

The Klondike Sun

August 29, 2007 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon

Discovery Days 2007 Eclipses Other Years for Busyness

by Dan Davidson

Things tend to slow down in Dawson City after the Musical Festival, and the events in August are often a bit of an anticlimax, but this year's Discovery Day Weekend seems to have been intended to blow those perceptions away and leave every one exhausted.

On Wednesday, Aug. 15 things got under way with the judging for the Yard Awards, the KVA's Family Day celebrations at Gerties a street hockey tournament at Minto Park and a Slow Bicycle Race at the Museum.

All during the week the Museum was presenting a reenactment of an historic Miners' Meeting, while also offering its Families of the Yukon photo exhibit.

Thursday was a literary day, with the KVA's Authors on 8th celebration and writing contest taking up three hours in the afternoon at the Jack London Centre, Robert Service Cabin and Pierre Berton House.

On Friday it was batter up for the annual Discovery Days Fastball Tournament, which ran to the 19th. There were games and kids' activities all along the dike some of these being tied in with the Yukon Riverside Arts Festival, which ran from the 16th to the 19th.

The Klondike Fiddle Camp, which had been running all week, held a Friday night dance, their second event of the week.

Parks Canada added special programs over the weekend, including a presentation on the Yukon Ditch and its Sin in the City street theatre show.

Saturday also had the parade, one of the best in recent years, in which the entries showed a lot of thought and



Photo by Brian Stethem

preparation.

For those with too much leftover energy, there was a 10 kilometre run, a hike along the Klondike Salmon Route and another Fiddle Dance.

There was also a Horticultural Show and the closing day for the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre's "Where are the Children" exhibit, as well as the final 2007 performance of the "Luk T'äga Näche" ("Salmon Girl Dreaming") dance presentation.

Sunday was a day with a bit more rest in it, though it still contained a second Pancake Breakfast at the curling club, a Loonie Swim Day at the pool, and the ever-popular Klondike Valley Mud Bog in the North End.

For those about to become involved in the World Goldpanning Championships, which will take place here from the 20th to the 26th, there was no rest at all. They were busy registering competitors and getting their venue ready

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for competition, which will begin on Wednesday.
In Dawson, there is no rest for the weary this year- not until after Labour Day, at least.



Discovery Days Parade

Photos by Brian Stethem

Parade Awards

Business Category: 1st: Parks; 2nd: Bonanza Gold ,
3rd: Dawson Day Care

Organization Category : 1st: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, 2nd:



Dawson Museum , 3rd: Pioneer Women

Best Overall: FOOP

Best Group Non-Float:

Hell's Angels Has Beens

Best Group Float: Hula Girls

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KIAC School of Visual Arts is Open for Classes

Story & Photos
by Dan Davidson

It's been nine years in the making, but the Dawson City Arts Society has achieved another milestone in the realization of its long term aims with the official opening of the KIAC School of Visual Arts on August 17.

There have, of course, been a number of SOVA openings.

The acquisition of the Old Liquor Store for the project, the signing of the joint agreement linking DCAS, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon Government, the completion of renovations to the building, these all had their special ceremonies.

What was different about this event is that the school is completely ready to run has its first cadre of 20 students enrolled, has its shops, work room and lecture halls ready to operate in September.

All the partners were out to celebrate this evening in the blazing 30 degree evening heat. The crowd blocked Third Avenue as the dignitaries squinted into the evening sun and delivered their speeches over the course of an hour.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elder Percy Henry opened the event with a prayer to the Creator.

"It's teamwork that has brought us this far," said Dawson's Yukon College administrator Eldo Enns, acting as emcee, "and it's that unbelievable effort that you see in Dawson City, and the vibrance of the people, and the dedication and the perseverance that enables a town this size to take on this kind of an undertaking and to successfully come out with a school of visual arts."

Speaking for the first nation, Chief Darren Taylor told the crowd some of whom were students who had already arrived, that "a solid education is one component of a happy life."

Taylor saw SOVA as being useful for both local students, who will learn about higher education in a home environment, and for thee from Outside, who will be exposed to the North's culture and traditions.

"The rich diversity this bring to our town and territory adds a valuable and unique element to our local culture.

"We have taken big steps together. This is a shining example of what can happen when all corners of the

community pull together."

Speaking for Yukon College, president Terry Weninger brought greetings from the parent college and said he was proud to be associated with the project, even at this late stage of its development.

DCAS vice-president Kyla McArthur summarized the founding vision of DCAS, which was to create the arts college.

"Now that these doors are ready to open, who knows what doors will be open in the future."

MLA Steve Nordick (Yukon Party) brought greetings from the government and noted that the government, through several different branches, had provided Katt \$1.8 million dollars to renovate the old liquor store/library/about into its present form as well as just of half a million to support the ongoing operations of the building. He also credited his predecessor, former MLA Peter Jenkins, for his role in the project.

"Dawson will be a great place to study and live and I'm confident that our new students will be very pleased with our community."

Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber recalled her days as a child, when she lived in one of the apartments that used to be on the second floor of the building.

