or to eliminate potentially libellous statements.

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# WOW - It's Happening in Dawson

by Joanie Veitch

It's a sad fact that not everyone gets the same chances in life, for some people opportunities seem to get strangled at a very young age.

Canadian schools currently face a 30 per cent high school drop out rate, even though studies have shown that two-thirds of new jobs in the 1990's will require at least high school graduation.

Obviously, there are serious consequences as a result of students dropping out of school. The Dawson First Nation is not only aware of this, they are sponsoring a project that tries to bridge the gap many young students face.

The project is called the Work Orientation Workshop (WOW) and is funded through Employment and Immigration. Some of the project goals are to reduce the local drop out rate by choosing students who are perhaps in a high risk category to participate in a series of workshops and job placements.

There are seven students ages 12-17 in WOW this summer. Kim Collier, Co-ordinator and workshop teacher, believes the project to be an essential and very positive experience for all those involved.

"It keeps the doors open for their future," she said. "We need to help kids realize their potential and become aware of their options."

The programme began on June 15 and will continue for eight weeks. The students work every alternate week in a local business or organization, the other half of their time is spent in workshops.

The workshops cover a variety of topics such as job search skills, appropriate work habits, communication skills, budgeting and goal setting.

Collier, who has a background in drama, said she has been trying to use as much theatre and outdoor recreation as possible to make the workshops come alive.

"We do a lot of role-playing, enacting real work situations so they can get a feel for what it is really like," she said.

For Collier, the programme is more than just practical experience for the students, it is a chance for many of them to become more active and confident in their ability to achieve.

"These projects really need to exist," Collier said. "Hopefully someday there will be enough information and awareness of this need that soon it will be inherent in the system, not just some-

thing that happens when there is some extra money available for funding."

A project such as WOW is also a community effort. The students work in Dawson and many professionals around town have offered to assist with workshops.

"A programme like this can't exist without the community," Collier said, adding that she'd love to hear from anyone who thinks they may be able to help in any way.

One of the students, Charlie Taylor, is working at the Museum as a research assistant.

Heather Smith, director, is very pleased with the results.

"It's a real success story," she said as she went on to describe the care and responsibility Charlie takes with his work.

Every week Collier evaluates the students progress, however, she noted that the success of the programme really lies in each student and will be different for everyone involved.

"If the program helps them do one new thing, so much more becomes possible."



Gordon and Evelyn McKay

Photo by Michael Gates

## Gordon McKay Makes A Return Visit

by Kathy Jones-Gates

It's been 46 years since Gordon McKay left Dawson City, but his return trip has been in the planning for over a year. Accompanied by his wife Evelyn and two other couples from Winnipeg, the McKays journeyed north by motorhome to rekindle boyhood memories and to show video copies of home movies of the Yukon that Gordon's mom took during the 1940's.

In 1930, 2 month old Gordon and his sister Marjorie, aged 4 1/2 were brought to Dawson by their parents George Wilson (Mac) McKay and Annie Vine (Nan) McKay. Mac had accepted a job as Telegraph operator for the then Department of Transport. His office was in the old Administration building which now houses the Dawson Museum.

The McKay family left Dawson in 1946, moving to Victoria, B.C. Gordon joined the RCAF, retiring in 1979 after 32 years of military service, and settled in Winnipeg.

During the McKay family moves with the Canadian Armed Forces, his mother's 8mm movies tagged along, but did not receive too much attention until Gordon recently brought them out for family viewing and realised that he should be doing something to preserve the movies, which were mostly taken during the 1940's. He was able to have them transferred to video through the Public Access T.V. in Winnipeg, and soon saw the potential for a documentary of the Yukon years. With assistance from Jim McGregor of Videon, Winnipeg, Gordon has slowly been creating a documentary from his mother's movies, and looks forward to showing the completed documentary on Winnipeg T.V.

In Dawson, he was able to locate former friends of his parents, or their children, and once again walk the streets of his happy childhood. Raw video footage from his Mother's movies was shown to interested friends and to the Dawson Museum.

Captured in remarkably good colour, after all these years, are boy scout parades, the 1944 flood, the annual Discovery Days parades, swimming at the old swimming hole, and rare footage of the opening of the current swimming pool in 1944, as well as such colourful characters as Pete Hooley. There was river footage and steamboat moments, and colourful gardens, and old-timers, and winter scenes and much more.

Gordon has been able to fill in a few blanks in the script that he is writing to accompany his mother's movies, and left Dawson knowing that eventually the effort he is putting into the movie project, to be titled "Personal Reflections of the Yukon", will be well worth it, judging by the interest shown his mother's hobby from almost 50 years ago.



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# Hostelling in West Dawson

by Joanie Veitch

Although there are only a few buildings there now, and everything is still in the midst of construction, when Dieter Reinmuth walks around his property showing where new cabins will be he is so enthusiastic you can almost see the completed project in front of you.

Reinmuth is the proud owner and designer of the Dawson City River Hostel, a hostel with as much original flair as he can manage and afford to build.

The hostel is located across the Yukon River, just a five minute walk from the ferry. Nestled in the woods overlooking Dawson City there is a real retreat feeling to it already - and that's exactly the way Reinmuth wants it to be.

"I want people to find this place to be like home," he said.

At the moment the hostel is not quite home as he only has facilities for people with tents, but Reinmuth hopes that by the Music Festival he will have three rooms for two people each. At the end of the summer that number should grow to accommodate 42 beds in a total of six log cabins. The four hectare property will allow for almost unlimited camping also.

Although things are still in the construction stage the hostel already has two large outhouses, each with units of two; a common room with a wood stove and chairs to relax in; and an outdoor shower (soon to be joined by

indoor ones).

Future plans include a kitchen, a sundeck with tables and chairs, and more sleeping cabins. One of the more interesting features is perhaps what Reinmuth calls a "prospectors bath" which is to be a combination sauna and large outdoor bath.

Reinmuth has been working on the plans for his hostel for three years now. Getting his project off the ground was not an easy process. He almost shudders at the amount of paperwork and letter writing he had to pile through while applying for land and getting public support.

"I learned as I went along," he said. "Everything I have been doing these past three years... everything is a first. And the paperwork - oh boy, that's a long story!"

After he acquired the land he then had to begin the clean up. Years of campers had amounted to quite a lot of rubbish in the area.

"Actually the cleaning was fun," Reinmuth said. "I could finally get away from writing letters."

Hostelling is a way of life for some travellers, especially in Europe. Reinmuth himself stayed in many hostels during his 15-years of travelling around the world. Many hostellers use them because of the low rates and assured standards. It's also a great way to meet other travellers.



Photo by Joanie Veitch

Dieter Reinmuth stands in front of the office of the new Dawson City River Hostel now open for business.

There is also an incredible worldwide network through the International Hostelling Association and the local branch associations which offer cheaper rates for members.

Reinmuth has written letters to many hostels in Europe and Japan, sending information for future visitors. The River hostel is also a member of the B.C. Hostelling Association. The rates are set at \$12.50 for members and \$15.00 for non-members, however for campers that rate goes down to \$5.00 per person, and there will be seasonal rates for long-term campers.

Reinmuth has lots of future plans for the hostel, including using it in the winter months as

a cross country ski centre. It's an idea he believes will appeal to many European tourists.

But for now he's still just trying to complete some rooms before the Music Festival.

"Every day I get up and make a list of ten things to do and every

day I get at least one done. Then the next day I make up a list of another ten things," Reinmuth laughs, adding that he's enjoying every minute of it.

"I love the freedom this work gives me. I'm having lots of fun."

