

The Klondike Sun

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Dawson City, Yukon



2007 Fur Show Well Attended

By Dan Davidson
photos by Sebastian Jones

The 2007 Fur Show provided an afternoon and evening of activity and entertainment at the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall on January 6. Returning as a public event after taking last year off, the show ran from noon a half hour after the fur began to arrive, until early evening, when it concluded with a furry fashion show in which those on the catwalk (lynx walk?) included Mayor John Steins, who noted on his Mayor's Blog that he was entered in the overweight category.

There were hundreds of furs laid out on the viewing tables, clearly labeled lynx, wolverine, fox, sable and beaver. Viewers also found signs asking them to please not touch the furs.

To keep people from being too tempted there were a

number of planned activities, including films in a wall tent, a craft area for the youngsters, live fiddle and guitar music and a jigging contest for the 12 and under crowd, won by Wills Connellan and Bobby Caley.

Trapping related contests including the building of a Marten Box by teams and a trap setting contest, also by teams.

In setting the trap, the manipulation of the device itself turned out to be the least of the obstacles. Fastening it to a tree (represented by a chair) with snare wire and placing one layer of a two-ply kleenex over the trap as camouflage provided the real tests of ingenuity and dexterity.

This event was won by the team of Roger Mendelsohn, Sebastian Jones and Sue Guimond.

For those just watching, or those who had been there all

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day, there was bannock and stew for the asking (with a voucher), along with juice, coffee or water. The food court was in constant use.

As the other events went on during the day the judges moved among the tables rating the displays and their quality and assigning prizes.

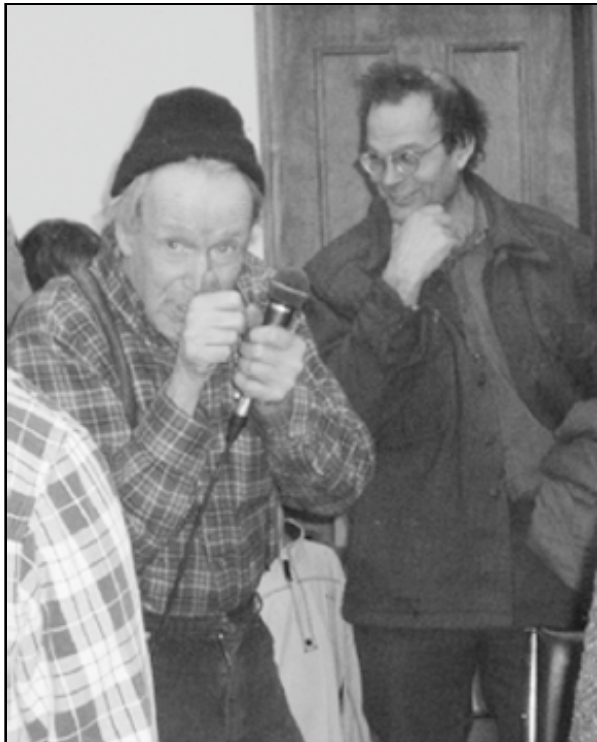
Sable ranking went to Steve Kormendy Sr., Cor Guimond and Claus Schyrumph.

Joe Fraser took first place in the lynx category, followed by Dave Robinson and Jack Fraser.

Dan Reynolds had the best fox, ahead of Steve Kormendy Sr. and Darren Kormendy.

Cor Guimond's wolverine took first place, but Dan Reynolds took second and third.

Dave Robinson was all alone in the wolf category while Steven Kormendy Jr. captured all three awards (for marten, lynx and fox) in the Junior Trapper category.



The judges for the fur show were Alex Van Bibber and Helen Slama.

The show was deemed a success by organizers and by anyone seeing the dozens of people (easily adding up to 100) who were in the hall at any given time.

Tent City Revival in Discussions

By Dan Davidson

Discussions are under way which may restore the Tent City campground that existed for many years on the just up the road from the ferry landing on the west side of the Yukon River.