"To have Dawson today not tearing down, as is the norm, but to retrofit and renovate is great. This keeps history alive and keeps with it the stories that come with the sight of a building or a street. I commend the institute for its vision and hard work.

"As Dawson City is famous for its gold rush, it's fast becoming famous for its mar on the art and culture world as well. It s innovative and exciting for a small town to have such a venue and to host a region that will become a place to study and create."

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elder Edward Roberts took the podium to explain the Hän name which has been given to the new school. This is Yùkhe Zho, which means Northern Lights House.

"We had many names here, Percy (Henry) and I. We shuffled them around and came up with Yùkhe, which is the Northern Lights."

Following this, the Hän Singers presented "The Flag Song" and new (old) song they've been working on called "The Happy Day Song."



Ceremonies concluded with a tour of the new facility, its classrooms, the members' art gallery, shop facilities, library, offices and work spaces.

CBC Holds Open House on Dawson Reception Problems

by Dan Davidson

Acknowledging that there clearly is a problem with the AM radio reception of CBC Radio One in Dawson City, area manager John Boivin made a trip to the Klondike capital the review the situation and held an open house in town council chambers on August 21.

It was found that the broadcast facility on the Dome did indeed require some adjustments to remodulate the signal and improve the noise to signal ratio.

Boivin indicated that there was further work that would still need doing and would be carried out over the next several months. It was possible to hear some improvement in the quality of the reception as a result of the work done on this trip.

There was a small but steady stream of complainants during the afternoon, apparently stimulated by Boivin's announcement of the meeting by way of the City of Dawson.com discussion forum, where much of the discussion about the deterioration of the Radio One signal had taken place.

According to the CBC team there are many things that can affect AM reception: placement and orientation of the radio; whether the power source is batteries, AC current or home generator current; proximity to a computer, cell-phone charger or some other electronic device.

It was clear in the discussion of the issues that there have been a variety of unexplained clicks, buzzes, static and fuzziness associated with the service since the corporation was required by the Canadian Radio and Television Commission to move it from FM back to AM transmission.

In addition, the extent of the signal radius outside the town core appears to have diminished, with residents in Sunnydale, West Dawson, Bear Creek, Rock Creek and Henderson Corner complaining of reduced service of CBC North (Radio One).

That does not mean that anyone is unhappy to see CBC Radio Two added to the mix of signals available.

Boivin assured visitors to the open house that CBC is determined to solve as many of the local problems as it can.

Former Mayor and CAO will fight charges

By STEPHANIE WADDELL

Whitehorse Star, August 13, 2007

Both Dawson's former mayor and former town manager say they are innocent of the several charges of breach of trust by a public officer, fraud and theft over \$5,000.

"I know I won't be going in there and saying guilty," Glenn Everitt, who served as the town's mayor, said this morning by telephone.

While Everitt, 43, faces two counts of each charge,

former town manager Scott Coulson faces three counts of theft over \$5,000 and one each of the breach and fraud charges.

It's alleged the offences for Everitt's charges happened between 1996 and 2004, while the offences Coulson is facing charges for happened between 2001 and 2004.

("I'm obviously going to fight it," Coulson, 43, said in an interview from his home in Chilliwack, B.C. this morning. He referred to the charges as "total crap.")

While both men maintain their innocence, they were reluctant to comment extensively on their plans outside of that. (Coulson was planning to speak to a lawyer after being served with the charges Sunday, while Everitt said he was still deciding how to proceed. He noted he likely doesn't have the resources to pay for a lawyer.

("Unfortunately, I just feel stuck between a rock and a hard place," he said, noting his family has been through a lot over the last 3 1/2 years of the RCMP investigation, which came out of an audit done on the town.

The \$460,000 forensic audit completed in 2005 by a Vancouver auditor, concluded a substantial amount of money was unaccounted for in town records. The audit was then given to the RCMP for investigation by the commercial crimes unit.

("A complaint of this nature takes a long time to investigate," RCMP M-division Sgt. Roger Lockwood said this morning. He said the investigation required sufficient time to complete and the forensic audit was not conducted as a criminal investigation. Any allegations coming out of the audit had to be investigated to decide if there was enough evidence to proceed to charges, he explained. Each of the charges have their own circumstances, he said.)

Everitt and Coulson are scheduled to make their first court appearance on Aug. 28 in Dawson.

