

# The Klondike Sun

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Dawson City, Yukon



Wally struts his stuff at the 2007 Talent Show.

Photo by Ed Vos

## Thaw-di-Graw weekend was a blast as always in 2007 Pictures inside

### Third Time Lucky on Smoking Resolution

by Dan Davidson

With the complete town council in attendance on March 20, Mayor John Steins finally got approval for his attempt to place a nonsmoking resolution before the annual general meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities when it meets here in late May.

Perhaps one of the reasons for the swift and unanimous passage of the resolution was that it had been substantially pared down from the page long version of the last two attempts, shorn of its weighty "whereas" clauses and somewhat more limited in the scope of its request.

After a couple of friendly amendments on wording, the final draft read as follows:

"The Association of Yukon Communities, on behalf of its members, appeals to the Yukon territorial Government's Minister of Health to introduce no-smoking legislation that

protects the health of all Yukoners while creating a territory wide standard that will ensure a level playing field for everyone."

The resolution is not a move to amend Dawson's existing regulations, which were the first in the territory just a few years ago. Councillor Ashley Doiron asked why Steins did not simply handle the matter this way.

It is Steins' contention that YTG should not be leaving the issue smoking regulation up to individual communities, as has happened so far in Dawson City and Whitehorse.

"My reasoning," he replied, "is that I feel the senior government tends to download a lot of things to municipal government ... that (they) are not necessarily equipped to handle.

"Therefore, my logic here is to at least make an attempt ... through AYC, to appeal to senior government to look at the whole territory, especially in view of what BC has just done, which is rather precedent setting."

(BC moved to standardize and toughen up its regulations early in March, banning smoking in doorways, on hospital and school grounds, and in all public indoor areas, including restaurants, bars and malls.)

Steins admits that this is a very charged issue and feels that local governments ought not to be saddled with it.

"I wear my heart on my sleeve when it comes to this issue," said the former smoker. He says he would dearly love to have a tougher bylaw in Dawson.

"But I would like the opportunity to appeal to our senior government first.

On the first two occasions the resolution stalled due to some councillors having to be absent, but this time it passed easily and unanimously.

### Dawson Mayor off to Celebrate Dawson Star

With some trepidation and concern over the possible optics of the situation, Dawson's council has voted to send Mayor John Steins on a trip to Hollywood, but not without getting as much of the cost as possible covered by other organizations.

Steins has been invited to take part in a CBC story which celebrates the life and career of the Dawson born actor, Victor Jory. The mayor raised the possibility of the trip in early February, saying he had been approached by Al Foster of CBC about Jory and the Dawson connection.

Since one of the complaints about Dawson's last mayor was the amount of travelling he did, this council spent some time that night discussing the purpose of the trip, how it

would look, and whether it was worth shouldering any criticism that might come its way if Steins took the trip.

Councillor Adam Morrison agreed that there might be complaints, but felt that it as a great opportunity to promote the town,

Ed Kormendy called it a “good story” and a “great opportunity”, saying that council shouldn’t be too shy about trying things just because of past history. He also suggested lobbying YTG for assistance in making the trip.

“I think it’s great,” said Ashley Doiron.

In the end, with a little prodding, the Yukon Film Commission came through with some money to assist in the trip.

Steins visited Jory’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6605 Hollywood Blvd. and visited with the Jory family on March 14.

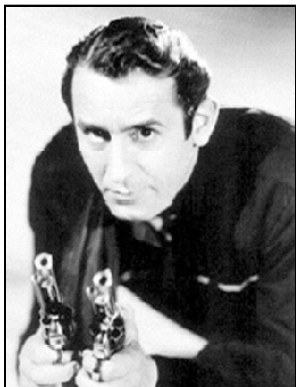
“They’re in the business, apparently.”

Aside from being part of the CBC story, Steins used the opportunity to spread promotional material around during his one day visit and carried some gifts, provided by Councillor Diana Andrew, to give to the Jorys.

It’s expected that the story generated from this trip will get some air play on the National as well as on the local news. The Sun will have a trip report and photos in our next issue.

## Who was Victor Jory?

Victor Jory was born in Dawson on November 23, 1902, and spent his early years here, moving to the USA and finishing high school in California. Some of the websites that mention him place his birth in Alaska, but they’re the ones that move the Gold Rush too. During a stint in the Coast Guard he was a champion boxer.



In 1929 he made his stage debut in New York, and was a headliner within a year.

