

The Klondike Sun

June 6, 2007 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon

School's Out!



Above: Lindsay Cahoon and Kevin Mendelsohn receive their Pioneer Women of the Yukon Awards from Mrs. Barber while Mr. Silver looks on.

Right: Grads were on display at the high school's Awards Day Assembly

Left: Jessica Burian with the Mary Gartside Award, presented to the Grade 12 student with the highest academic standing.

Photos by Dan Davidson

RSS Awards Day Ceremony – 2007 for Grades 8-12

submitted by Robert Service School
photos by Dan Davidson

Awards Day 2007 at RSS began with the sings of “O Canada” led by the RSS Choir.

M.C Mr. Sandy Silver then introduced the Graduating Class, dressed in cap and gown and the ceremony moved on to the awards categories, with Principal Philip Cull handing out most of the awards.

The Helen Winton Creative Writing Contest Award of three \$50 cheques, sponsored by Robert Service Council,



Subject Awards Grade 12.

was presented by Helen Winton to Katrina Koscis, in Gr. 7-8 , Hannah Findlay-Brook in Gr. 9-10, and Mary Fraughton in Gr. 11-12.

The Order of the Eastern Star Award includes a \$300.00 cheque and is given to a student who has good attendance, shows dedication to his or her studies, maintains a good academic standing, has completed High School and is going on to a Post Secondary institution. This year the award was presented to Jessica Burian.

The Masonic Bursary (\$250.00) is given annually to a student that shows dedication to their studies, is a hard worker and demonstrates a commitment to attendance and involvement in the life of the school. This was presented to Kylene Perry by Brandon White

The Pioneer Women of the Yukon is given to a student who is hardworking and shows dedication to his or her studies, has good attendance and contributes to the life of the classroom and the school. Bonnie Barber presented this award to Lindsay Cahoon in Grades 8/9 and Kevin Mendelsohn in Grades 10-12.

The RCMP Award is given to the student who displays the most outstanding cooperation and assistance during the school year. This year Sgt. Dan Gaudet presented the award to Steve Kormendy.

The Klondike Gymnastics Club Award for Grades 8-12 consists of a \$500.00 cheque which was presented this year

to Daniel Naef.

The Great Canadian Geography Challenge gift - a globe - was presented to the Yukon Champ who represented the Yukon in the national finals, Luke Hunter.

Two Yukon College Scholarships (a full years tuition) were presented to Ashley Bower (Arts and Science), and David Gammie (Professional Studies-trades). This scholarship is given to a Grade 12 students with strong academic performance and who are intending to attain a full time certificate, diploma or degree program at Yukon College.

The Robert Service School Citizenship Award, given to a student who has made a contribution to the school above and beyond the average expectations. was presented to

Grade 10's Ted Hunter.

For Subject Awards students must maintain a minimum average of 75% (behavior, attitude may be the deciding factor). These are given in two categories, Grades 8-10 and 11-12 and are listed in that order - English: Miriam Moore, Mindy Anderson; Social Studies: Luke Hunter, Josh Vogt; Science: Ted Hunter, Jessica Burian; Math: Luke Hunter/Miriam Moore, Jessica Burian; French: Miriam Moore, Ashley Bower; Physical Education: Sonny Parker, Brian Naef/Kylene Perry; Art: Ginette Brisboise, Kylene Perry; Band: Lindsay Cahoon; Industrial Ed.: Greg Fischer;

Home Ec.: Stephanie Dragoman, Echo Hearty; Info.

Technology: Daniel Naef, Taylor Mayes; CAPP: Luke Hunter.



Subject Awards Grades 8 to 10.

The Scholastic Honor Roll for Grades 8-12 is based on an 86% average of the 5 academic subjects (English, Math, Socials, Science, and second language) - Grade 8: Stephanie Dragoman, Luke Hunter, Bryan Leary, Miriam Moore; Grade 9: Daniel Naef; Grade 10: Ryan Dragoman, Ted Hunter; Grade 12: Jessica Burian. The Top Academic Achievement Certificates are given to the students in Grades 8-11 with the highest averages in their grades - Grade 8 (tie): Luke Hunter, Miriam Moore; Grade 9: Daniel Naef; Grade 10: Ted Hunter; Grade 11: Laura Audet.

The Mary Gartside Award – \$200.00 cheque and plaque -

is given to the Grade 12 student with the highest average, This year's winner was Jessica Burian.

The school's top athlete, chosen by the PE instructors, was David Gammie.