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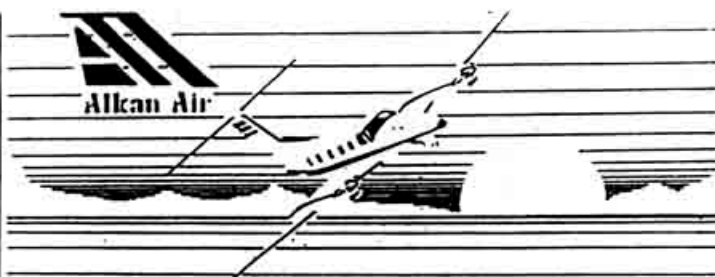
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None of this would have been possible without the active participation of hundreds of Yukon employers and employees. You called our Hot Line, answered our survey and attended our meetings to let us know exactly what you wanted the WCB to do for you. Your help in drafting this legislation helped make the Yukon Workers' Compensation Act one of the most - if not the most - progressive in the country.

Thanks to everyone who helped for a job well done.

*Piers McDonald* *Patricia Cumming*

Piers McDonald  
Minister Responsible for the  
Workers' Compensation Board

Patricia Cumming  
President  
Workers' Compensation Board

**P.S.** Although the new Workers' Compensation Act is now available, a pocket-sized edition will be published next month for more convenient use.



# Parks Plans For The Future

by Joanie Veitch

There were only a handful of people who turned up at the meeting with Parks officials to let them know public opinion of Parks Canada programs and future plans.

Representatives for the prairie and northern region out of Winnipeg were in Dawson for the management review of the Klondike National Historic Sites. A public participation meeting was held at the Palace Grand Theatre on June 16.

The meeting was a chance for Dawsonites to express their concerns about current management plans and comment on how things could perhaps be made better in the future.

Tim Krause, Public Participation Officer from Winnipeg, was disappointed with the turnout.

"I had hoped to have more here this evening," he said as he described an extensive postal drop that aimed to achieve the broadest consultation possible.

Granted, there was tough competition from activity at the Dredge No. 4, along with the usual frenetic pace of life for Dawsonites in the summer.

Greg Thomas, Chief of Historic Planning, gave a presentation on current management sites: land holdings in the Gold Fields, the Upper Bonanza Reserve, the downtown buildings, to name a few, and outlined some priorities for the future.

Thomas pointed out that one of the things that is definitely lacking in the Parks service is a Native interpretation of how the Gold Rush and following events affected their community. He said plans are in the works to rectify this in the next couple of years.

Al Fisk, Superintendent of

KNHS, also joined in the discussion to describe the process of renovating the Keno and the need to prioritize projects to ensure they can all be paid for.

"The government does not write a blank cheque," he explained. "We have a single operating budget which is to run existing projects and manage development sites also."

Fisk assured those in attendance that a tighter financial situation would not mean any cut in jobs for the Dawson region, but that it might mean a change in the type of jobs as new projects go into operation such as the proposed Vuntut National Park which will come under Dawson jurisdiction.

Some people expressed concern about how the Klondike will attract younger vacationers, as many people who currently come to Dawson are older tourists. Suggestions were made that hiking and mountain bike trails would be more of interest than mining operations to a younger, more environmentally conscious, generation.

With the Centennial celebrations coming up a lot of organization is needed to ensure all the different events and promotions run smoothly.

Al Fisk encouraged all those at the meeting to let him know their views on Parks services.

"Come down, I'll buy you a cup of coffee and we'll talk," he said.

Thomas agreed that it is important to hear recommendations from the public to set the direction for a draft management plan.

Thomas is in charge of drawing up the plan which is to be ready this time next year.



The ferry line-up, looking north on Front Street near Duke.

Photo by Palma Berger

## West Dawson Residents Weary of Ferry Lines

by Dan Davidson

If you're in a hurry and don't want to wait in line, the best time to ride the George Black Ferry across the Yukon River is after midnight. Otherwise, you may be looking at quite a wait.

At 10:30 a.m. Tuesday June 23rd, the line-up was just over half a kilometer long, with a turn-around time of about 17 minutes on ferry trips. The line had begun forming at 6:30 a.m.

The ferry can hold eight to ten regular-sized pick-ups or cars. But recreational vehicles take up a lot of space, and fuel trucks running deliveries to mining operations have to go across one at a time. The tourists seem to be holding up fine, but locals who live in West Dawson are beginning to find it a bit of a drag.

Mimi Elliot, who operates Sunshine Bookkeeping Services, has a house on the west side of the Yukon, but doesn't try to live in it this time of year. It's just too exhausting waiting for a space on the ferry.

"Local residents can't get home or get to work on time," says

Elliot. Her son, Mark, is working at Noranda's operation down on Brewery Creek. On a recent shift, he actually failed to get home. He caught a few hours' sleep in his vehicle rather than get stuck on the other side of the river and be late returning to his job.

Mimi Elliot says what's needed are either two ferries, or the bridge the Yukon Municipal Board recommended in its report last month.

Sandy Sippola, who works in the Dawson First Nation's land claims department, says line-ups during the last two weeks have been up to three hours long. She and ten other residents have written to the territorial government asking for a solution.

The letter has gone to Transportation Services Minister Maurice Byblow, Premier Tony Penikett, Tourism Minister Art Webster and Yukon MP Audrey McLaughlin.

"We'd like a special ferry pass, to give us some priority," Sippola says. She'd settle for a couple of specific times a day

when residents get first crack at the run. There are eight families in Sunnydale and perhaps six people in the new government subdivision nearby.

Sippola says it's not a new problem. Letters have been written in past years. The government always responds that an average waiting time is about eight minutes, and that there's no problem. It does, however, seem that the traffic is a little heavier this year. Ferry workers indicate the line-ups are thick through the day and well into the evening.

The tourists don't seem to mind the wait that much. Staff report that they treat it like part of their vacation.

"It seems to give them a chance to meet and chat with others," one worker said while directing traffic.

In the summer, the ferry runs on demand on three eight-hour shifts. It's out of service once a week from 5-7 a.m. on Wednesday morning for routine maintenance.

The trip should take about seven minutes each way, but high water and a fast current have slowed it down to 17 minutes.



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The refloating of Dredge No. 4 occurred on June 11, 1992

Photo by Michael Gates

## Dredge Was A "Major" Engineering Challenge

by Dan Davidson

Anyone looking at Dredge #4 on its old location at Claim 17 Below Discovery on Bonanza Creek would have known that there might be problems some day. Before the excavation began last year it was uncertain just how much of the dredge was under the frozen silt where it had ended up in 1959 after its last season of active use. It turned out that two levels of the six story hull were submerged and frozen in the former settling pond, with silt and frozen material accumulated up to 5 feet above the actual main deck level.

The earth moves in the Klondike. Just ask any home owner about his foundation plans and you'll get a story. Major buildings are placed on various arrangements of pilings and cribs so that their foundations can be adjusted from time to time. A building twenty-three metres high and weighing 2722 tonnes is a major building in anyone's town, and this one has been subject to the stresses and strains of moving earth for over 30 years. The initial engineering studies undertaken by the Canadian Forces in 1987 showed that it needed to be moved and stabilized in a proper spot before the damage got too extreme. An artifact of this size, importance and general popularity was bound to be a challenge.

The Forces got the job because they could move it quickly and get it done for a reasonable amount of money, something like \$1.1 million, or less than half the nearest bid from anyone else.

Engineering concerns were a part of the project to relocate Dredge #4 from start to finish. In explaining the project to the community, Major Gareth Jones, the project commander, was very clear on why Canadian Forces One Construction Engineering Unit was pleased to be involved with the scheme. For the unit it was an education.