The website, Northern Stars ([northernstars.ca](http://northernstars.ca)), records of Jory that “His commanding presence and remarkable voice quickly brought the attention of Hollywood where they had just started making ‘talkies’ and actors with great voices were in high demand. He began his film career in 1930 and would spend the next 50 years in front of the cameras.”

Within the film industry, he proved to be versatile, portraying heroes (Lamont Cranston in The Shadow serial in 1942) and villains (Injun Joe in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer in 1938 ). He essayed dramatic roles as the father of Helen Keller in The Miracle Worker (1962) and the fairy king, Oberon in the 1935 production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream as well as the role of a South American Indian chief in Papillion (1973) and a “white trash” carpetbagger

in Gone with the Wind (1939).

During his career he made over 150 films and appeared in dozens of television shows, including a starring role in the 1959-60 series Manhunt. In addition, he wrote two plays, (including Five Who Were Mad, which was staged on Broadway) and directed some live theatre. He died on February 12, 1982.

## Group Conferencing Gets a Boost from YTG

by Dan Davidson

The Dawson City Community Group Conferencing Society has received a reprieve in the form of bridge funding from the Yukon government which will carry it past its own March 31 deadline for closing its doors. Accordingly, the board has move to rescind its own motion to dissolve and wind up its affairs.

The group learned of its new lease on life in a telephone conference meeting on March 14, attended by the board, Dawson MLA Steve Nordick and Bob Ritchie, Assistant Deputy Minister for Community Justice.

In a draft press release society president Betty Davidson says, “Funding will made available from the Yukon Territorial Government, which will enable our society to meet its financial obligations and continue to provide Alternative Justice programming for the citizens of Dawson City.”

The money being made available by YTG, while not specified in the press release, is approximately one half of the funds it usually takes to run the society for a year. The other half of the money has been coming from the federal Aboriginal Justice Strategy, and the society’s latest financial crunch came when the future of this federal funding strategy was left in limbo by the Harper government.

Queries to the federal government about the future of funding for such programs across the country have met with no response at the same time as the new Youth Criminal Justice Act, brought into being by the Martin Liberal government, has advanced alternative justice strategies as an essential part of the justice system.

Cases are referred to the society by the Crown or by the RCMP where there are legal matters involved, though both offenders and victims have used the group for dispute resolution purposes as well. Offenders have to be willing to admit that they are at fault, be willing to apologize and make some sort of restitution. Victims have the satisfaction of knowing that those who have harmed them understand just what they have done on a personal level rather than in the more abstract setting of a courtroom. In addition, the society has been working in the Robert Service School to deal with such issues as bullying.

The alternative justice group had moved to wind up its affairs at a meeting in late February, following a couple of months of issuing warnings that it would be out of money by the end of March. At that time it was informed by YTG Justice Department officials that it could not be given public assurances of any funding between now and that date.

The society chose March 31 as its closing date to give it

time to wrap up its affairs and finish dealing with any cases it had on hand. Since it typically takes up to six weeks to deal with a case society members felt that announcing their intentions publicly and ceasing to take on new work was the only responsible way to go.

The infusion from YTG will enable the DCCGC to continue operations until August 2007, by which time it is hoped that a more stable means of funding such organizations can be worked out.

"We are grateful," says the press release, "to Steve Nordick, Dawson MLA, and others who have been working tirelessly on our behalf."

"I think this is a great step forward for this group," said Nordick in a brief interview on Wednesday morning.

## International Women's Day

by Palma Berger

This is the third year International Women's Day has been celebrated in Dawson at a gathering in the hall at St. Mary's church.

As President of the Regional Women's Committee, Nikki Walch, explained, it began when the Women's Directorate was formed. They wanted to show local support and so came up with the idea of a celebration in Dawson. They teamed up with the local Women's Shelter to honour this day, and use it as a fundraiser for the Women's Shelter. Events Coordinator of the Dawson Women's Shelter, Sarah Winton, and Nikki organized this year's celebration.

It is a gathering where the women of Dawson can meet with one another and have time to make meaningful contact with each other. Plus there is always a speaker there who, with her stories, is able to bring other women and other countries of the world to Dawson. This year it was Danielle Behns-Smith. Danielle, of First Nations descent, talked of her journey to become a doctor. (She is at present working for the Dawson Medical Clinic.) She also told how she was attracted to homeopathy along the way. She has just returned from participating in the making of a film on the attempts to preserve the medicine and cures of some indigenous people around the world. It will be shown on television under the title "Medicine Woman." Watch for it on APTN.