The Department of Education is purchasing three pieces of Student Art work to be placed in the department's permanent collection. The following students worked on the three pieces: Luke Hunter, Hayley Riemer, Stephanie Dragoman, Jenelle Favron, Patricia Wallingham.

Lagoon Location Not Up for Discussion Yukon Legislature - Hansard Question re: Dawson City sewage lagoon

Mr. Cardiff: The government's plan to put a sewage lagoon at the entrance to Dawson City will no doubt provide a wonderful first impression for visitors, but I'm sure the minister must be aware of other concerns with that site.

One concern is the lack of stability and the drainage patterns from the surrounding hills. Embedding a lagoon in porous rock above the town's main drinking-water source raises questions about potential water contamination. Another concern is the unpleasant hydrogen sulphide odor the lagoon treatment process will be giving off two or three times a year. This is why some jurisdictions require sewage lagoons to be at least one mile away from any community.

Is the minister considering any other location for the Dawson City sewage lagoon, or is this more or less a done deal?

Hon. Mr. Hart: We are investigating this particular site for the sewage lagoon in Dawson City, as is required by the court. We are currently moving along that way. It is one of the few locations that we can use in order to satisfy our requirement in court, which is coming due at the end of June.

I would like to also just remind the member opposite that we have done extensive studies with regard to the water in the area, as well as other items that will need to be mitigated and will be handled under the YESAA process.

Mr. Cardiff: The minister didn't answer the question. I asked him if they were looking at other locations. Previously, there was a proposed site on the bench across the Klondike River from Dawson. It was considered a suitable site. It is away from the watershed; it is out of sight; it's on more stable land, and the odors wouldn't be as much of a problem.

Unfortunately, it was on First Nation land and a general assembly resolution was passed in 2005 against using that site. Now that resolution has been rescinded and the First Nation is offering the upper bench as a lagoon site.

Have the minister or his officials had any discussion with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in about this offer, or is this another situation where the government has its mind made up and it isn't open to any other ideas?

Hon. Mr. Hart: We have had several discussions with the First Nation in question as well as with the City of Dawson itself. After all, the sewage facility is with the City of Dawson, and we have worked with the First Nation on this particular aspect.

As the member previously indicated, there was not an available site for a sewage facility on the First Nation land because of their AGM policy. We had looked at several different sites in the Dawson City area. The site location that we have now is the one that turned out to be most suitable, because it belongs to the City of Dawson. That is the one we are going forward with to the courts.

For the member opposite, the First Nation made an adjustment to their AGM resolution recently to allow a sewage facility on their particular land, but we don't have time. The end of June is coming. We have to have our application in to the YESA Board in order to look like we're moving forward on this project when we appear before the judge.

Mr. Cardiff: Well, we've heard this government's argument about not building on First Nations land before, and I hope that's not part of the issue here. Timing has always been an essential consideration in this project. In fact, there is a court date next month, as the minister stated, on what's being done to meet the construction deadline, which is December 2008. A water licence hearing, as he said, needs to be held. And there is the YESAA process. The minister expressed a pretty dim view of the YESAA process at the Association of Yukon Communities convention — not this past weekend, but the weekend before. I'm not going to dwell on that.

Will the minister recommend to his department that it would seriously consider the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in proposal, even if it means having to request one more delay from the court?

Hon. Mr. Hart: We have a court date at the end of June. The Department of Community Services is moving ahead with legal proceedings in that area. We are working with the City of Dawson on that particular location, to where the First Nation has the ability to make an application through YESAA on their particular location, and we can go through that process under YESAA.

Uffish Thoughts: Dawson has returned to the territory's political arena

By Dan Davidson

Having the annual general meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities here early in May was an exciting event for Dawson from a number of viewpoints.

First, it was clear that Dawson was a popular venue for this event, as evidenced by the fact that the larger than usual

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around Music Festival weekend.**

attendance meant that the venue had to be moved from the YOOP Hall to the much larger Tr'ondëk Community Hall just to accommodate the delegates.

Second, it was clear that the event was the way that AYC and its member communities had chosen to welcome Dawson back into the political fold.

As I understand things, Dawson was represented at some AYC meetings during the two years of the trusteeship, but this meeting was the first major gathering, aside from board meetings, since last year's municipal elections here. Pressure from the AYC executive was part of the process which brought local government back to Dawson, and there were numerous references to the town's democratic rebirth during the meetings that I was able to attend. Since I doubt they saved those references for times when I could be there, I imagine it came up even more frequently than I heard.