"We've got a smashing opportunity for training our own engineers and personnel," he said. "There were a large variety of engineering problems over a much wider sort of scope than you get on most projects." The list included heat transfer, ground water, earthworks, cost estimating and project planning. "There's a whole variety of disciplines here."

The second major attraction of the project was that it gave the unit practice in operating in the North. The peculiarities of dealing with frozen ground in a remote location made the project attractive.

"It's a long way from anywhere," said Jones. "We need to plan things beforehand and make sure that we've ordered the stuff we needed to order because we can't just turn round, like we would if we were on a military base, and say 'Oh we're short of this. Can we have it?'" The logistics planning had to be better than normal, which was also good practice.

One Construction Unit is known for its fast reaction to events. In this case, they got the word they were coming here in February 1991 and had to be on the site and working in April, but there are other types of reaction as well.

"We've had practice in managing the project and, especially with this project, in dealing with unusual problems ... as they occur on site. Because of the very nature of the project it was difficult to know exactly what we were going to come across all the time, but we knew from the start that when it came up we should have to deal with it on site."

"That's been good training, because it's much more interesting rather than just sitting there managing something where you know this is gonna happen next."

Jones also mentioned that the relocation provided the opportunity

for 4-10 people to live and work in Dawson City for two summers, something he said he has really enjoyed.

"People pay lots of money just to be here for a few days," Jones said. The British major managed to swing two summer seasons, extending his exchange visit so he could finish up at the dredge. "It's a really nice place to work and it's a really fascinating project to work on."

The project broke down into 9 major segments, some of which were able to be run concurrently and even in a different sequence when problems arose. The stages were: set up, clearing, building the berm, excavating the dredge, thawing and removing silt, repairing the hull, constructing new foundation, floating and relocating and, finally, the clean-up. As of June 18, at about 9:30 p.m., the first 8 stages were complete, the dredge was settled, the plug had been pulled on the pond and the next several days would see it draining into Bonanza Creek.

Setting up had involved the

engineering study that determined the need for the job as well as the initial reconnaissance

Clearing the site produced the first real problem. Jones' group had planned to use an agitator pump to mix the silt and water into a slurry and pump it out of the pond. They hadn't predicted the amount of organic material - roots and branches - that could tangle up the inside of a pump. Jones says it had showed only as bits and pieces in the core samples they had taken during the recon. They had to shift to digging the muck out instead, a process which meant building a series of four roads for the heavy equipment to run on and then removing the roads as well when they got beyond them. The high ground water level in the area made that job more time consuming than the pump would have been had it worked.

Stage three was the building of the berm or dyke to contain the pond for the dredge to float in. With the dredge 20 feet below the surface, it had to be floated that far, and then another 16 feet on

top of that to float it to its new position. The movement of traffic for this job was set up to do several things at once. The trucks that came in to dump gravel for the berm were used to haul out excavated silt on their return trip. At the same time, the site chosen as the gravel pit, just across the Bonanza Creek Road, will become the new location for the parking lot, a necessity, since the dredge will be sitting where the old parking lot was.

The completed berm became an elevated road around the dredge site, a road, in Jones words, "far better than the road up Bonanza Creek." Building it presented a few problems with visitor control. The order of vehicles on the berm was: a belly dumper followed by a grader to smooth down the gravel, followed by a roller to compact that load. Jones recalls looking up at one point and seeing "a tourist in an RV following along behind the roller."

Cont'd on Page 10



Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

The new cribbing or 'cradle' was set in place late last summer - the new resting place for Dredge #4



# Handing Back Dredge #4 Cont'd from Page 1

dous support provided by the entire military and civilian crews. He also paid tribute to the community that had welcomed the Military personnel for the past two summers, "like never before; especially some local establishments."

Doug Harper admitted to being one of the skeptics when the proposal was first brought to his attention. He acknowledged the leadership from the local level, namely Al Fisk and former employee Jim Reilly for



Photo by Michael Gates

Major Gareth Jones and Doug Harper, a Director General of the Canadian Parks Service, get ready to cut the ribbon.

instigating the support of the No. 1 Construction Unit and said that it felt great to see the project realised. "I consider this site a world class heritage facility," he said.

Mike Stutter came to the

Yukon to work for the Company in the Engineering office from 1954 to '61. He acknowledged many residents who had also worked on the Dredges including: Les Butterworth, Newt Webster who mostly worked at the North

Fork Power plant, Will Crayford who was employed from 1940-45 driving the points and employed on Dredge #9 and #10, Pete Foth who worked in the Bear Creek Goldroom, Otto Blattler, Alan Gould, Henry Hanulik, John

Gould, Ben Warmsby who worked at the power plant, Dick Fields, Mario Braga, Giovanni Castellarin, and Don Neff. (See story elsewhere in these pages.)

Following a ribbon cutting ceremony by Major Jones and Doug Harper, the ceremony wrapped up with Mayor Jenkins presenting three plaques on behalf of the City of Dawson. One went to the Dept. of National Defence's #1 Engineering Unit based in Winnipeg; the second to the Canadian Parks Service, and the third was presented personally to Major Jones. "It took a 'Brit' to oversee the successful realisation of this project" said Jenkins. Jones will be returning to the U.K. in August where he will take up new duties in Wales teaching at the Army Apprentice College in Chepstow.

Unfortunately, recognition was not given to Alec Barbour who, as head of Machines and Vessels section of Restoration Services in Ottawa, has been an ardent supporter and believer in the re-floating of the Dredge. Barbour undertook some of the earlier feasibility studies on the Dredge and acted as a consultant when necessary. He was on hand for the ceremony, however.

## Cont'd from Page 9

"It provides a bit of interest, I suppose," Jones said wryly.

Once completed, however, the berm road became a safe place for tourists to walk and view the dredge, well out of the way of the equipment and the workers.

Freeing the dredge from its burden of silt and ice proved to be a time consuming job using tried and true methods. Taking a cue from the hydraulic miners of the 1930s, Jones played thousands of gallons of cold water on the frozen material to thaw it. Oddly, cold water works better for this sort of job because you can use so much more of it, you don't have to heat it, and the heat transfer works well with enormous volumes. Once down to deck level, the workers used chainsaws to carve ice out of the five chambers in the hull. This worked until they got to the silt laden floor areas. The silt dulled the saws so then it was back to the water.

All sorts of bonuses turned up as the frozen material vanished. Thawing revealed a wealth of artifacts and tools which had been left on the dredge for its next season and buried when it sank. Without oxygen and bacteria to promote rust and decay, the tools had remained in fine shape. Some, Jones said, had obviously been produced in the dredge's own forge, which was also discovered.

"The interest in finding this stuff really increased the motivation of the crew," he said.

While work on clearing the dredge continued, the new foundation was pre-fabricated so that it could be moved on to the site. The new cradle is made of 12 x 12 timbers fastened together with

6 x 6 timbers, and was constructed to be strong enough to withstand the impact of the moving dredge itself, should the final draft of the hull turn out to be greater than calculations indicated. The dredge would be anchored to the cradle with 56 tonne cables and coated on the outside with a polythene compound to keep the water out.

Over last winter the dredge was left in its pond and allowed to fill up with water. This acted to keep out the formation of glacier ice and also to thaw the ground beneath the structure to a certain extent so that the spring cleanup this year wasn't too bad.

There was a concern that a possible 9,000 tonnes of suction pressure might act to anchor the dredge in its hole and that attempts to break that suction could rip the bottom off the hull, especially if any parts of it were still frozen to the ground.