There were seasonal campers on the west side of the Yukon River for many years. It is generally understood that the pool of local workers is insufficient in the summer to fill all the jobs that help drive the tourist industry. At one time there was a serious problem with people renting out yard space for tents, running water lines to trailers parked in yards and generally turning portions of the town into a transient campsite.

Bylaws were passed to restrict this sort of activity during the late 1980s and early 1990s, and a supervised campsite with minimal seasonal fees was established within easy walking distance of the ferry landing. It was operated by the City of Dawson.

All this changed in 1997 during the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claim process. The land in question was claimed by the first nation and the city agreed not to contest that in return for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continuing to operate the site for "a minimum seven year period".

That time limit ran out at the end of the summer of 2004, and 2005, the first year without a tent city, was also the first year that local employers began to complain about a serious shortage of summer staff.

Some people camped for the summer at Deiter Reinmuth's Dawson City River Hostel, also located across the Yukon River and adjacent to the old Tent City site. Reinmuth had been accepting seasonal workers at reasonable rates for a number of years, and people who wanted a little more structure in their summer camping experience had gone there.

Guggieville, under new ownership in 2005, set up a transient camping area both that year and in 2006, but it seems that it did not attract the numbers that had previously gone to the cheaper West Dawson site.

During the summer of 2006, many local businesses reported an acute worker shortage and some closed their seasons early when they could not retain staff which began to exit after the Dawson City Music Festival and again after Discovery Day weekend.

Otto Cutts, with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, told an early December meeting of the Chamber of Commerce that the first nation might be interested in reopening the tenting site.

There's some possibility of us working together on Tent City again," Cutts said.

We'd be willing to get together with the Klondike Visitors Association (KVA), the City and ourselves to see what we can do about making that work, if it will help bring youth to the city to create employment."

City manager Paul Moore confirmed this during an interview in late December.

"We actually have some money built in here (in the 2007 town budget) to help the city contribute as a partner. The first nation is willing to have that back on their land, but they don't want to incur any of the costs related. So if local partners are willing to help to make sure there is no increased cost there ... it could happen."

"My direction from council has been to work towards contributing as a partner - not solely to support it - if the chamber and other people were willing.

Moore agreed that it seems clear that the private enterprise solutions attempted over the last two years haven't worked out.

If Tent City is part of the solution to our labour shortage, then we have to try it.

"I think if we get it going and get the word of mouth out there that people will come back to Dawson to work, because they liked that as an opportunity to make more money."

Uffish Thoughts: Ringing in the New Year

By Dan Davidson

An era came to an end on Christmas Eve during the Candlelight Service at St. Paul's Anglican Church. There were around thirty people gathered for the second service of the evening, far less than the 280 or so who crowded the sanctuary for the 7 p.m. Ecumenical Christmas Pageant, but still a good number for an 11 p.m. to midnight vigil. During the silence between a reading and a carol, tinny music began to play somewhere in the room.

The first recorded breach of cellphone etiquette in a public forum had occurred in Dawson City. Someone's ringtone was sounding off.

Yes, cell phones have arrived in the Klondike. Well, in a limited fashion, at least. Apparently they will work in town, down river, and in a finite circle around the town core, but not up the valley or in any of the suburbs and surrounding hamlets.

One can only hope that we will not now be falling victim to that communicable disease known as Cellphonitis, defined by internet columnist Dick Biggs as "an addiction to a cell phone that causes one to be compulsive, annoying, oblivious, inconsiderate and selfish."

Some people are apparently so needy about their cell phone use that they pull their phones from their pockets and slam them down on the tables beside them in restaurants, like an old time gunslinger making sure that six shooter is close at hand - just in case.

Others actually program their own numbers into their phones and surreptitiously use the speed dial settings to call themselves every once in a while, so that it will look like they are getting a lot of calls.

One internet site, The Popularity Dialer, is taking advantage of this addiction to offer the following service, which I quote from a recent article on CBC's website.

"If you want to look popular, this site might help. With the Popularity Dialer, you plug in your phone number and a specific time in (sic) which you want your phone to ring. You can even distinguish whether the pseudo call will be from a male, female, boss or a cousin in need. The site, which says it doesn't distribute phone numbers to telemarketers, playfully claims to be intended for 'alleviating awkward social situations and creating confidence in its users.'"