Don't close the door on Berton House

by Ken McGoogan

From the Globe and Mail

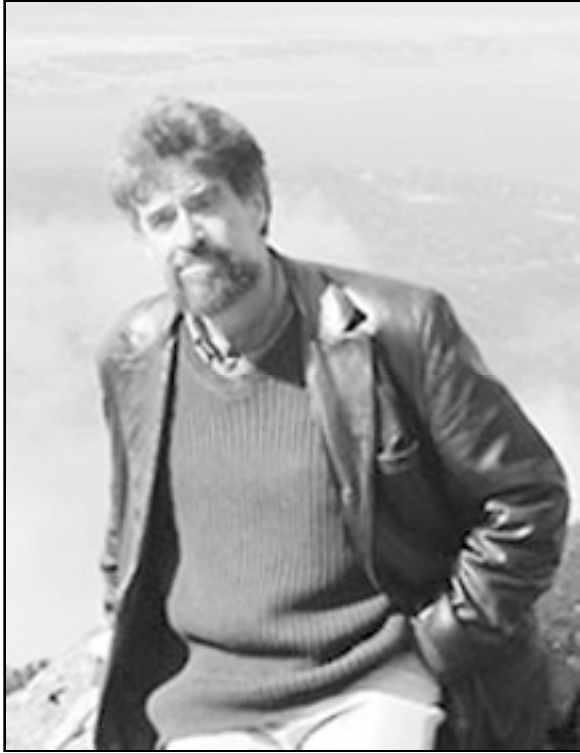
August 17, 2007

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In Dawson City, Yukon, if you look out the window of boyhood home of the late Pierre Berton, you see a one-room log cabin in which the poet Robert Service spent three years writing poems like "The Cremation of Sam McGee". If you step out the front door and walk one block along the hard-packed dirt road, you arrive at the cabin in which author Jack London (The Call of The Wild, Martin Eden) carved his name during the Klondike Gold Rush.

Almost 40 Canadian writers know these things from personal experience. We are among the lucky number who have spent two or three months, sometimes longer, living and writing in that modest, green-and-white bungalow on Eighth Street. We know what it means to knock back Yukon Gold at Bombay Peggy's, to catch the can-can girls at Diamond Tooth Gertie's, and to cross the Yukon River by ferry and drive the Top of the World Highway.

But now, judging from newspaper reports out of Dawson



City and Whitehorse, Berton House faces possible closure. Executive director Elsa Franklin, who worked for decades as Mr. Berton's manager, says: "We might have to shut it down. That's a possibility. That's a really big possibility."

The crisis comes as a result of a change in funding arrangements.

In 1989, Pierre Berton himself, author of such blockbusters as *Klondike*, *The National Dream* and *The Arctic Grail*, ponied up \$50,000 (worth roughly \$80,000 today) to save the house and turn it into a writers' retreat — a place where authors could work, free of any other commitments.

(The *Klondike Visitors Association* took out a mortgage and made the place suitable for people to live in once again.)

Berton House opened its doors in 1996, and soon Ms. Franklin and her committee were receiving 70 or 80 applicants each year. They began raising funds at an annual dinner in Toronto's Chinatown. And, lured by "the spell of the Yukon," which might or might not include panning for gold, rafting on the Yukon River, and sampling a sourtoe cocktail, the writers did come.

Today, the motley three dozen includes Russell Smith, Andrew Pyper, Rachel Manley, George Fetherling, Steven Highton, Sally Clark, Greg Cook, Phil Hall, Andrea and David Spalding, Carmine Starnino, Charlie Wilkins, Luanne Armstrong and Eric Wilson, to name a few.

Nobody has done a count, but the retreat has contributed to the writing of several dozen books. Speaking for myself, in Dawson City I rough-drafted one and conceived another.

The program proved successful enough that in 2001,

under a Liberal government, the Canada Council started kicking in \$33,000 a year, to go toward airfare and a monthly \$2,000 stipend for visiting writers. For six years, that money kept coming. Last year, however, the council terminated that lump-sum arrangement. Writers chosen by people based mostly in Dawson City now had to be vetted by a Canada Council jury.

Just recently, a jury refused to support the current resident, acclaimed author Robert Sawyer, who has published 17 novels and won every major science fiction award in North America, and several farther afield.

Obviously, that benighted jury had a bias against genre fiction. But I have served on juries, and happily they do keep changing. Chronic underfunding of the arts is the larger problem.

So let us set aside the question of how juries are appointed both here and elsewhere, and what agendas might be installed before a jury even sees a funding application. And set aside, as well, the question of how, for visual artists, the Canada Council can fund residencies in Paris, Trinidad, New York, Berlin, and London (on the website, I count 14), while established writers are still scratching and picking up sticks even in Dawson City, Yukon.

The bottom line here is that, despite the miracle-working of Elsa Franklin and her team of volunteers, Berton House does not have the resources to remain viable in the face of continuing uncertainty. Some residents will be funded and others maybe won't? No, that can't work.

But all is not lost. Ms. Franklin says the retreat could be run "headache-free" for \$50,000 a year. And the Writers' Trust of Canada, a non-profit organization that does fabulous work for Canadian writers, has indicated it might be willing to take over Berton House. Executive director Don Oravec calls it an affordable program, and one for which funds could readily be raised: "We'd like to ensure Berton House will live on."

True, the Trust does make mistakes: It discontinued the Drainie-Taylor Award for Biography, for example. But such slip-ups are rare, and Mr. Oravec is clearly right when he says, "The Writers' Trust is the natural place for Berton House."

The board of directors will vote on the takeover later this month. They have the blessing of Elsa Franklin. And they should move forward with alacrity. The alternative, that Berton House will cease to exist, is unthinkable.