"It was really brought home to me when I lost my rubber boot in the silt," Jones said. "that silt really can suck." An elaborate system of pressure pipes was in the process of being installed this June in an attempt to equalize pressures and break any suction when the dredge decided to float on its own.

Allan MacRae, one of the half dozen civilian workers on the site, said that the process was so gradual it took everyone by surprise. They were inside working on the pipes and noticed that the gangplank to the shore was shifting when they came out for a break. It was soon obvious that the dredge was going to float itself without any help. This happened on Thursday, June 11. The dredge floated freely in its pond over the weekend as the water

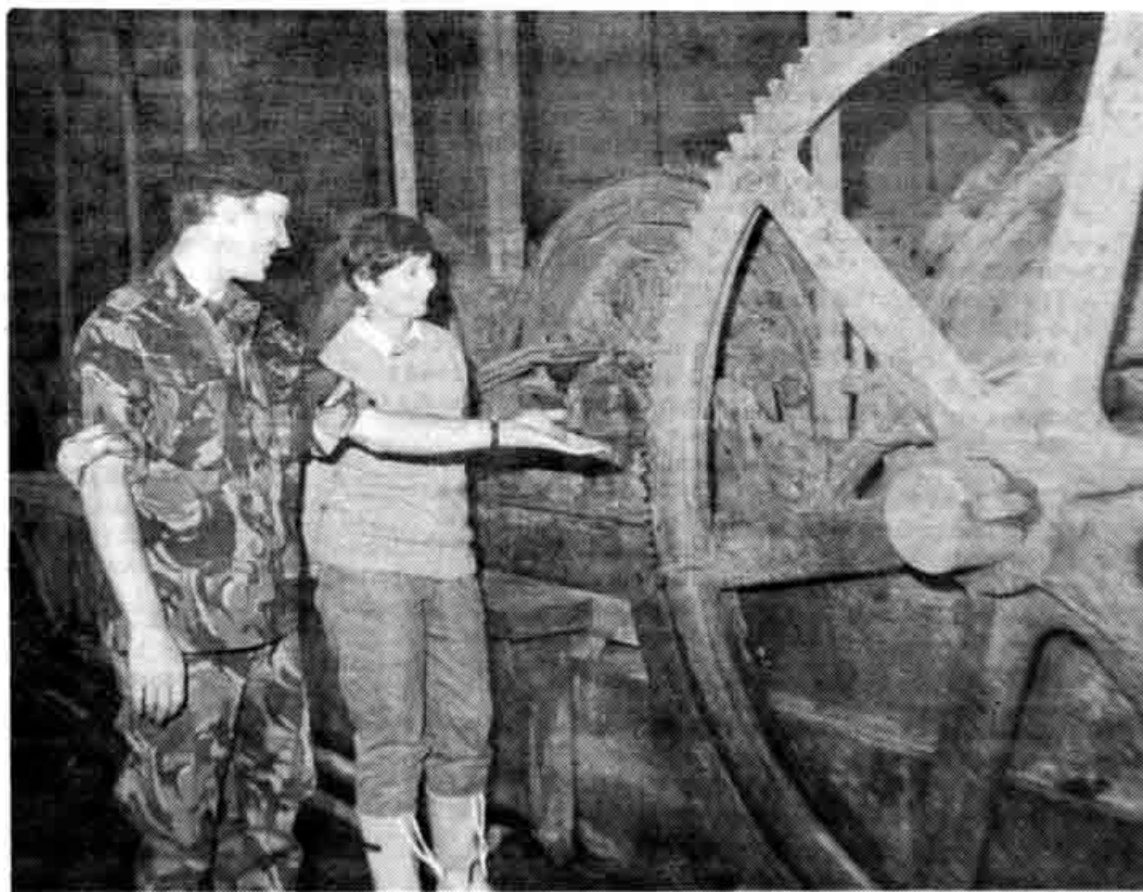


Photo by Jennifer Williams

Another Big Wheel! Major Gareth Jones shows Yukon MP Audrey McLaughlin a segment of the Dredge that was excavated in 1991.

slowly rose along the sides of the berm.

The flooding was slower than expected. Several heavy rains stirred up the creek and mixed so much silt with the water that the pumps were slowed considerably, and the realignment of the dredge that was planned (ahead of schedule) for Monday June 15th, ended up taking place in stages over Tuesday and Wednesday, reaching its conclusion about 9:30 pm the evening of June 17.

The positioning of the dredge

was a job for four dozers and a backhoe, which inched the structure painstakingly into place in spite of its tendency to drift with the breeze or lurch too far in the direction of a pull. Another problem was the murk which obscured the cradle beneath the hull and reduced the workers to feeling for the timbers with long sticks.

By 10 o'clock the dredge had been settled on the foundation, Major Jones had been dunked in the pond by a member of the work crew, and everyone was

ready to go home happy with the day's work and the project's success.

While stage 9, the clean-up, remains to be completed, an official ceremony took place on June 24th to hand the dredge back to Klondike National Historic Sites.





## Klondike Transport staff and Dredge 4 personnel

L to R: James McNaughton, Harry Campbell (Klondike Transport), Tom Harvey, Michael Perry, Chris Mayes, Mich Gagne, Allan McRae, Cpl. Charles Cameron, Don Tutin, Cpl. Al Dawson, MWO 'Mac' Torrie, Major Gareth Jones, Brad Whitelaw, Bruce Duffee

Photo by Michael Gates

### DREDGE 4 PROJECT PERSONNEL

#### 1991 PHASE

##### MILITARY

Maj. GBOR Jones	Project Commander
Capt AR Wisniowski	Project Commander
MWO RM Torrie	Project Superintendent
WO FB Edison	Project Superintendent
Sgt. PM Hamm	Str Technician
Sgt. GW Warrick	Str Technician
Cpl. AR Dawson	Str Technician
Cpl. DL Flett	CEP Technician
Cpl. JH Gintner	CEP Technician
Cpl. MT Linklater	CEP Technician

##### CIVILIAN

Allen McRae	Storeman
Hans Algotsson	Tradeshelper
Tom Harvey	Tradeshelper
Alan Anderson	Labourer
Gerry Langevin	Labourer
Mark Russell	Labourer
Brad Whitelaw	Labourer
Barb Wood	Labourer

#### 1992 PHASE

##### MILITARY

Major GBOR Jones	Project Commander
MWO RM Torrie	Project Supt.
Cpl. AR Dawson	Str Technician
Cpl. DH Bouwman	CEP Technician
Cpl. C. Cameron	CEP Technician

##### CIVILIAN

Allen McRae	Storesman
Tom Harvey	Tradeshelper
Jim McNaughton	Labourer
Don Tutin	Labourer
Barb Wood	Labourer
Mich Gagne	Labourer
Brad Whitelaw	Labourer



1991 end of season crew: L to R: Hans Algotsson, Barb Wood, Alec Barbour, (head, Marine and Vessels section, Restoration Services, Ottawa), Pat Hibiluk (project manager, Canadian Parks Service), MWO 'Mac' Torrie, Tom Harvey, Major Gareth Jones

Photo by Kathy Jones-Gates

*"The wonderful co-operation of the community, all the local contractors, the Canadian Parks Service and my civilian and military personnel contributed to this project's success and enabled us to come in under budget."*

Major Gareth Jones

## Dredge No. 4 Project Statistics

**Yards of material moved by equipment throughout entire project:**

100,000 cubic metres (approx. 200,000 tonnes)

**Amount of silt moved from Dredge:**

1,600 tonnes silt

**Amount of ice moved from Dredge:**

4,000 tonnes ice

**Gallons water pumped throughout project:**

Approx. 175 million gallons

**Metres of geo-membrane used to surround pond:**

Approx. 5,000 square metres.