In his article, Biggs goes on to offer six basic suggestions for dealing with the acquisition and use of a cellphone, some simple rules to keep the people from SHHH (the Society for HandHeld Hushing - something I ran across on another website) from seeking you out and garroting you with the unused coily cord from an old fashioned land line.

I'll paraphrase them here to avoid total plagiarism.

1. It is better to give than receive. Save your cell for outgoing calls and maintain control of your communications.

2. Everyone doesn't need to know. Give out your cell number on a need to know basis.

3. Be brief. It's cheaper on your phone bill and less annoying to those around you if you happen to be in public.

4. Don't use a cell phone when you're driving. Just don't.

5. Think before you dial. Is this a call you need to make or are you just bored and calling because you can? "Because I could" was Bill Clinton's excuse.

6. Vibrate or turn off in public places. You have no right to inflict your compulsion on other people. Use this communication tool wisely, not compulsively, annoyingly, obliviously, inconsiderately or selfishly.

Sadly, the people who need to read this column the most probably won't. They'll be too busy dialing and picking out new ringtones.

Dawson Blacked Out - but Briefly

By Dan Davidson

When it's minus forty degrees Celsius one of the last things a community wants to have happen is for its electricity to fail. Dawson had this experience in the middle of the morning on Wednesday.

Speaking for Yukon Energy Corporation on Thursday, Janet Patterson confirmed the experience and offered some explanations.

"Power went out in the entire City of Dawson at twelve minutes past ten on Wednesday," she said. "Everybody was restored by 10:31 AM."

There were variations within the town. At the Robert Service School, which was fortunately having a non-teaching work day for professional development and semester turnover on Wednesday, the outage lasted about 12 minutes.

The problems originated in Mayo, Patterson said.

“There was a piece of equipment that failed in one of the Mayo hydro units. They brought a couple of diesel generators from Dawson online, so they were using some diesel from Dawson and some hydro from the remaining unit in Mayo that was working.”

The ailing hydro unit was checked and found to be okay, but then it tripped off again at 1:49 pm. This time only the area around Hunker Creek was affected, and this time for less than 5 minutes.

In the Dawson case, Patterson says that coincidence played a role in the speedy restoration of power.

“They were working on the diesel units at the time and so they could get them on quicker than usual.”

The average time for a switch from the hydro transmission line to diesel power in Dawson is just about 15 minutes.

Student Art is Featured in the ODD Gallery

by Dan Davidson

The ODD Gallery in Dawson City is currently home to the annual Student Exhibition from the KIAC Youth Art Enrichment Program, which took place here in mid-November.



Works by the thirty students who attended this year's four day event were revealed at a reception on December 14, which was attended by about fifty people. The paintings, photography and wood carvings from the three workshops will be on display until January 5, 2007.

Evelyn Pollock, Acting Program Director for the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture was pleased with the turnout for the reception.

“It was great to see some of the high school kids come out and see the work of their peers, and to see their parents come out and see the scope of work that was created during the program.”

Eugene Alfred taught a carving workshop at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.

Kyla MacArthur turned the Oddfellow's Hall ball room into a pinhole camera studio.

Nicole Bauberger worked with various styles of painting, from acrylics to encaustic, a process using wax and pigment. Hers was the first art class actually to be taught in the new KIAC School of Visual Arts building.

Pollock hopes that exhibitions will be mounted in some of the communities from which the students came, but so far the only other arranged exhibition is in the Kidz Art Gallery of the Yukon Arts Centre, slated to open March 12 and run to April 8.