This reminds me of a riddle I heard elsewhere. "Why do females need iron?" (Answer to come later)

As well as great snacks to tickle the palette, there were great performers to entertain. Beth Egnatoff of the lovely voice, and leader of the new choir in Dawson, sang and was accompanied by Holly Haulstein on guitar (To fit in with the female atmosphere of the gathering, Holly wore a skirt).

We had poems read by Penny Soderlund, Writer-in-Residence Linda Pasold, Helen Winton, Nikki Walch and Sarah Winton. These added new thoughts to being a woman.

The visual artists who showed their work were Carole Legace with lovely new designs in her stained glass creations; Carena Rudis had imaginative pieces done in black and white; Palma Berger with two acrylic paintings, one of 'her' slough and one of a Dempster Highway scene.

Marjorie Logue introduced herself and her violin piece with a story of her beloved grandmother. Grandmother had to get married at age 15 as it was the only way she, one of the 23 children of her mother, could find any space for herself. We don't know whether we enjoyed Marjorie's piece so much because it was so well played, or because the story of her grandmother's life put us all in such good humour.

The riddle; a clue; Think of the periodic table.

The bright spark who was MC for the evening was Melissa Flynn. Melissa invited us to write the name of a woman who had influenced us so much in life, and then later phone that person. It got us thinking.

The evening ended with a resounding rendition of "Hit the Road Jack" as sung by Beth, accompanied by Holly Haulstein, Chris Evans, and Ed Vos on guitars. The last two did not wear skirts, but still played great guitars.

And the riddle? Answer: 'A female needs iron because without the 'fe' (the letters standing for iron on the periodic table) she would just be a male'.



*Writer-in-Residence Lisa Pasold entertained the audience by reading a few of her poems.*

## 2007 Dawson City International Short Film Festival Preview

By Sarah Winton

2007 Dawson City International Short Film Festival coordinator Dan Sokolowski is obviously pretty excited about this year's line-up. The screenings will begin on April 5th and last until the 8th.

The 8th festival is going to kick off Thursday evening with a screening of a film by Mike Clattenburg – producer, director and writer of "Trailer Park Boys."

This year's line-up includes approximately 20 local (Yukon) filmmakers. The line-up total is eighty films from all over Canada and countries including Sweden, Finland, Australia and Russia.

Dan let me in on a rumour of one guy coming all the way

from Brazil to participate in the festival on his way to Quebec where he plans to learn to speak French.

A master class will take place on Friday afternoon. Mike Clattenburg will be leading a discussion on character development.

Regular screenings will be starting Friday evening at 7pm sharp. The screenings on Friday night are all films made in the Yukon. Kerry Barber's "My Indian Bum" will get the ball rolling.

Sunday afternoon is going to be all about emerging artists in the Yukon. This is when Dawsonites will have a chance to take a look at what this year's Arts for Employment students have been up to. The festival's youngest film makers, Sam Crocker and Cassie Atkins, are also going to get their fifteen minutes Sunday afternoon.

The last screening is the world premier of "Cereal Thriller." This film follows the story of a 1950s Quaker Oats promotion. The company bought land just outside of Dawson City and divided it into 21 million tiny lots. They gave away the deeds to these miniscule plots of land in their cereal boxes. These deeds were the real deal and there are still plenty of people around who own a chunk of Klondike land. This was one of the most successful sales promotions ever. Sounds like a great story!

So make sure you join get out and Dan and the rest of the KIAC crew for another Film Festival weekend that promises to be a great time from start to finish!

## Hopkins Takes his Second Percy Win

by Dan Davidson

Ed Hopkins was the winner of this year's Percy DeWolfe race, arriving in Dawson at 16:43 on Friday, at 24 hours and 41 minutes, not quite an hour ahead of second place finisher Jean-denis Britten.

Third place went to Luc Tweddell, fourth to Jerry Joinson,, fifth to Simi Morrison and last to red lantern winner Heather Moore.

Hopkins last won this race in 1999 with a time of 20 hours and 51 minutes and has been in the top five much of the time since then.

Results for the shorter Percy Junior race saw Scott Read of Tagish, first at 27:31; Andrew Davies of Eagle, second; Wayne Hall of Eagle, third; Nicholas Griffen of Eagle, fourth; and Jonathon Howe of Dawson, fifth.

The race banquet and awards ceremony, emceed by Gabby Sgaga, took place at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church on Saturday.

Race society president Anne Ledwidge spoke of the history of the race, particularly the hard times since the financial crisis that followed the International Federation of Sleddog Sports races here in 2005.

"We've had financial difficulties in recent years, and I really have to thank everybody that ... has supported the race and kept it going. Percy always got the mail through, and we've managed to get the mail through as well."