*Ed Note: Ken McGoogan is writing *Race to the Polar Sea*, going sailing in the Northwest Passage, and plotting a history of Arctic exploration.*

Sawyer Takes on Canada Council During Reading

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

Robert J. Sawyer has a bone to pick with the Canada Council and the federal government in general.

But he's very happy with Berton House and with the time he has so far spent in Dawson City working on his 18th



novel, *Wake*. Sawyer is Canada's most widely honoured science fiction writer, having won all the major North American writing awards, the Hugo, Nebula, John W. Campbell Memorial and the Aurora for his work, as well as major awards in China and Japan.

He and his wife, the poet Carolyn Clink, arrived in early July and are at the midpoint in

their three month residency in Pierre Berton's family home.

But Sawyer was surprised and annoyed this week to find out that the financial arrangements for his residency are not quite the same as what has been happening for the last 6 years, since the Canada Council for the Arts began to fund the project a few years before Berton's death.

"How many of you saw the *Yukon News* this week?" asked Sawyer as he began his reading at the Dawson Community Library on August 14. The audience of a baker's dozen began to buzz as Sawyer described the 72 point type red headline reading "Berton House on shaky ground".

The article, followed soon by a CBC report, indicated that the Council was no longer providing a block funding grant to the project, that individual writers would have to apply for funding after their selection by the Berton House Committee, and that Sawyer himself had been turned down for funding for his residency, which then had to be made up out of committee funds.

Sawyer had not known the last two pieces of information and was justifiably angry to have found out in this way. He was in the mood to vent a bit as he greeted his audience on Tuesday night.

"Normally," he said, "I would presage any remarks I would make this evening with thanks to all of the sponsors who are responsible for bringing me to an event and often and many a time I have said in a library 'and my thanks go to the Canada Council for the Arts, which is the national foundation in Canada, for sponsoring the event that I am about to participate in.'

"The Canada Council for the Arts has elected to no longer provide a block funding grant to Berton House and in fact, declined to fund my residency here, so private donors mostly, through a fund raising dinner held back last November and the redoubtable efforts of Elsa Franklin, the Berton House administrator in Toronto, to raise funds from corporate and other sponsors, have made possible my being here tonight.

"But you do NOT have Mr. Harper's government to thank for it, and I draw that to your attention, because normally you would have the federal government to thank for it and you can bear this in mind, and give it whatever weight you

deem appropriate, when the next federal election comes which, in my book, can only be soon."

Sawyer is certain that it's no coincidence that the Canada Council waited until Pierre Berton had been dead for a while before making its decision.

"They wouldn't have had the balls to insult a national icon while he was alive," he told his audience.

Sawyer urged the group to write to their Member of Parliament and to the newly appointed Minister for Canadian Heritage, Josee Verner, telling her that this was her opportunity to start off on a positive note and do something to correct a mistake that had been made under her predecessor's tenure.

Fourteen Nations Arrive for World Gold Panning Event

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

The viewer might be forgiven for thinking that all gold panners look a bit alike. There was certainly a preponderance of jeans, vests, battered headgear and wind breakers as the assembled competitors from fourteen nations lined up and raised their flags outside the Dawson City Museum on Monday.

With no great flourish as all they were off down the street led by a couple of Mounties in Red Serge: west on Church Street; north on Front Street, past the business section and the S.S. Keno to the Visitor Information Centre; east on King Street, past Dawson's most historically preserved corner; and south to the Fourth Avenue venue of the 2007 World Goldpanning Competition.

Along the way it became clear that each of the nations - Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands, Japan, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain - has a little something different going



for their group. The Aussies periodically belted out verses of "Waltzing Matilda" while the Slovaks had a bristling chant that probably meant something like "we're the greatest".

There were variations in clothing as well, with some national costumes showing their colours. The Polish contingent were dressed as burgomeisters in long black

robes, and looked for all the world as if they were students heading off to Hogwarts.

The Spaniards were in costume as well, and marched to the music of the Spanish pipes, which have a different sound than their Celtic brethren.

At the venue it was all-stop, and then the flag bearers lined up along the north side of the venue, while the hundreds of others (closing in on 300 with two days of registration left to go) crowded into the bleachers next to the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre.

The event could not be launched without protocol being observed. Diamond Tooth Gertie sang "O Canada"; the official World Goldpanning flag was raised; the Hân Singers, led by Georgette McLeod welcomed everyone with "The Flag Song".

An international event merits speeches.

Member of Parliament Larry Bagnell spoke of the heart of the Klondike, which he held to be the gold in the hearts and veins of its people, and gave a brief account of the history of Dawson.

"I can guarantee," Bagnell said, "that all of you who have come for this competition will go home with gold, whether it's in medals or memories."

Minister of Tourism and Culture, Elaine Taylor, noted that Dawson is hosting this event for its fourth time and is the only Canadian town to have done so.

"That speaks volumes about the commitment of the people who reside in this community and the prevalence it plays in our economy and in the social fabric of our territory."

Jim Kenyon, Minister of Economic Development, welcomed the guests and greeted the Governor of Lapland, Hannle Pokka, who was part of the Finnish delegation. Kenyon's department controls the Community Development Fund which assisted in the purchase of material to create the venue for the competition.