Dreams can Come True at Christmas

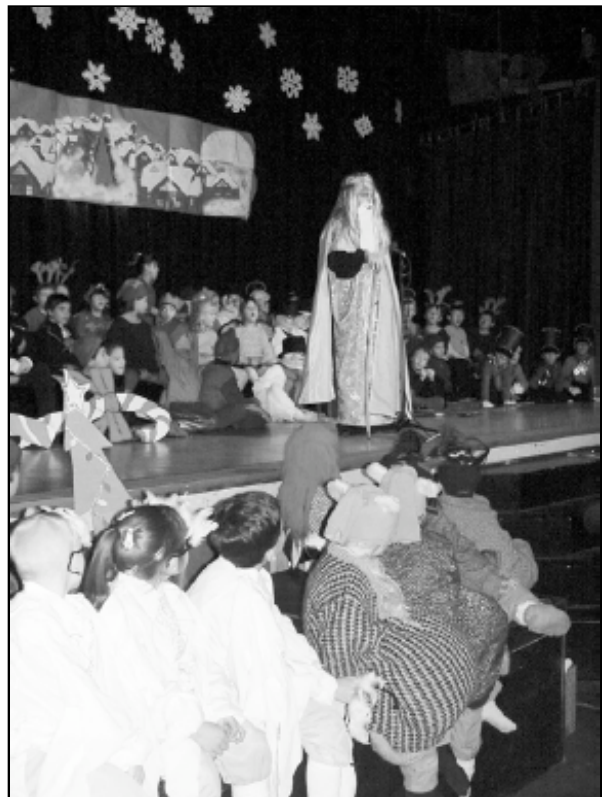
By Dan Davidson

Lots of singing and a flying moose were the highlights at this year's Robert Service School Christmas Concert.

The Grade 5/6 band led off the show with a selection of seasonal instrumentals, followed by the RSS Choir with “Roller Skating Reindeer” (Huff) and “Christmas Tree Feud” (Jacobson & Miller).

Then the entire elementary school took to the stage to present the play *A Holiday Moosical* by Jacobson and Higgins.

Marc Ledwidge took the lead role as Marty, the moose





who wanted to fly like a reindeer. Christina Strutton played a Songless Bird who wanted to sing. The story was told by Father Time, played by Stuart Leary, whose cold really made him sound like an old man.

Much of the play was taken up with various groups of singers either discouraging or encouraging Marty in his quest. Of course, he does find an answer and so does the bird.

Loud cheers and clapping burst from the audience as the bird found her voice and Marty finally flew across the stage.

The biggest challenge in this presentation was that over 90 students from Kindergarten to Grad 6 were on the stage at the same time and they managed to pull off a fine performance without tripping over each other bodies or their cues.



school. I'd been doing grade 7 and 8 together that year and

“My work was waiting for me,” says Berton House Writer

Story & Photo
by Dan Davidson

Gregory Cook didn't go through school with the idea of becoming a writer, but two things that happened about his grade 10 year in school might, in retrospect, have been clues.

The first was that there was an English class project to put together a magazine and the other kids voted him as editor. He wasn't sure why, and neither were his teachers, as he was the only one in his immediate family to have made it that far in school at that point.

“I was mostly worried about just passing. My teachers were very suspicious of my being there, and so was I, to tell the truth.

“There were eight of us that came from that three room school where I was in grade 8, and everybody else got their mail before I did (at the end of that year). Everybody else phoned to tell me they'd failed and weren't going to high

expected the same, but I passed.”

The next incident was when he was out hunting with two of his cousins about that same year and one of them shot the other one in the leg by accident.

“I was the youngest one there, but I was the one who wrote up the accident report for the police.” It seemed odd to him even then.

Nothing else happened until he took early entrance to Acadia University, which you could do after grade 11 in the late 1950s and for decades thereafter. Studying English wasn't his plan; he'd had better high school marks in math and physics. Yet he found himself with the impulse to begin writing an autobiographical novel during the week before classes started.

“I don't quite know why. I had a week with nothing to do. It sounds so simple.” At sixteen, he was a young man sorting out his life before hurdling his next rite of passage. Years later he did finish a novel, working from that beginning, but he wasn't happy with the outcome and has never shown it to a publisher.

The impulse, however, seems to have set the direction

for much of his creative writing. His poetry, he says, is very much an outgrowth of his personal life, and the two biographies he has worked on have been about men who were his friends for many decades.

But in that year external forces gave him a little push. The members of the editorial staff of the Athenaeum, the university's student newspaper, were expelled from the Baptist founded college for printing something deemed blasphemous by university officials.