Major sponsors this year included Ross Mining, the Eldorado Hotel, and the City of Dawson, but that still left the committee to raise over \$4,000.00 to cover its costs and

get the purse up to the \$10,000 mark.

Also important to the race is the time donated by the vet team, starting with Dawson's own John Overell, and including Nick Vukich and Kendra Carlson, who came from Wisconsin at their own expense and had, according to Carlson "a great time."

People do come some distance to run dog races in Dawson. Manchester, England, native Andrew Davies, who currently lives in New Jersey, explained.

He got the dog running bug at Frank Turner's kennels.

"I got terribly hooked on this thing and, of course, in New Jersey there's not a lot of dogs running, so every year I come out here and get to participate in this magnificent scenery and this wonderful sport."

The race always gives out special prizes to the contestants. The Vet's Choice for the best dog care was presented to Simi Morrison. The Humane Society Award went to Heather Moore. The Sportsmanship Award went to Simi Morrison. Rookie of the Year was presented to Jean-denis Britten.

Eldorado Hotel owner Peter Jenkins spoke of the history of the race, and how former city manger Andre Carrel helped to put the race together 31 years ago. Of that first organizing committee John Borg from Eagle and Shirley Moi, a descendent of Iron Man DeWolfe, are still involved in the race.

"As a member of the community I'd like to say thank you to both of them," Jenkins said.

"The Percy has gone through a lot of hills and valleys. It peaked a number of years ago, and it kind of fell on hard times. But there's many of us here in this community who believe in this event ... believe in sponsorship."

John Rudolph of Ross Mining, a former musher in the both Percy and the Yukon Quest, began to sponsor this race last year, and Jenkins brought greetings from him to the ceremony.

The Eldorado Hotel also rejoined the sponsorship list in 2006 and continued this year.

"My wife and I are delighted to have done so," Jenkins said. "We made the commitment for last year and we'll look at it again for next year."

Race Marshall John Borg reported that the trail itself was good when he rode over on Friday, but that he could





have done without the wind that always seemed to be at 90 degrees to where ever he was aiming his snow machine.

Borg has been Marshall since the beginning, and, while he may have retired from his job as postmaster in Eagle, looks to be ready to stay with the percy for years to come.

"The reason I come here," he said, "is that you folks like to be out. These are the folks that are not sitting home watching videos and waiting for spring.

"What we saw yesterday, coming up the river, was just incredible. I don't know when I've seen so much blue sky."

Borg encouraged the race committee to continue to think outside the box and be innovative, "Keep this thing interesting and exciting."

Entertainment for the evening included music by Simon Crelli on fiddle and Aaron Bernie on guitar, as well as several slide shows featuring the mushing photography of Ed Vos.

## **Hopkins Found the River Slower Going this year**

by Dan Davidson

"There's more than one person run this race," said Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race winner Ed Hopkins, anxious that coverage of the event should deal with more than just his second first place finish, but he opened up a bit once he was assured that would happen and once he got to talking about the race rather than himself.

Hopkins has run many DeWolfe races, usually placing somewhere in the top 2 to 5. He was 4th in 2006, 2nd in the Percy Junior in 2005 and 4th in 2004. so he has a good sense of what the trail has been like since he won it last in 1999.

"This one was different because the snow conditions were not as fast. I've noticed over the last couple of years it been not as fast, the trail - the trail has been good, but the snow has been abrasive.

"I changed my plastic (on his runners) three times and it didn't matter what I was using. it was still the same. After a while you realize you've got to have faith in the power of your team and not so much on the speed."

Mushers don't tend to think about things like ski wax, but Hopkins said if he had had some he would have used it.

"It was one of those days where you were looking for something to make it not so hard for the dogs to pull. You wanted it as frictionless as possible."

Hopkins actually likes to run at night as much as he can, so he likes to take the first half of the race, going to Eagle, at a good clip. Then, after his six hour layover, he would like to come back to Fortymile and arrive there between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning. Allowing for the shift to Daylight Savings time, his arrival there at 9:29 wasn't too far out.

The snow slowed him down by about an hour, that and the wind. He feels the wind has been sifting the snow and making it grittier, and while he has felt stronger winds on this race, this year the wind seemed to have a colder bite to it.

"A colder wind will take the moisture out of a dog team a

lot faster. And I fed my dogs a lot more - but I'd planned for that."

The trend seems to be for a slower passage on the river in his experience.

"It's getting slower, I think. I've run this race four hours faster than this year and still not won."