**Person hours expended on project:**

Approx. 17,000 (excluding heavy equipment operators.)

**Overall cost of D.N.D. part of project (excludes the Admin. costs etc. by Canadian Parks Service):**  
\$1 million!

**Weight of Dredge:**

2,500 tonnes

(estimates accurate to approximately + or - 15%)

### The Saga of the Dredge

by Alan MacRae

(The raising of Dredge Number Four, as performed by the paint-by-number corps.)

There were those who said it could not be done  
But a lowly captain thought, "I could be the one."  
The proposal in hand, he went to make his stand.  
The powers that be, much wiser than we,  
Said, "Go forth, young man, go North."

Off he went in full tropical kit  
To the Land of the Midnight Sun.  
We all thought, "O my! Couldn't this be fun."  
They assembled a dauntless crew,  
strong of wit and thew  
and thus the saga had truly begun

They dug and they dumped;  
They dug and they pumped;  
They dumped and they dug  
And everyone looked on  
With a great big shrug

And she sat there, the bloody big boat  
Everyone asking, "Will she float?"

The major now, he did say,  
"She'll float soon if I have my way."  
So there she sat, quite calm and flat  
The Major thinking, "We can't have that."

"Float, damn you," he said in his very best voice,  
And so, having so very little choice  
She came up with a shout,  
Because, as a Major now,  
He really does have the clout.

(Alan MacRae worked on the Dredge project and recited this poem the night it was settled on its new cradle.)



# PAST RELIVED ON DREDGE # 4

by Michael Gates

The recent moving of Dredge # 4 onto a new foundation is being heralded as a significant engineering achievement. As the silt settles on this project, life is beginning to get back to normal and everyone is looking forward to a long and meaningful life for the old vessel.

The significance of this remarkable moving job overshadows a deeper meaning for the Dredge which now sits high and dry on Bonanza Creek. As the salvage project progressed, many longtime residents were seen visiting the site. Amongst them were many who had once been employed by the "Company", the term used by everyone to represent the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation.

I had the pleasure of talking with many who worked the fleet of dredges scattered throughout the goldfields for better than six decades, as the work progressed.

Don Neff who came to the Yukon at age seven, is now employed as a grader operator by the Yukon Territorial government. In 1950 however, he began work for the Company on the bull gang. The bull gang, according to many old timers, were those who did the shore work and most of the hard physical labour.

Don assumed several different responsibilities over the years; as a bow decker and oiler on Dredge 4; going to the Sixtymile to work on the Glacier creek dredge, and later to the river dredges of Columbia, South America. In other words, he has earned his credentials in the brotherhood of dredgemen.

Don and I recently toured the Dredge. We wandered about the various levels beginning with an examination of the main deck which was recently exposed after 30 years of burial in the creek silt. On the bow, Don explained the delicate procedure by which new lips were placed on the massive 16 cubic foot buckets, and the old pins and bushings that were muscled out with large steel drift pins. These weigh over two tons apiece. If you were not careful, you could lose a foot because of a moments lapse of judgement.

Inside the Dredge, we looked at the massive winches which powered the cables and the bucket line and stacker. Don explained that huge pumps were installed on board to supply the thousands of gallons of water needed every minute to keep the massive rotating screen, known as the trommel, drenched. He demonstrated just how one had to prime these giants carefully before they would work.

Don had suggested before we took the tour, that he wasn't "much of a speaker", but as we wove between the cables, over beams and around hatches, his memories brought the Dredge alive to the point where I could almost feel the vibrations in the decks.

Don explained some of the intricacies of being an oiler, and the importance of the stern decker's job. He would point to the buttons that had to be pushed and to the parts that had to be lubricated. I learned how the Dredge almost sank once and

another time it could have been burned to the water line. But these things didn't happen.

Don's word imagery evoked the long lost sounds made by the Dredges. The squeals were so intense, that over the years, some dredgemen slowly lost their hearing. No amount of grease and oil, he explained, subdued the screams of gear upon gear, and bucket upon roller. At times, when the dredge buckets were biting into frozen ground, the motion of the dredge was so violent, it made the men sick. The smell of grease was everywhere, and the hull and main decks were constantly wet.

I have spoken with a number of former dredgemen in the past few weeks, but none crystallized all the things that I had heard, the sensations described to me, and

the hard work required to make Dredge 4 run efficiently, better than the picture painted with words by Don Neff. He showed that there is an amazing story hidden in the timbers of this silent giant, and allowed me to share a few memories during his tour.

The next time you have a chance to stop and look at this sleeping giant, try to imagine what she was like when afloat and in full operation more than three decades ago. The next time a former Company employee reminisces about those Dredge years, take a few minutes to listen and learn; no amount of reading can bring the story of Dredge 4 alive the way former dredgemen such as Don Neff are able to.



Don Neff

Photo by Michael Gates



Photo by Michael Gates

Former Y.C.G.C Employees - from left to right: Mike Stutter, Will Crayford, Newt Webster and Giovanni Castellarin - on hand for the Dredge dedication.

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## Summer Schedule 1992

**FARO & CARMACKS** (Commencing April 6, 1992)  
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday  
Delivery in Faro on Friday

**ROSS RIVER** (Commencing April 6, 1992)  
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday  
Delivery in Ross River on Friday

**DAWSON CITY** (Commencing April 6, 1992)  
Load in Whitehorse on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
Delivery in Dawson City on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

Commencing May 11, 1992, there will be  
**DAILY** service to Dawson City!  
Load in Whitehorse Monday through Friday  
Delivery in Dawson City Tuesday through Saturday

**MAYO, PELLY & STEWART CROSSING**  
(Commencing May 11, 1992)  
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday  
Delivery on Friday

**HAINES JUNCTION, DESTRUCTION BAY & BEAVER CREEK** (Commencing May 14, 1992)  
Load in Whitehorse on Thursday  
Delivery on Friday

**HAINES JUNCTION ONLY** (Commencing April 6, 1992)  
Load in Whitehorse on Tuesday  
Delivery on Wednesday

## Garbage Kills Bears

**This important reminder is for everyone with a summer cabin or a home on the edge of the woods anywhere in the Yukon.**

Bears have an incredible sense of smell, an outstanding appetite, and will be attracted to any food wastes, pet foods or garbage that you may be storing on your back porch or in your backyard, especially on warm summer days.

Composts can also attract bears to your back yard so it is important that your composts be as far away from your residence as possible.

So for safety sake, and the sake of the bear, make it a habit to take your food wastes to your municipal or government-run dump on a daily basis.

And let's put an end to the lazy practice of simply throwing garbage into the woods, on to the side of the roads or any other place where bears will find it.

We live in bear country and we can all do our bit to stop wild bears from becoming garbage bears.

**Yukon**  
Renewable Resources

**It is important because garbage kills bears.**





Photo by Joanie Veitch

Judi Reimer is a counsellor with the Yukon Family Services Association, the office is in the Waterfront Building.

## Take A Helping Hand

by Joanie Veitch

From time to time everyone is in need of a friend to talk to. Especially when things aren't going so well and you're having a hard time coping.

Everyone goes through rough times, and sometimes even our friends can't help.

That's where trained counsellors often come into the picture. They have expertise in many areas of life that most of us don't think about until we find ourselves in difficulty.

Dawson City now has its own family counsellor, and after meeting with Judi Reimer it's quite clear she is a good person to talk to.

Reimer is a trained counsellor who also has a background in nursing. She works with the Yukon Family Services Association - a private, non-profit agency based out of Whitehorse.