Inspired more by political outrage than a love of writing at that point, Cook found himself the only candidate willing to take up the editorial post. They had to change the paper's constitution to allow him to do it because he was too young and not a senior. All the senior students were afraid of being dismissed as well.

Once involved, he discovered that the Ath was not interested in literature, hadn't published any poems or literary work since 1939, in fact. This led him to help establish the literary magazine, Amethyst, for which, five years later, he attempted to get interviews with both Ernest Buckler and Alden Nowlan, settling for the latter when the former couldn't seem to find time to fit him in.

Subsequently he became close friends with both men during a career spent working as a news reporter, student minister, amateur publisher, lecturer, executive director of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, freelance writer, dramatist, and writer-in-residence at the University of Waterloo. It was during the stint at Waterloo that he returned to an earlier subject and began to produce the book that became *One Heart, One Way - Alden Nowlan: a writer's life* (Pottersfield, 2003).

While at Berton House he has gone one step further back and written about half (85,000 words) of a biography of Ernest Buckler, who was the subject of his Master's Thesis at Acadia in 1967.

"So here I am," he says with a chuckle, "still doing what I was doing when I was 19 or 20 years old."

His association with Buckler goes back to his early childhood. His mother read him "Penny in the Dust" (still anthologized and sometimes used as a reading on provincial examinations). A few years later he got to read *The Mountain and the Valley*, and the whole family had great fun trying to match the people in the novel to the real people in the Annapolis Valley.



Writers, Cook says, are observers. He traces his own status as an observer back to a fragmented childhood where the death of his father during World War Two resulted in his living with other relatives and being a bone of contention between households. Where ever he may be, even when an active participant in events, there's a part of himself that sits back and takes notes, an observer, a "see-er" he says, putting the

hyphen in the word as he utters it.

Actually devoting himself to putting those observations on paper was delayed for many years by his work on behalf of writing and writers, beginning with his nine years with the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia and his many years of volunteer work with that body and others, continuing with the Writers' Union of Canada (as Chair); the League of Canadian Poets (as Treasurer); the Writers' Development Trust (as a Board Member); and the Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency (ACCESS), as its first Secretary.

"My work was waiting for me," he says, and it began to appear with *Love from Backfields* (Breakwater, 1980) and three other books of poetry, the latest being *Songs of the wounded*, and other notes (Black Moss Press, 2004) all of this mixed in, as his website notes, with "news, reviews, journalism, commentary, poetry and fiction in numerous periodicals, including *Canadian Literature*, *Legion Magazine*, *Maclean's*, *Queen's Quarterly*, *Quill & Quire*, *New Brunswick Reader*, as well as in broadcasts by CBC Radio (including drama)."

It was during his involvement with the Writers' Union of Canada that he first met Pierre Berton, and that personal contact eventually led to his coming to Dawson City, but that's a story for another time.

Benighted One Evening in Advent
By Dan Davidson

Twass the week before Christmas
and all through the town
the windows were dark
'cause the power was down.

In Dawson the folks
were all looking for light
as the snow on the hydro
lines
robbed them of sight.

They sought out their
flashlights and candles as
fast as they could, in the
rooms that were so
overcast.

While tripping on
couches and kittens and
tables
they wondered aloud if
the techs would be able

to dispel the deep
blackness
out on the street
and bring back the lights
with their sparkle so
neat.

The matches were found
and the candles were lit,
and their wavering
flames cut the darkness
a bit,

but the minutes ticked on
and the people got
worried,
and began to wish hard
that the workers would
hurry,

and thought how fast
pipes freeze at twenty
below, and observed that
it looked quite cold
out in the snow.

And just when the
people were feeling
quite wan
with a snap and a crackle
the lights came back on.

**World Goldpanning Championships
Coming in August**

By Dan Davidson

While most of the attention of the Yukon seems to be focussed on the immediate prospect of the Canada Winter Games, to be held in Whitehorse in late February and early March, a group in Dawson City has its lens directed further into the year, to late August, when the World Goldpanning Championships will be coming to the Klondike for the fourth time since 1980.