I believe it is good that Dawson has found a happy medium in its involvement with AYC. Three administrations past, the council had no use for the territorial body and made this clear in a number of clever but slighting ways.

There was a general feeling that the administration before this one paid too much attention to AYC and perhaps not enough to events on the home front. Since we're spending a lot of the money that AYC and the national group, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, helped prod the Chretien, Martin and Harper governments into committing to the North, in particular, I'm not sure that's a fair judgment, but it's one that I've heard a lot.

We currently have two representatives on the AYC board, Mayor John Steins as a vice-president, and Councillor Ashley Doiron as a board member. I think that's a good thing.

Our people were pleased to learn that the issues in many of the other towns were the same ones that have come across the council table here in recent months.

On the AGM weekend Mayor Steins was particularly gratified to see a revamped version of his non-smoking resolution gaining majority support at the business meeting. He noted that Dawson's council has also been discussing things like the need for a partially staffed ambulance service, issues related to waste disposal, and the need to reexamine the size and distribution of the block funding that YTG provides each town as its basic operational grant.

Further, it seemed clear that a lot of the delegates were not that far apart on most issues, the smoking resolution being the major exception at the Sunday business meeting.

"It's a really great feeling meeting with people from the other communities and talking about common issues," said Doiron at the May 15 council meeting.

"At the AGM on Sunday, the resolutions from all the communities came forward, and I was really happy to see that ... (they) were really relevant to issues that have been coming up here at our table.

"It was great to see a consensus already existing in terms of what to deal with."

Councillor Adam Morrison saw the event as a triumph

for the staff of the town, which managed the whole thing.

Councillor Diane Andrews noted that most conferences this complex hire a coordinator to put things together, but City staff had been more than competent.

Doiron also commented on the "welcome back" speeches, which she took to be about the town being back on its feet as well as being back at the table.

This was certainly a welcome feeling for all involved here. After several years of frustration and a year with a steep learning curve, it does seem that Dawson is back on the territorial scene in a major way.

Churches Get a Lift Out of the Ascension

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

"Let's go fly a kite!" is not necessarily something one might expect to hear at the end of a church service. It may seem a odd bit of liturgy, but for the last two years St. Paul's Anglican Church in Dawson has been flying kites on the first Sunday after Ascension Day.

This is the day in the Christian calendar on which the faithful mark the return of Christ to Heaven forty days after his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Holy Day was on May 17 this year, so the first Sunday after that was May 20.

While the notion on Heaven being in the sky has generally fallen by the wayside over the centuries, the symbolic significance of getting a lift from the wind is not entirely obsolete.

Members of St. Paul's congregation were joined once again by members of the Dawson Community Chapel on the lawn behind the Commissioner's Residence for an hour of kite flying and ice cream.



Summer Workers Helped by Churches and Businesses

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

It's no secret that Dawson doesn't have enough young people to staff all the summer positions that need staffing to keep the tourist industry running here. It is highly dependent on the annual influx of summer workers from all over the country.

Some years back the congregation at St. Mary's Catholic Church decided that that it would be good to "do unto others", as the scripture suggests, and provide some assistance to these summerdoughs, many of whom work up to a month here before seeing their first pay cheque.

The result was the Tuesday Night Transients' Dinner, which rapidly came to be supported by all of Dawson's churches in turn, and also by a number of its businesses and other concerned citizens.

The dinners take place weekly throughout May and sometimes into the first week in June, and often include talks on medical advice to travellers, bear awareness and other topics that might be useful to the summer visitors.

Local volunteers provide the food, and the visitors provide the cleanup after each meal, stacking the chairs and tables and cleaning the floor. There's usually enough leftover food that some of the guests can take away some in their own plastic containers and enjoy another day's meal from Dawson's own Good Samaritans.

Numbers at this year's dinners have been as high as 75 people on one Tuesday night.



Dawson Celebrates Percy Henry's 80th Birthday

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

They fooled Percy Henry into dressing up and going to the Tr'ondëk Community Hall by telling him there was another special general assembly to attend, but the 80 year old former chief of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in realized his error when the Hän Singers burst into a welcoming chant as he came through the front door into the crowded hall.

Mabel Henry later told the crowd that she'd been keeping this community gathering a secret from her husband for about two months, and that it hadn't been easy.

What it was, was a popular event. Chiefs and former

chiefs from all over the territory came to pay respects to one of the surviving fathers of the Land Claims process.