Mayor John Steins, resplendent in the gold studded chain of office, welcomed everyone, pointed out the town's role in making this event happen, and invited the delegates to investigate Dawson to the full during the week.

"On behalf of the citizens of Dawson City I extend to you the warmest greetings and enthusiastically welcome you to the 2007 World Goldpanning Championships."

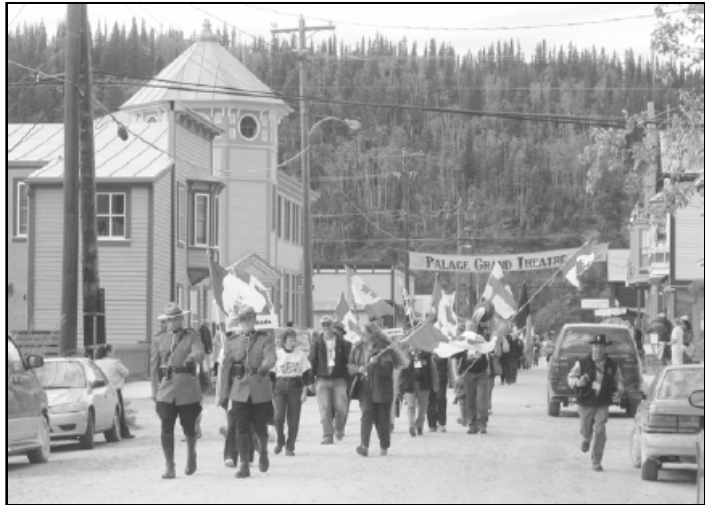
Klondike MLA Steve Nordick (Yukon Party) thanked the territorial government for its \$100,000 contribution to the event and warned the delegates that some of them might, as he did twenty years ago, find that they were unable to leave the place.

Ken Karlson, of the World Goldpanning Association, took the microphone to declare the event officially open.

"It's good to see you all again. I think of you as my family, so once a year I go somewhere in the world to meet my big, big family."

Brenda Caley, chair of the Klondike Goldpanning Championship Association, thanked all the members of the organizing committee and welcomed the guests.

"We are very proud of our gold mining history," Caley



said, "which extends from 1896 to our present day 21st century miners. They are still looking for gold on some of the claims that were staked 111 years ago."

Caley explained that one of the themes of the 2007 event was to highlight the gold pan itself, the tool so essential to the discovery of gold.

The Governor of Lapland, Hannle Pokka, gushed over the reception she has had since arriving.

"I have got already so many welcoming words that I really have to say some words also by myself."

Tankavaara, in Lapland, was last year's host for this competition and has now hosted it twice.

"You here in Dawson City have this honour four times so you are the veterans in organizing these games."

She noted that the climate, trees, landscape and even the mosquitoes were very similar to her native Finland and said she felt very much at home.

Finally, Svend Bergstrom presented Mayor Steins with a photograph of a Klondike nugget found on Claim 34 on Eldorado Creek in 1899. The weight of the original is 2.24 kilograms. The nugget currently resides in a the natural historical museum in Stockholm Sweden.

With that, the ceremonies ended and the delegates headed to the arena for refreshments.

There were two more days of registration to go, with a number of special events (gold field tours and a fashion show) to entertain the visitors, and opportunities to pan for gold on real gold bearing creeks.

"Father of the Yukon" celebrated with a plaque in Dawson City

Story & Photo
by Dan Davidson

Leroy Napoleon "Jack" McQuesten ((1836-1909) is memorialized in a number of ways in the Yukon, not the least of which is having a type of Canadian whiskey, Yukon Jack, named in his honour. There's also the McQuesten River and the McQuesten Mineral Belt.

And now there's a plaque in Dawson City, placed in



honour of the man who has been variously known as Father of the Yukon," "Yukon Jack," "Captain Jack," "Golden Rule McQuesten," and "Father of Alaska."

The plaque was created and paid for by members of Clan Uisdean, the American association dedicated to the McQuesten family in all its variant spellings: McCuistion, McCuiston, McQuesten, McQuestion, McQuesten, McQuistian, McQuistion, McQuiston, McChristian.

The ceremony began at the Mary Hanulik Garden on Front Street with Mayor John Steins proclaiming that August 11 was to be Jack McQuesten Day.

"We're very thrilled to have this occasion and our gratitude goes to Ed and Star Jones who were fundamental in organizing this event."

The Joneses, who wrote *All that Glitters*, the biography of Dawson's founder, Joe Ladue, inspired Jim McQuiston to write a biography of his famous ancestor, and also suggested to him that the boulder which bears the Ladue plaque had room for another beside it. The placement was fitting, since McQuesten, along with Arthur Harper and Al Mayo, had all been involved in mercantile settlement and mining activity all over the Yukon, but especially in the area between Fortymile and Mayo.

McQuiston said that the \$3500 needed to finance the plaque was raised in about month. It was decided that a contingent of McQuesten relatives, including Jack's grandson, Walter

Leroy Napoleon McQuesten lived most of his life on the frontier, and a lot of it involved in the search for the gold, living during what author George Fetherling has called the era of Gold Crusades. he acquired the nickname Jack during a stint as a sailor, and seemed to prefer it to his given names, for he answered to it for the rest of his life.