Akio Saito, representing the World Goldpanning Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Klondike Visitors Association, spoke to town council about the event late last fall, emphasizing that he wasn't there to ask for anything at that point.

Dawson's committee placed a successful bid for the 2007 event in 2003 and members visited the championships in Tankavaara, Finland, last August to hold a reception and invite people to the 2007 contest. Over 300 people attended, including the Canadian Ambassador to Finland.

Saito said that interest in the 2007 event in Dawson was high.

While gold panning seems a natural event for the Yukon, the annual championships held in Dawson on Canada Day have only a moderate attendance, and the sport has a much higher profile internationally that one might guess from local support.

Tankavaara was one of the first places to organize modern goldpanning championships back in 1974, and the world event has been held there eight times now. Interest is strong enough to have stimulated the creation of a Gold Village theme park and a Gold Prospector Museum as tourist attractions.

Currently there are 20 member states that form an international body, the World Goldpanning Association. Their website reports that the number of members in national associations counts in the tens of thousands of gold enthusiasts, both hobbyists and professionals.

The Tankavaara contest drew over 700 participants, a lower number than Saito had expected, but he recalled that when he had attended a earlier championship in Switzerland he had been told by a number of people that they were going to skip the Finnish event and save their money to go to Dawson.

Saito says that early indications are that some 450 or more participants, many from Europe, many making the championships part of a more extended Canadian holiday, will be coming to the Yukon in the summer of 2007. Saito has been hearing that many plan to spend 10 days to 2 weeks in the territory. The committee estimates this might generate some \$250,000 in economic activity.

The committee has also contacted organizers of contests on the Canadian circuit. An organizer from Edmonton attended the 2006 Yukon Championships and discussions have begun to form a Canadian Goldpanning Association.

This summer's championships will be held on the Monday of the Discovery Days weekend and extend through

the week, August 20 to 26. Aside from the competition, which will begin on the Wednesday, there will be a parade, a banquet, and a presentation by the Spanish organizing committee, which will be hosting the 2008 event.

The event will make extensive use of the Fry Recreation Centre, and the panning venue itself will be a new one, constructed across Fourth Avenue from the centre itself.

Item: Earthquake Rattles Whitehorse

by Dan Davidson

It was 39 below today.
The power cord was stiff
as uncooked spaghetti,
the vehicle's seat a board.
My coat crackled in the air as I moved the
cooling fabric.
Snow crunched like styrofoam
under foot
while the whole world seemed brittle
and ready to cra--
--ck.

Thank goodness
we
didn't get the earthquake.

Christians Celebrate Solstice with Fire and Prayer

By Dan Davidson

"In the darkest day we look to the Lord of dark and light."

While the Christian calendar is often marked with ceremonies of light, early Celtic Christianity also took note of the circle of the seasons, blending that sacred circle with the sacred cross in the emblem known as the Celtic Cross. The time of darkness was seen as a time when the world rested, to gain strength and return to the fecundity of the light.

When you look at it that way, the traditional darkest day of the year takes on a different meaning, as reflected in this ancient Welsh poem.

Mary nurtures a Son in her womb:
His birth a blessing to those who discover him.
He goes forth like the sun,
great is the number of his company.

St. Paul's Anglican Parish decided to do something with that tradition this year. The Reverend Susan Titterington spearheaded the project and with her partner, the Reverend Lee Titterington, made arrangements to conduct an outdoor Solstice Service on the dyke on the evening of December 21.

Through prayer and recitation the dozen people standing around the fire on the top of the City of Dawson garden known as Norm's Hump, celebrated the power and grace of their God in the darkness at -20°C, recalling, as it says in



Anglican and Catholic Church members gather for what may be the first of a series of Solstice gatherings.

the old hymn, that "darkness and light are both alike to thee", celebrating the Lord of the seasons, and the Master of the Elements.

"Glow in Him wood and tree
Glow in him moon and sun
Glow in him earth and air
Glow in him water and fire
Glow in him people at night
When earth's Glory comes to reign."

The Celtic Christian tradition would agree with C. S. Lewis, the author of the Narnia books, when he wrote, "God loves matter; he invented it."