## **"I just love those dogs; they're so beautiful," says award winning Morrison**

by Dan Davidson

Six of Simi Morrison's nine dogs for the 2007 Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race are the luckiest animals you can imagine. After all, the person who runs them took home both the Vet's Choice for the best dog care and the Sportsmanship Award this year. Such notice by her peers speaks to a very special level of dog care.

Not that all nine of her dogs aren't lucky to have such a musher looking after them, but the six are lucky to be alive in the first place, though Morrison is quick to acknowledge that she can't take credit for that.

"I did not rescue those dogs personally," she says.

"Frank Turner did."

There were thirty dogs that had been abandoned around Whitehorse.

"They were close to starvation so somebody called him up and asked him to look at these dogs. He took them with him right away."

Along came Morrison, who volunteered at Frank's Muktuk Kennels.

"I started running some of these dogs, and I saw there was a lot of potential in them, and I got really attached to them.

"They were a bit traumatized, so they needed special attention and a different way of working with them. I just spent a lot of time with them. Some of them were shy and easily stressed out about feeding and stuff, I guess because they were close to starvation. Some were really young and I think they were separated early from their mom."

After two years of running them at Turner's, she was so attached that when she left the place she said, "I have to take these guys with me."

In the end she took six, the same six that ran both the Percy and the Quest 300 this year.

"I think they are beautiful dogs and they are very special to me. I have a very deep bond to these six."

It turns out that the six have a good pedigree. They are all of the bloodline that traces to the kennels of the late Susan Butcher, multiple



Iditarod race winner, and her husband, David Munson.

One of the females has not been spayed, and Morrison would like to breed her.

Morrison started mushing in 2003, having arrived in the Yukon from a homeland she still thinks of as East Germany, even though she was 18 when the Berlin Wall came down during late 1989 and the first half of 1990.

### DeWolfe Pix From Ed Vos



# Thaw-di-Graw Fun!

Photos by Jay Armitage





## Come to the Kabarett for a Weill

by Dan Davidson

Bremner Duthie's production of "Whiskey Bars" does a lot to stand the clichés of cabaret and burlesque on their heads. This is not, after all, a theatrical form in which one would expect to have the performer wearing more clothes at the end than at the beginning.

The show is a tribute to the work of Kurt Weill, who produced the music that went with the lyrics and poetry of such wordsmiths as Bertold Brecht, Ira Gershwin, Oscar Hammerstein, Langston Hughes and Ogden Nash. The ten songs chosen for this production span the range of Weill's output.

The framework for the show is that we are in the dressing room of a former cabaret star, a broken down singer at the bottom of his career, forced to mount a comeback attempt in a seedy theatre he has rented himself.

We are a reporter who has arrived to do a pre-show interview prior to the performance, though it is uncertain what our motives are. Are we hoping for a triumph or a train wreck?

In spite of his attire, the singer does his best to avoid baring himself completely to the reporter. Some of the questions we seem to be asking ambush him and pull him out of the packaged spiel he has prepared for such moments.

Evasive as he may attempt to be, the singer stretches out the interview, using the reporter to calm his jitters, admitting that he doesn't like to be alone before a show, perhaps even reducing his pre-show vodka consumption as a result of the company. He alternates between confessional honesty, bravura self-promotion, and pathetic attempts to hit on his visitor.

Duthie arrives on stage in a towel, and gets dressed during the length of the production until he is fitted out in tux and tails for the finale. For easily half the production he is in either the towel or his underwear, a costume choice that must certainly show a great deal of faith in his material.

That faith is justified. The one-sided dialogue he carries on with his interviewer is by turns breezy, amusing, revealing and sad. It serves ably to link Duthie's choices of material, from "Bilbao Song", with its memories of faded glory

"We'd sing a song the whole night long and I can still recall

"Those were the greatest - those were the greatest

"Those were the greatest nights of them all."

to the show stopping "There's Nowhere to go but Up", certainly an evocation of the singer's hopes for his last stand, but also an ironic admission of his current status.

As Duthie says in his program notes, "... it's about being at the end of your rope and struggling to get back on your feet, preserve your self respect and do the work you love."

"Whiskey Bars" started out a few years ago as a show Duthie toured about the United States and Canada as part of the summer fringe theatre festival circuit. It has been growing and changing over time, and will probably evolve

still more, but the performance at the Oddfellows' Hall on March 8 was polished and felt very complete.

Duthie has been in Dawson for the last two months, living with his partner, Berton House writer-in-residence Lisa Pasold, and offering voice lessons through the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture.





**Thaw di Gras Snow Sculpture Pix  
by Janice Cliff**