Three years ago Dawson had a part-time counsellor through

YFSA, but Reimer is their first full-time counsellor here. YFSA is also looking to fill a full-time position in Watson Lake, as of yet that position has not been filled.

Reimer has a wide range of experience: abuse issues, drug and alcohol treatment, personal development issues, stress management, parenting, separation and bereavement.

"My main focus is to be there for individuals, families and groups," Reimer said as she outlined plans for future workshops and the development of a library and resource centre.

Reimer is hoping to work with other agencies in town in a collaborating effort to combine information and resources for those in need. A session including Social Services, the RCMP, First Nations and the Women's Shelter is planned for July 8 in the Waterfront building, it will be open to the community as an

opportunity for people to come and find out what is available and meet the professionals.

Reimer is new to Dawson City, she is from Vancouver and arrived in Dawson at the beginning of June. As she describes it, it seemed like fate that she came to live here.

"I woke up one morning last October and decided I wanted to come to the Yukon," she said. After sending out lots of applications she heard the YFSA was hiring in December and got on the phone right away.

Before long the job was hers and Reimer began packing her belongings for the move north. She has found people in Dawson to be very welcoming and friendly. However, Reimer said she realizes it will take some time before people begin to feel comfortable using the service.

"My hunch is that people will be a little bit cautious," she said. "It's an honour to be in this town, in a place that is so established and connected. It's an honour and I don't take it lightly. I come humbly to be of whatever assistance I can be."

During the summer months Reimer can be found in her office on Front Street, the middle office in the Waterfront building. After September Family Services will be moving upstairs to share space with the Music Festival offices. Walls will be going up to ensure private and confidential counselling.

Be sure to watch out for any workshops or seminars offered through Family Services. All too often we try to cope with difficulties on our own, forgetting that there is help. No one should have to suffer through hard times alone.

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### Tip #923

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**POWER SMART**



## Weather Report

Weather Report for the month of June, 1992 presented by Art Vickers, your friendly Flight Service Specialist, from the Transport Canada Flight Service Station located at the Dawson City Airport.

YA-HOO!!!! SUMMER IS HERE!!!

That about covers it, see you next month. (Just kidding) It sure seemed to take a long time to warm up, but it has and I, for one, would like this weather to last for a little while longer, let's say till the end of September or October. That might be a 'bit' too much to expect, but I sure do like the warm dry, dry, dry, dry weather. You might have noticed my emphasis on 'dry'. Well, it hasn't been much fun having a flow-through basement for the past couple of weeks. The excessive rains combined with a very high snow pack in the mountains led to one of the highest water levels in the rivers as well as an incredibly high water table in the town. There weren't very many buildings with basements in the lower parts of town that didn't experience some water damage. Ask anyone from Parks how the fishing was in the basement of their Administrative Building on Front Street. They had a foot or more of water there. Anyhow the monsoons seem to have left us and my kind of weather is here. There is only one billion or more reminders of the wet spring we had and you can experience them simply by going outside without any bug spray on your exposed areas. We certainly DO have mosquitoes this year!!!

I had been getting quite a lot of flak about the lousy weather we had been getting up till the last week of June, so I thought when Fran Hakonson asked me in the General Store the other day if I was responsible for this latest weather, I would be in store for some much needed praise -- WRONG!! "It's too darn HOT!! I can't stand the heat!!" was what she said. Oh, well, you can't please everyone. Sorry, Fran, but, as I said in the store, I'll gladly take the blame for any amount of this weather that comes our way. Enough babbling, it's time for the statistics for the month. (Fahrenheit in brackets, as usual.)

	1992	1991	30 Yr Ave.
Max. Temp.	32.5 (90.5)	30.7 (87.3)	—
Min. Temp.	-2.5 (27.5)	0.0 (32.0)	—
Mean Max.	22.1 (71.8)	22.6 (72.7)	16.4 (61.6)
Mean Min.	6.4 (43.5)	5.6 (42.1)	3.2 (37.7)
Mean Temp.	14.3 (57.7)	14.1 (57.4)	9.8 (49.7)
Rainfall	49.8mm(1.96in)	21.8mm(.85in)	36.6mm(1.44in)
Snowfall	0.0mm(0.0in)	0.0mm(0.0in)	0.5mm(0.2in)
Total Precip.	49.8mm(1.96in)	21.8mm(.85in)	37.1mm(1.46in)
Days with Precipitation	14	12	11
Days with F-F-Frost	2	Zero	Zero

Just a note in closing. We DID break two Maximum temperature records in June on the 28th and 29th with temperatures 31.4(88.5) and 32.5(90.5) respectively. We also thoroughly scared the heck out of the old record on the 30th with a temperature of 32.3(90.1). A great way to end the month!!!

See you all again next month with more HOT temperatures to report. Bye for now.

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# A Pot Pourri From Princess Street

by Sue Ward

Too darned hot to hustle out to share with the crowds of visitors the many special Klondike capers, almost all of which are free. Much has been written about old folk, old gnarled trees and so on, left on the roadside while life streams by. Not this old gal! I'm having trouble keeping up with the rush of life taking a breather at 564 Princess.

For a couple of months there were ten dogs calling this 100 ft corner 'Home'. Add a constant stream of four-legged callers, night or day, and one could only bemoan "And this too shall pass." It did. The count is now four residents and fewer strangers. Sheba's three beautiful pups took over their father's quarters over Lousetown way where Carol Legace shares space with her sled dogs, while Liz Williams has built quite the pen to restrain young Duke with his mom Sheba. To other side, Tex and Weather, yearling brothers who didn't enjoy life very much being chained to houses open to the street, where they alternated as guard dogs and panic pups when threatened by the many large critters travelling Seventh. They are now out South Fork way, eating regularly, chasing the odd rabbit, and bringing joy to a young man from Germany, who couldn't believe he could have a dog - just like that, no application, not even a license fee. A happy trio.

Ted is determined to become a Canadian, more so, a Yukoner. "As I drove down from Whitehorse, I just couldn't believe all that land and no one living there!" This 22 year old, who had already spent some time in my beloved Cariboo Country, out Horsefly way, with trapper Betty Cox, knows all the fine print of immigration. "Why should I be proud to be a German? I had no choice. I was born there. When I become a Canadian it will be because of my choice. then I will be proud!" Listen up you lucky Canucks.

Ted dropped in on July 2, the day after the Canada 125 bash, when millions of scarce dollars were spent to encourage us to wave the blood-coloured maple leaf. (That's another testy point, like the red ones are dying; they are green when they are growing). The dogs and I headed up Bonanza and beat the birthday heat of 33C. We found an unworked claim where there were still large patches of snowpack, a chortling creek, and the shade of many trees. With a few squirts of 'Deepwoods' for me and a cooling squat in the shallows for the girls, we languished the afternoon away, but our day was not over. Upon returning, a call from Joan Renwick at the Monte Carlo asked if a visitor from New York could call around. At 7pm, I welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Pernice, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gayne, who were driving a medium-sized station-wagon, Alaska bound, to visit with Evelyn Pernice's niece, a retirement trip for the Gaines. What follows is written with humility and hopefully as an inspiration to other Dawsonites to spread the Klondike story whenever possible.

Mrs. Pernice had watched her favourite show, C.C.B. TV's "On the Road Again" in her New York home, while Ken was at choir practise. When the Alaska trip was planned, she insisted it must be via Dawson City, as she wanted to meet "Sourdough Sue."