It was not a big crowd, but the curious sight drew a couple of riders on snow machines, who wondered what was going on, and the fire chief, who had approved the event, reported that he got at least one call.

From the French Corner: Une parade de mode a Dawson?

By Marielle Veilleux

Dawson n'arrête vraiment pas de nous surprendre. Car voyez-vous, en janvier

lorsqu'il fait très froid et que la plupart des Canadiens s'assoient devant leur téléviseur attendant le printemps avec impatience. Les gens de Dawson eux, ont trouvé un autre moyen de se divertir pour profiter de l'hiver tout en se gardant au chaud. Et oui, ils organisent une parade de mode!

Mais ce n'est pas n'importe quelle sorte de parade de mode, c'est un défilé de vêtements de fourrures authentiques, venant du Yukon. Une tradition qui dure depuis plusieurs années. Comme autrefois, on y accueille toujours les trappeurs de la place qui viennent en grand nombre pour exposer leurs plus belles peaux de fourrure. Celles-ci seront jugées afin de déterminer les premiers, deuxièmes et troisièmes prix. Deux des organisateurs originaux s'impliquent encore aujourd'hui comme bénévoles, dont

Jack Fraser et Linda Taylor. Cependant depuis trois ans,

Jack un ancien trappeur de Dawson a eu l'idée d'approcher le conseil des richesses renouvelable, du district de Dawson. Ce conseil composé de 8 conseillers dont 4 appointés par le gouvernement du Yukon et les 4 autres par les autochtones de Trontek gwenchen s'occupent maintenant de l'organisation de cette journée tant attendue.



La formule est restée similaire qu'auparavant, les portes s'ouvrent des 11:00 pour les participants et a midi pour le public. Nous avons tous eu la chance de voir les plus belles peaux de fourrures exposées sur les tables au centre culturel des gwenchen, entre autres de lynx, de renard, de loup, de castor, de marte et de carcajou qui fut jugées par des experts Alex Van Bibber de Dawson et Helen Slama de Whitehorse. Cette année on y retrouve deux nouvelles catégories, celles des trappeurs juniors et de ceux des jeunes trappeurs en bas de 12 ans.

Dans l'après-midi, tous ont participé aux ateliers, tel le concours de montage de piège et celui de danse de gigues pour les jeunes. Le tout a été suivi par un souper traditionnel autochtone de ragoût d'orignal et de bannique.

A 19:00 c'est la remise des prix, nous n'avons aucune surprise d'entendre que

Dan Reynolds, pourvoyeur et trappeur de Dawson remporte le premier prix pour son renard et les deux et troisième prix pour ses belles peaux de carcajou. Ça va de soi pour Cor Guimont et Klaus Schytrumpf qui remportent les premiers et 3ième prix respectivement pour leurs belles peaux de marte. Tant qu'à Dave Robinson et Joe Fraser ils obtiennent les premiers prix pour les peaux de loup et de lynx. Enfin,

Steve Kormendy recoient les prix dans la catégorie des juniors. En tout, 12 participants-trappeurs de Dawson.

Tant qu'à la parade de mode, l'événement tant attendu, les portes s'ouvrent 19:30.

Cette année, nous avons jusqu'à 25 participants-designers m'indique Linda Taylor. Le défilé animé par Kyla McArthur débute sur la musique de James Bond, l'agent 007 car c'est l'année 2007 et c'est Kirsten Davis qui commence la parade portant une salopette en édreton très sexée boutonnée à l'avant par des boutons en corne de caribou et fourrure au cou, vêtement qui pourrait être d'un film de James Bond fabriquée par

Meghan Waterman. On continue dans le contemporain, et c'est le maire John Steins qui porte un anorak de la boutique « fashion nugget and design » de Dawson. On poursuit, par la catégorie la catégorie « vintage » vêtements d'époque, ce qui est nouveau cette année. Ces manteaux et étoffes ont été prêtés par les gens de la communauté. Naturellement on y parade les manteaux de fourrures variées, en castor, vison ainsi que des chapeaux et mitaines traditionnelles tous fabriqués localement mais ce qui est surprenant pour les gens venant de l'extérieur c'est qu'on y retrouve aussi des robes et manteaux divers venant d'artisans de Dawson.