After a fine meal there was a long round of speeches and a little bit of roasting, with tributes from Judy Gingell, Danny Joe, Andy Carville, Robert Hagar, Mark White, Ruth Massie, Alfred Charlie, James Allen, Mary-Jane Jim, Jimmy Johnny, Eddie Skookum, Mike Smith and several members of the extended Henry clan.

Following the speeches, granddaughter Randi Procee helped Percy work his way through a pile of presents, including a T-shirt that got a laugh from everyone, a black number bearing the legend "At my age, I've seen it all, done it all, heard it all. I just can't remember it all."



21st Gold Show Enjoys Strong Attendance and Great Weather

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

With 41 exhibitor tables (some using double and triple spaces) inside the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre, another 11 outside on Fourth Avenue and in the parking lot, and 12 more in the Craft tables area, the 21st edition of the Dawson City International Gold Show had a lot to see for those involved in the industry and quite a bit for those who weren't.

Exhibitors included territorial and federal government departments, equipment suppliers and communications companies, all of which could be browsed in the comfort of the arena or considered over coffee in the Legion run concession area out in the rec centre foyer.

Behind all the displays was the speaker tent, which on Friday was the site for five technical talks on the Yukon River Basin, Stream Bioassessment Study; Information Requirements in the Regulatory Process; the Canada/Russia Placer Research Project Update; and two sessions on the

New Fish Habitat Management Regime for Yukon Place Mining.

The Klondike Placer Miners Association held its annual general meeting over at the Oddfellows Hall later on Friday afternoon, and the evening was given over to a KPMA "Mining and Dining" benefit event at the Palace Grand Theatre



2007 Relay for Life Surpasses all Expectations

Story by Dan Davidson

Photos by Betty Davidson

The numbers were not all in a week later, but it appeared that Dawson's second annual 2007 Relay for Life had managed to raise close to \$31,000 to support research into as cure for cancer.

Months in the planning, Dawson's relay took place between 7 p.m. on May 26 and 7 a.m. the next morning. Ten teams from Dawson and a team from Mayo assembled at the Front Street Gazebo to participate in something that became more than just another fund raising walk.

The twelve hour marathon event saw the greensward along the dike transformed into a temporary tent city, with activities going on all time for those team members who were not walking their shifts: fiddle & guitar jam, tam karaoke, live bands, "funky musical interludes" from the 50s to the 80s, three relay bingo games, a barbecue and much more.

The basic route of the relay was a big circle from the old CIBC building to the town garden known as Norm's Hump and back up the edge of Front Street to the starting point. At a reasonable walking pace a person might do four or five laps in an hour.

The first lap, shortly after 7, included all the participants who could make it at that time and was led by those who were cancer survivors. After that team members walked in relay fashion,, handing off to other members as their shifts ended, with people coming and going according to when they had signed up to walk.

The teams had colourful names and sometimes outfits to match: Klondike Cancer Crushers; Mighty Mayo Tumerators (all in red straw cowboy hats); the Mud Walkers; My Big Fat Dawson Wedding (a complete wedding party, with bridal gown); Nancy's Knickerwalkers; Pink Ladies and the Thunderbirds; Percy DeWolfe Mail Runners (with dogsled); Rede, Rite Run (misspellings and all from Robert Service School); Team Downtown, TH is Wiggin' Out (all members in wigs); and the Women's Shelter.

Organizer Andrea Mansell stresses that there were 119 registered participants, but over over 250 people were part of the event in some way. Nearly forty individuals, organizations and businesses contributed time, resources and goods to the event.

Mansell estimates that the in-kind donations were the equal of the money raised for cancer during the relay itself.



Final numbers won't be known until the end of June, but the total is already close to \$5,000 over last year's stunning outcome.

Dawson ended up with its own event after two very dynamic team from here participated in the Whitehorse relay three years ago.

"The Cancer Society recognized Dawson City by saying that it should have its own event ... so that's a real pat on the back."



Mansell was hired to coordinate the relay, but she is quick to say that nothing would have happened without the team of volunteers that gathered around her, which included Georgette McLeod, Suzanne Gagnon, Brenda Rear and Liz Fraser.

Dawson seems to be having an exceptionally difficult year for cancer diagnosis and cancer scares. At this time of writing there are at least four citizens in clinics in Vancouver.

"I don't know any person who is not affected one way or another by cancer," Mansell said.