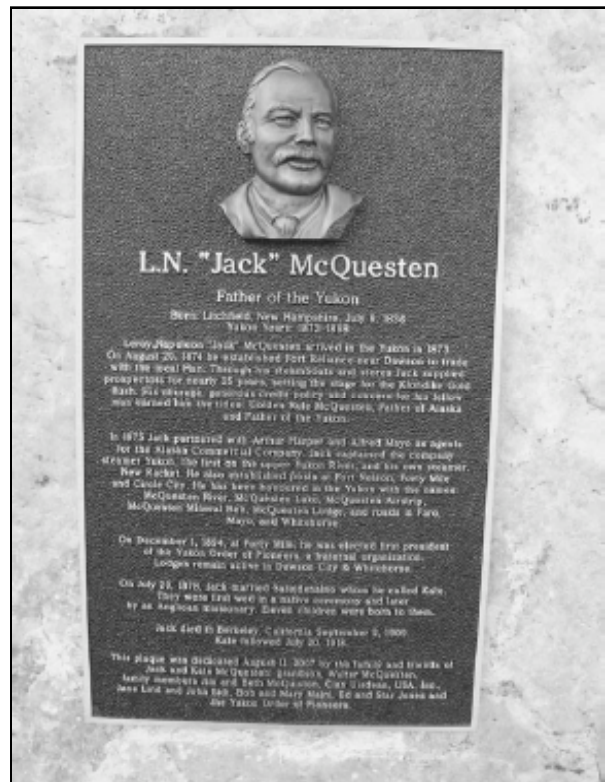
Jack and Al Mayo heard about the Yukon in 1871 and made there way there over the next two years, arriving at Fort Yukon. They met Harper at St. Michael's and began a lifelong friendship and occasional partnership that saw

them work for the Alaska Commercial Company and as independent traders. For the ACC they established Fort Reliance, which became the benchmark trading post for everything else up and down the Yukon River. Ladue joined them in 1882 and the four went on to provide grubstakes for most of the prospectors on the territory. They relocated their operations a number of times, following the action along the river and in other river valleys.

McQuiston read from a number of contemporary tributes to his famous relative, who seemed to have earned the trust and affection of most people with whom he dealt, whether they were white or first nations. In 1894, when the Yukon Order of Pioneers, with its motto of "do unto others as you would be done by" was formed at Forty Mile, McQuesten was elected its first president.

Like many northern traders, McQuesten took a native wife, Satejdenalno, known as Kate, but unlike many others he married her and they remained together even after they left the Yukon in 1897 to take up residence in Berkley California. In 1898 Jack built and ACC store in Dawson, the town founded by his old friend, Ladue, and was periodically seen there over the next couple of years. He died in 1909.

Anne Leckie, of the Mayo Historical Society, spoke of McQueston's role in establishing trade on the Stewart River during the smaller rush that predated the one in the Klondike.



Michael Gates, Cultural Integrity Specialist with Parks Canada, and author of *Gold at Fortymile Creek*, noted that “without the traders it would have been impossible to develop Yukon gold ...the traders were probably the most influential people in the valley at that time.” He cited several examples of McQueston’s even handedness in dealing with miners and how he encouraged exploration in the area.

Laura Mann, the new director of the Dawson City Museum, found it interesting that the majority of comments she had found about Jack celebrated, not his business successes (of which there were many), but his integrity.

“His largesse was legendary among the miners. They knew that, no matter what, they could be outfitted by Jack and his partners and the only payment that was required at the transaction was a handshake.”

Bruce Barrett, Historic Sites Specialist with YTG, spoke of McQueston’s contribution to the development of Forty Mile, an historic site which is being developed for interpretation under a 2006 agreement between the Government of the Yukon and the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in.

Jean Turner, Director of the Eagle Historical Society and Museum, was happy to pay tribute to “this indomitable fellow who just might be the reason we are all able to stand here in this place.

“If it hadn’t been for Jack, his foresight and generosity, Eagle might not exist along with many other communities along the Yukon ... this country was born out of the courage

some fifty people in a big fellowship circle and moment of silence in honour of the day and the event. The plaque ceremony was followed by a reception at the YOOP Hall.

Introducing the Yukon River Subdivision

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

Living right on the Yukon River probably isn’t the solution to Dawson’s transient worker housing crisis, but it’s been an innovative experiment for Ed Vos (the wall tent) and Beth Egnatoff (the cabin) for much of the summer of 2007.^o

Neither of these folk fall into the category of transient worker, exactly. Vos, a photographer, has been in and out of Dawson for years, and has produced a number thematic guy and gal calendars. Egnatoff, a trained opera singer, arrived here last summer and has spent a good deal of the last year substitute teaching, waiting tables and house sitting, as well as organizing choirs and giving voice lessons.

What these two have in common is that they both know Holly Haustein, who runs Slow Rush Tours and dabbles in a number of side projects, like making benches out of scrap wood ... and thinking up ways to live in harmony with the land.