Le défilé fut organisé par Kyla McArthur, avec l'assistance de Cholena Smart, me dit : que c'est beaucoup de préparation. « Malgré que ça fait des mois qu'on se prépare,

le tout ne se fait qu'à la dernière minute. Le plus gros des essayages se fait la veille du défilé mais les étoiles, mitaines et chapeaux n'arrivent qu'à 16:00 la journée même. Comme tout autre événement similaire, ça nous prend de nombreux bénévoles et c'est

un défi de trouver des mannequins car a ce temps-ci de l'année beaucoup de gens sont encore à l'extérieur du territoire. Toutefois nous avons été chanceux d'en trouver 17. Ce qui fut toute une tache pour nos 2 professionnelles en maquillage et coiffure de ceux-ci ! Juliana Raeburn de Calgary et Marielle Veilleux de Dawson ont accompli un travail fantastique et en peu de temps. »

Ce fut un succès monstre me dit Linda Taylor et rajoute « j'ose dire que se fut le meilleur défilé à date. »

Madeleine Strikes a Retiring Pose

by Judith Blackburn-Johnson

There will be no more 'MMMs' for Dawson Community Library Board meetings. The 'Marvelous Madeleine Minutes' from board Secretary Madeleine Gould were a chuckle treat accenting this formidable woman's contributions to our vibrant library over the course of a 'few' years.

Pictured here at Berton House, during the December 16th open afternoon of clam chowder and chat hosted by writer Greg Cook and wife, Leslie, Madeleine learns that the parting gift of jewelry does not mark the end of her service.



The Board has created her an honorary lifetime member whose attendance at the yearly steak barbecue is compulsory.

Where there's Smoke there's Bound to be a Debate

by Dan Davidson

Dawsonites can expect to see the question of a smoking ban in public places raised sometime during the next few months if the discussion at the council table, on the Dawson City Forum and in Mayor John Steins' press interviews is any indication.

The mayor, himself a reformed smoker (he would say "nicotine addict") has been very clear in stating his opinion that the issue should be taken up by the territorial government.

Indeed, the former Liberal government actually presented Dawson City with a certificate of merit in July 2002 after the Everitt administration enacted what was then a fairly advanced piece of local legislation.

It banned smoking in all buildings owned by the City of Dawson and in any public place which could be visited by minors, excluding outdoor decks at restaurants.

That left bars and Diamond Tooth Gerties, which, thought owned by the town, is under the control of the Klondike Visitors Association and is essentially off limits to minors anyway when operating as a casino due to its liquor licence.

The Yukon Party government has been reluctant to touch this hot issue, perhaps because of the acrimony associated with the new, tougher, Whitehorse bylaw, and, it has been suggested, perhaps because a number of cabinet ministers and key party members have interests in bars.

On his Mayor's Blog Steins lit into a recent government announcement extolling the importance of workplace safety and proclaiming 2007 as 'The Year of Accountability for Workplace Safety in Yukon'.

"With all due respect to the Queen's Representative, this proclamation rings a bit hollow. The second paragraph reads; 'Whereas, the right to a safe workplace is vital to all workers, their families, friends and employers;'

"Does that mean that this right is extended to everyone except those working in bars and taverns where smoking is still permitted?

"I call on the Minister of Health to put some real meaning into this 'proclamation of safety' and draft legislation to ban smoking in public places and wherever there are employees, for all Yukoners."

"My position," he repeated at the January 9 council meeting, "is that senior government should protect the health of its citizens by legislating a territory wide ban on smoking allowing the RCMP to enforce."

He's planning to bring forward a resolution to council which will urge the next Association of Yukon Communities AGM, to be held here in the spring, to lobby the government to do this.

While all the councillors have not made their positions clear as yet, Steins will have the support of Adam Morrison, who has also recently cast aside the weed.

Of 69 people who have filled out the short poll on the Dawson City Forum, most favour a ban and feel that implementing it will be difficult at the beginning but that people will get used to it.

Opinions are evenly split as to which level of government should enact the law.