The folks were enchanted with Dawson, enjoying in particular the films at the Visitor Reception Centre. After nipping out to Guggieville Campground to pick up a pair of those 'bootleg' tapes that include 'Sourdough Sue' singing her own song, they were heading to Gerties to wrap up the evening there. Their Top of the World Highway trip must have been a

dandy with our recent brilliant weather.

The new day brought an old friend. Pretoria Butterworth breezed in to say hello. We enjoyed lunch in one of our pleasant dining rooms before doing a "street trip" so that 'Pete' could see where her hometown was headed. Some older Dawsonites do not like what they see. On the whole though, Mrs. Butterworth was in the affirmative. "We thought we would go into a few shops to pick up a couple of T-shirts, but My Lord," she exploded "this town is full of T-shirts. Doesn't matter what kind of shop it is - they have T-Shirts!"

I just settled down to the computer books again when Bob McConkey arrived with Lawrence Millman, from Cambridge Massachusetts. Lawrence has already published seven books on a great variety of subjects. He is here to undertake a Yukon travel review for the London Sunday Times. He is also very interested in a former Dawsonite Jan Welzl, whose controversial biography "Thirty Years in the golden North" is out of print. Millman is hoping to encourage a publisher to re-issue the book in paperback. Welzl, as many old-timers will recall, settled in Dawson in the late 1920's. He spent the remainder of his life trying to build a 'perpetual motion machine' in a building near Third and Duke. Lawrence and I located what is purported to be his gravestone. When I took the plunge to visit Gertie's in the evening, I spoke of all of this with Pete and Brownie Foth. How surprised was I to learn that Pete used to go over to Welzl's cabin and watch all the balls swing thither and yon on the machine. I was able to line Lawrence up with Mike Gates for more information on Welzl and they headed out to visit with Pete

later on. Lawrence heads out tomorrow to Old Crow and Hershel Island.

Should anyone have ideas that Princess Street is stirred up only by unusual summer visitors, no way! The Macauley House (home of Dawson's first Mayor) across the dusty street, sits about 20 feet in the air on slim posts, and cross-blocks, awaiting its new foundation job. Now, on the other side of the lane, the former YCGC's doctors' home, later owned and lived in by the Frank Burkhard family, has been sold and resold, the land scraped bare, the basement opened and the pump thumping endlessly as the glacier runoff continues to drain to that area. Rumours are flying but we do not print them so we must all await developments.

There is more than a little sad news to relate healthwise. My

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

neighbour, Eric Anderson has been outside for medical treatment, but is currently staying at McDonald Lodge recuperating. Fanny Dupont, with 'Princess' one of Banjo's pups, has left our corner also, spending some time with family at Rock Creek. Our colourful character Gene Dubois has been medi-vacc'd to Whitehorse. And Granny Martha Taylor was taken very poorly and is being cared for at the Nursing station.

With all of the summer people and the travellers and visitors, the town is on a great roll in these endless days. Needs be we take a moment now and then to wish our friends and neighbours good health and happy memories of this special time in this special place.



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# 15th Annual Canadian Airlines Dome Race

The 15th Annual Canadian Airlines Midnight Dome Race will take place on July 18, 1992. The Yukon's original road race starts from the Palace Grand Theatre (elevation 1050 feet) and finishes at the summit of the Midnight Dome (elevation 2902 feet). Approximately 4.5 miles.

Registration takes place at 8 am at Diamond Tooth Gerties. The pre-race meeting will be at 9:30 am at Gerties.

Anyone wishing to walk is asked to begin at 9:30 am.

All those who enter will receive a T-shirt and a ticket to the salmon barbecue, which is to be held at the Trans North

Helicopter Pad at 3:00 pm. Trophies will be given out at this time.

All entrants 19 years and over wearing T-shirts will have a free entry into Diamond Tooth Gerties gambling hall that evening.

There will be three categories: the Masters for those over 39 years of age, as of race day; the Open for those who are 17 years to 39 of age and the Junior category for runners 16 years of age and under.

The first male and female across the line will each receive a return ticket from Canadian Airlines to Vancouver.



Photo by Joanie Veitch

## Canada's Birthday Celebrations

by Joanie Veitch

Glasses were raised in Dawson City and all across Canada on June 14 to toast friends, neighbours and Canada in celebration of our country's 125th birthday.

Vi Campbell, Dawson's director of Canada 125 Corp., was the host of one of Dawson's Neighbourhood parties. She invited one hundred and twenty-five people to the gathering, and with everyone bringing some food the feasting and socializing was lots of fun - although a little tough on the waistline.

Audrey MacLaughlin, Yukon's MP, was at the party for a while but had to leave early to catch a plane.

It was a great chance for many old friends to see each other and catch up on news and talk about the Commissioner's Ball many had attended the night before.

Group pictures were taken along with everyone's signature for a large postcard that will be sent to Ottawa with love from Dawson.

Another neighbourhood block party was hosted by Bob and Rhonda McConkey, Jim and Dorothy Irwin and the Klondike Visitors Association.

Held at the McConkey home there were about 90 people and lots of food and fun.

The guest list included some dignitaries such as Commissioner Ken McKinnon, Lt. Governor of Saskatchewan Sylvia Fedorak, Lt. Governor of Alberta Gordon Towers, Lt. Governor of Prince Edward Island Marion Reed, Audrey MacLaughlin M.P., Art Webster M.L.A. and Joyce Hayden M.L.A.

Let's not forget the star attraction of the party - Jed, the McConkey's malamute husky. Jed joined in the celebrations and exchanged neighbourly greetings and affection in his own way!

The official toast "to our neighbours, all Canadians and to

Canada", was held at 10:40 am.

Seniors and friends at the McDonald Lodge also signed a large birthday card for Canada, filled with lots of patriotic comments, on June 17.

A barbecue was held and everyone enjoyed the food and company. After supper a gigantic cheesecake was displayed as the Canadian dessert - topped with strawberries to look like our flag. It looked too good to eat... almost!

Another Canada 125 event was held on June 19 at the McConkey home. The Canada 125 National Board of Directors Reception was hosted by the KVA.

Notable guests included the National Board of Directors, Vi Campbell, Yukon's Director on

the National Board and Dawson City Manager Carol Murray.

Celebrations continue all year round for Canada 125 as Canadians participate in commemorating 125 years of Confederation.



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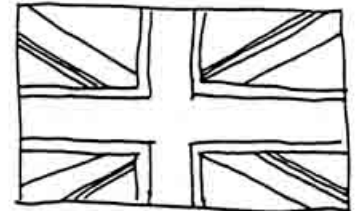
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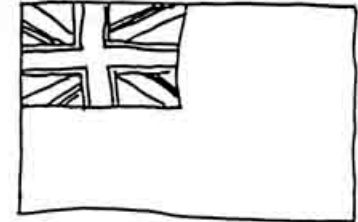
"ANY TIME NIGHT OR DAY"



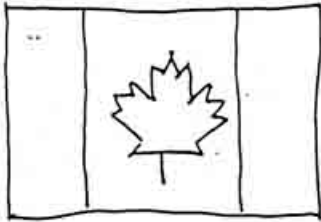
# A FLAG POLE POLL



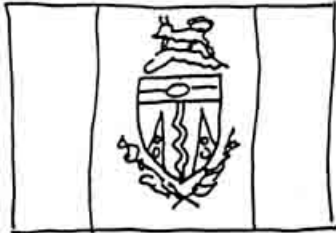
UNION JACK 1867-1945



CANADIAN RED ENSIGN up to 1945  
(with crest 1945-1965)