Holly came up with the idea of small rafts and agreed to let Vos and Egnatoff use them for the summer if they helped to build them.



of this amazing man, truly the Father of the Yukon.”

Speaking for the Yukon Order of Pioneers, Bob Laking, president of the Dawson chapter, talked of the founding of the YOOP and of McQueston’s role in that event.

“The stated purposed of the organization were the mutual protection and benefit of its members, to unite the members in ties of brotherhood, the advancement of the great Yukon valley and to demonstrate that Yukon pioneers were men of truth, honour and integrity.

“One can only believe that the charter members felt that Jack best demonstrated those virtues set out in their motto and constitution.”

Walter McQuesten, Jack’s grandson, led the assembly of

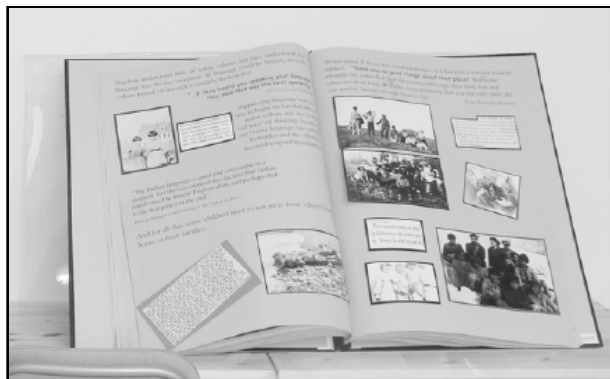
“Taking Care” was the theme of Local Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Summer Display

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

K’änächà means “taking care” in the Hän language, And taking care was just what a group of Dawson City residential school survivors had in mind when they started getting together in the late 1990s to talk over their experiences, event which, in many cases, they had never discussed with anyone.

In 2002 the group formalized its purpose and took the name K’änächà Support Circle and began to work on a project to set forth their experience.

Two things flowed from this gathering. One was the



“Tr’ëhuhch’in Năwtr’udăh’a, or Finding Our Way Home” ceremony held at the Dănojă Zho Cultural Centre in May. Part of that experience the part that has continued on through the summer, was the preparation of the scrapbook of the same name, which has been the local complement to the nationally focussed “Where Are the Children” display at the center during the summer.

Assembled in a scrapbook format for its initial appearance, the book is a mixture of photographs and memories relating the recollections of the haunted adults who were sent off to residential schools when they were younger, and who feel that this had a disastrous impact on their lives.

“I remember the day I left for residential schoolÓ is the heading on one of the wall posters with enlarged text from the scrapbook.

“As is well known,” says the text on the poster, “residential schools caused catastrophic damage to Aboriginal family life, culture and economy.”

The survivors’ memories speak how happy they had been as learners in their home communities, how golden were the days before they were sent away, and how little they understood of what was happening to them.

“This was back in 1954. We got out of the trucks and they lined us up in front of the school. And they said ‘this is your home for the next ten months. We are your parents. You listen to us and us only. You don;t talk to nobody else, you don’t talk to your ... any family members.’ I had a sister there and cousins there and I wasn’t allowed to talk to them.”

The scrapbook will eventually be published in a more durable form as a book, but for now it is on display at the centre, and manager Freda Roberts says that first nations people from all over the territory have made what amounts to a pilgrimage to Dawson to look at it.

Past displays at the centre have been collected in binder form and are available for viewing. These include Photographs of Winter Travel, Muth and Medium, Photographs of Richard Martin, Trapped Memories 1942-45 (the photographs of the Van Bibber brothers), Black City - Exploring the land through Oral History and Archeology,

In addition, there is a Hammerstone Gallery, which illustrates the history of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in people from pre-contact to the signing of the Land Claim.

Finally there is the contemporary dance production of “Luk T’ăga Năche” (“Salmon Girl Dreaming”) a retelling of a Hăn legend.

Salmon Girl ends Second Successful Season

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

“Luk T’ăga Năche” (“Salmon Girl Dreaming”) ended its 2007 run at the Dănojă Zho Cultural Centre on August 18 after what producer Glenda Bolt said was a successful season with good audiences.

The contemporary dance production is the brainchild of Michelle Olson, a Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in citizen who is known nationally for her work interpreting the stories of her people and of other first nations groups. Olson has been performing summers in Dawson and has staged two previous productions, Raven Restores the Sun to the Sky and Songs of Shăr Cho, on stages here.

She is the artistic director of Raven Spirit Dance company and this summer has worked with dancers Cara Siu and April Russell to put on the production.

The show has evolved somewhat over its initial incarnation. In the 2006 version there was a bit of a voice over introduction to explain the story of Florence, the young girl who falls into a trance, and in the dream world shares the life of a salmon, transforming and recapturing the memories of her grandmother’s stories.

This season audience members would have to read the synopsis on the program brochure to discover who Florence is and what the strange being inside the fish skeleton is up to. It seems to be stalking Florence, who in turn seems to be unconscious of the process and escapes what seems to be enslavement without even realizing it several times.