The symbolic heart of the event was the laying of the luminary candles, tea warming candles in weighted translucent paper bags that relay walkers placed around the the relay route during a ceremony between 11 p.m. and midnight. Each bag was inscribed with the name of a family member or friend who had succumbed to or survived a bout with cancer.

"The luminaries are pretty much a symbol of hope," Mansell said. "For me they're a symbol of hope because there're more 'in honour of' than there are 'in memory of'."

Year End Concert Shows Progress

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

The music program at RSS showed how much each of the four major groups from Grades 4 to 10 had improved over the course of the year in a final concert on May 22.

At the lowest grade level Mrs. Davidson's Grade Four music class performed a First Nation song called "Spirit of the Sun", adding to the vocals with drums, bass xylophones, and other percussion instruments.

Ms. Ettinger has three ensemble groups on the go: Beginner, Junior and Jazz Band.

The Beginner Band proved that it had become much more accomplished since December with three numbers that were far more complex in terms of notes and timing than what they had performed earlier: "Let's Go Band II", "Samba La Bamba" and "Dragon Slayer".

The Junior Band also showed progress with a pair of less familiar tunes: "Berceuse Acadian" and "Excelcia".

The Jazz Band, which meets to practice in two separate sessions and only manages to play together just before a performance, provided the bulk of the program, with a variety of numbers, including "Bad Hair Day", "Fly Me to the Moon", "Ewok Celebration", "Oye Como Va" and Pachelbel's "Canon".



Grade 4 Does Archeology

submitted by RSS

Mr. Betts and the Grade 4s were busy with an Archaeology project during the next to last week of school.

"The students really 'dug' their work as junior archaeologists," says Mr. Betts.

Students did an archaeological site simulation right in the school's parking lot. They unearthed artifacts such as trading beads, glass, spearheads, arrowheads, scrapers and microblades. The work was completed like real archaeologists, using trowels and brushes as they slowly worked through layers of organic soil, sand and silt.

Cathie Findlay-Brook then took the students for a walk to Dänojà Zho Cultural Center where they learned more about local First Nation history from Glenda Bolt.

The culminating activity was a bike ride to Tr'ochek (also known as Lousetown and Klondike City during the Gold Rush). Here students were given a tour of the actual archaeological sites which were dug in the summers between 1998 and 2000. Students learned a lot about the ancient site of Tr'ochek and how it was used for millennia by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people as a summer fish camp.

Georgette McLeod organized a fun hut making activity where students had to try and construct a shelter in the traditional way, using willow or poplar branches and sinew. It was a challenge and test for the student's ingenuity.

Elder Isaac Henry, was present and watched on in amazement and amusement while Madeleine, Cathie and Georgette helped students erect their structures. A good time was had by all. The trip is scheduled to happen again in the fall with next year's grade 4 class.



Gold Poke Run

Submitted by Sarah Hooyenga

Saturday, May 19th proved to be a beautiful morning for the Henry Gulch Gold Poke Run. Twenty-three runners turned out at 10:00 in the morning to run the 5 km jaunt throughout Dawson and have a chance to win some gold. Real Klondike Gold, generously donated by Henry Gulch Exploration, was given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for both male and female in each category. Thank you to the RCMP for providing road assistance for our runners, as well as to River West for their contribution to the run. This event, hosted by Run Dawson and the Recreation Department, could not have happened without the support of volunteers in our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this event!

Results

Bantam (13 and Under)

1st-Marley Kolpin (31:37)

Male

1st-Hans Djurberg (22:13)

2nd-Ben Erdmann (24:10)

3rd-Simon Crelli (24:31)

P. Du Preez (35:27)

Open (18-39 years)

Female

1st-Oriana Rollo (21:33)

2nd-Catherine Lamarche (21:37)

3rd-Shelly Anderson (24:57)

Sarah Hooyenga (26:06)

Roxanne McCleary (32:07)

D. Du Preez (35:26)

Catherine MacDougall (34:06)

Male

1st-Kevin Anderson (21:48)

2nd-Magnus Larsson (24:23)

3rd-John Firth (25:17)

Masters (40-54 years)

Female

1st-Suzanne Crocker (24:32)

2nd-Janice Rose (26:23)

3rd-Marjorie Logue (34:06)

Carolyn Brothers (41:38)

Male

1st- Jim Brothers (22:44)

2nd- Mats-Ake Lantz(23:38)

3rd - John Lodder (28:52)

Naresh Prasad (41:38)

Senior Masters (55 plus)

Female

No Participants