CANADIAN FLAG 1965-

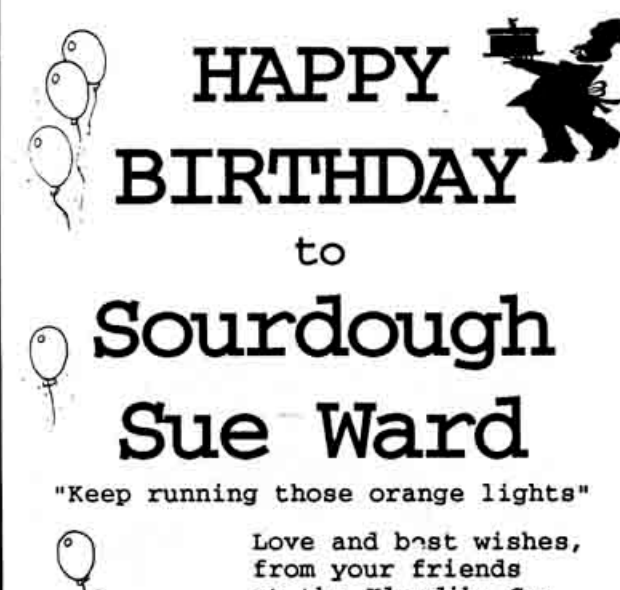


YUKON TERRITORIAL FLAG 1967-

Sometime during the month of July, the Yukon Government Regional Services will be refurbishing the flag pole. This will involve removing the pole with the help of a helicopter and laying it down in Minto Park. It will be stripped and repainted and then hoisted up to its rightful place.

The question that the Dawson Museum and Historical Society wants to know is: "What flag should fly at the top of this flag pole?" When the building was built, it would have flown the Union Jack. Now, however, the building belongs to the Yukon Territorial Government, and is lovingly maintained by Tom Sparrow and his crew. If you have an opinion please write the Dawson Museum: Box 303, Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B 1G0. Hopefully, you will be able to see the results of this "Flag Poll" flying at the top of the pole by the end of the summer.

*(Reproduced from the Dawson Museum and Historical Society newsletter, Vol. 10, No.5, June 1992)*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to

## Sourdough Sue Ward

"Keep running those orange lights"

Love and best wishes,  
from your friends  
at the Klondike Sun

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Photo by Michael Gates

## In a Dawson Country Garden

by Joanie Veitch

The music of Vivaldi played softly in the background as people drank tea and nibbled on sweets out on the lawn in front of the Commissioner's residence on Front Street.

This year's Commissioner's Tea, hosted by Commissioner Ken McKinnon and his wife Judy, Canadian Parks Service and the Dawson I.O.D.E., was as ever one of the social events of the summer. As the Commissioner pointed out in his address, during the era of George Black and his wife Martha Black "This residence was the social hub of the entire Yukon".

George Black was Yukon's seventh Commissioner, it was he and Martha who began the tradition of the annual tea at their residence in 1912.

This year's tea was attended by Dawsonites and visitors alike, and there were also some special guests mingling with the crowd on the lawn.

On his first visit to Dawson City was Canada's Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn, along with three Lieutenant Governors; Gordon Towers from Alberta, Sylvia Fedorak from Saskatchewan and Marion Reed from Prince Edward Island. Also at the gathering was Yukon MP Audrey McLaughlin; MLA Art Webster; Health Minister Joyce Hayden and Whitehorse mayor Bill Weigand.

With photographers crowding around to snap pictures of his every move, Hnatyshyn joked that he should have shares in Kodak as he dutifully stopped and smiled every time. Although in close competition as a good snapshot was the Mountie, many of the American tourists took the opportunity to get the perfect Canadian holiday picture.

Guests sat around tables as hard working Pathfinders and Girl Guides served tea and treats. Parks personnel and women from the I.O.D.E. dressed in turn of the century attire mingled and explained some of the history surrounding the yearly event.

Commissioner McKinnon greeted guests and enthusiastically described renovation plans for the building.

"In 1996 the Commissioner will be back in his renovated pad in the real heart of the Klondike," McKinnon said in a speech.

Following the Commissioner's speech guests enjoyed entertainment, including a recitation of Robert Service poetry by Tom Byrne and young local singer Harmony Hunter who sang a solo.

The Commissioner's Tea is always a great way to get Dawsonites ready for the Ball at night and to show visitors that Dawson City is pretty good at putting on the ritz.



Harmony Hunter

Photo by Michael Gates



Commissioner Ken &amp; The Gov. General Ray

Photo by Michael Gates





The Governor General of Canada Ramon Hnatyshyn dedicating the first Peace Park tree with assistance from Dawn Coles.

Photo by Dan Davidson

## Dawson gets first Peace Park

by Dan Davidson

There will be some 250 Peace Parks designated in Canada this year as part of the Peace Parks Across Canada program. The very first of them was dedicated in Dawson City on June 13 at 1:45 p.m. by His Excellency, the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Governor General of Canada, with the help of a select group of Dawson citizens.

The park chosen was the new children's park in Dawson's North End, recently christened San ChoCh'edoghon Hajak (Han for: "Big Sky Place Where Children Play") and known locally as San Cho Park. This park is the result of a neighbourhood initiative that took off by itself, eventually gathered the full support of the municipal council and has, over the last two years, developed into a playground and an alternate site for outdoor concerts. The name was chosen with the assistance of the Han First Nation.

His Excellency opened by rejoicing in his arrival in Dawson under such fine circumstances and praised the community as "a wonderful part of our country." He then went on to explain the Peace Park program, which is an outgrowth of the First Global Conference ("Tourism: a Vital Force for Peace") which was held in Vancouver in 1988. As a result of recommendations from that conference the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism was set up and it designed the program "Places for peace".

"The Peace Parks Across Canada program," the Governor General told the crowd at the park, "is an innovative and thoughtful reminder to people in this country - whether they live or visit here - that the world still hungers for peace."

His dedication, delivered in French, pledged the park as a symbol of the ideal of peace in the world, in the name of Her

Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

"Parks and trees," Hnatyshyn continued, "are symbols of renewal and, therefore, of optimism. That gives them special meaning to Canadians, who were the originators and have been among the strongest supporters of international peacekeeping forces."

"As we look about us at the wound imposed by the fighting still going on in so many parts of the globe, we can only hope that, in time, the message of peace, symbolized by the park and its Peace Grove, will someday triumph."

The Peace Grove is a border of 12 trees, one for each province and territory, which the Governor General then assisted in planting around the park where it borders on two streets. Hnatyshyn, assisted by Dawn Coles, planted the first tree, followed by Mayor Peter Jenkins and Natasha Burian, MLA Art Webster and Heather Mayes.



Photo by Michael Gates

Kelly Dewald and Jannine Brideau.



Photo by Michael Gates

Paul and Sally Derry

## Dawson hosts "Social event of the year"

by Dan Davidson

The 20th edition of the annual Commissioner's Ball outgrew its venue at the Palace Grand Theatre this year and had to be split between two buildings. The situation was not without its challenges, both in terms of logistics and public relations, but it did work out to be a successful evening.

As KVA manager Bob McConkey put it in his speech to the dinner crowd at Diamond Tooth Gerties, "Our banquet tonight was impossible, and I'm here to prove that it was impos-

sible - but we did it anyway. It's interesting that in a community of 1800 people located 2000 miles from Vancouver, to pull together an evening as grand as this evening requires complete cooperation from everyone...and cooperation is what we've received from every corner of this community." As an example of this he pointed out that the dinner was catered by all the food-service agencies and hotels in Dawson City, coordinated by the Westmark Whitehorse.

In fact, the attendance had

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Photo by Dan Davidson

From left to right: Shelley Hakonson, Jennifer Flynn, Lenore Jenkins and Bill Hakonson