When they do connect though, it becomes clear that no danger is intended, and Florence’s delight as she takes on the attributes of the salmon is plain to be seen. The dance ends with a triumphant union of girl and salmon spirit.



Glenda Bolt, Cara Siu, Michelle Olson, Kelly O’Connor and April Russell enjoy some afternoon sunshine after their last performance of the season.

Artists From Northern Russia Visit Yukon

WHITEHORSE (August 21, 2007) - Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor is pleased to welcome to Yukon five artists from the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District in Northern Russia.

"The Yukon government works to foster the development of the arts at the local, national and international levels through a wide range of knowledge, experience and expertise that benefits all involved," Taylor said. "It gives me great pleasure to welcome these gifted artists to Yukon."

The artists are visiting Yukon as part of a cultural exchange organized through the Canada-Russia Northern Development Partnership Program (NORDEP). NORDEP is a program administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency.

While here, the artists will learn and share ideas about how to promote, market and exhibit arts and crafts to assist them with the development of the District Arts and Crafts Centre in Salekhard. The centre will be the primary location for the distribution and display of aboriginal arts and crafts in the region.

"I hope the experiences gained during their visit enable the artists to return home with a wealth of information to assist them in their endeavors," Taylor said.

The artists, along with a NORDEP representative and a translator, arrived in Whitehorse on August 11 and will return home on August 24.

Their itinerary includes a visit to the Sundog Retreat carving program, tours of Yukon artists' studios and a visit to the Yukon Artists @ Work gallery.

They are meeting with curators and art administrators and will attend workshops on marketing and promoting art. This includes a trip to Dawson City to experience the Riverside Arts Festival and Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, as well as a visit to the Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre in Teslin.

"We are excited about the study tour to Yukon," artist Sergey Luginin, Director of the District Arts and Crafts Centre in Salekhard, said.

"Northern territories the world over have much in common," he said. "I am sure that the knowledge and experience of our Yukon colleagues will be relevant within the Russian context. We hope that this visit will foster long term cooperation between Yamal and Yukon."

The public is invited to an event at the Arts Underground gallery on Main Street in Whitehorse on August 22 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The artists will deliver a slideshow and cultural talk on art work of the Yamal-Nenets region, as well as display traditional costumes.

Kulych takes men's golf title in Dawson

submitted

The annual Yukon Golf Championships were held in August at the Top of the World Golf Course in Dawson City. Landon Kulych gained top spot in the men's low gross event in an exciting playoff with Jeffery Hunter.

Kulych won on the second playoff hole. Both Hunter and Kulych posted identical combined scores of 163 over two rounds during the weekend event.

While most of the 46 golfers came up from Whitehorse, Dawson was well represented with 18 golfers participating in the Championships.

Irwin Gaw came in 3rd behind Kulych and Hunter with a combined score of 17, gaining top spot of the local golfers.

The championships rotate to different host spots throughout the territory and are organized through the Yukon Golf Association. The Top of the World Golf Course was in great shape, thanks to general manager John Kostelnik and course superintendent Charlie Bond.

The 46 golfers participating all enjoyed two rounds of warm sunny golf. The golfers from Whitehorse were happy to get away from there cool and wet summer and enjoy some of Dawson's warm temperatures and sunny days that were experienced over the weekend....

Dianna Trotter of Whitehorse took home the ladies championship event with a score of 194 while Joyce Mickey of Whitehorse won the low net category with a score of 148. (The men's low net went to Vaughn Francis of Whitehorse with a score of 142.

In the senior men's event, the low gross was claimed by Howard Firth of Whitehorse with a 166 score and low net was won by Chuck Barber of Dawson City with a score of 149.

The junior men's category was won by Riley Tobin of Whitehorse with a score of 182. With home course advantage, Kostelnik managed to sweep the super senior men's event with a score of 184 while Harry Kulych of Whitehorse won the low net category with a score of 154.

The senior ladies event was claimed by Evelyn Pasichnyk of Whitehorse with a score of 206 and low net was won by Sandy Olynik of Whitehorse with a score of 154.

The Yukon Golf Association and the participating golfers also express their appreciation to the many sponsors for their generosity over the two-day event during the awards ceremonies.

Story submitted by Gordon Zealand, president of the Yukon Golf Association.

Yukon turns Dawson golf course debt over to collectors

Last Updated: Thursday, August 23, 2007 | 12:30 PM CT
CBC News

The Yukon government confirmed this week it has turned over \$500,000 in debt from the owner of Dawson City's golf course to loan collectors.

The Top of the World Golf Course's debt is one of two major government loan files outstanding. Both loans came with a three-year amnesty period that expired two months ago, government finance and administration director Bill Curtis told CBC News.

"The Top of the World Golf Course, unfortunately, has not been able to make payments, and that's been turned over to our collection agent, Dana Naye Ventures," Curtis said

Wednesday.

"Meanwhile, the other account, Stewart Valley Enterprises — which operates the Bedrock Motel in Mayo — they've fulfilled their agreement and they're making payments as agreed."

Over the past three years, loan collectors from Dana Naye Ventures have forced other outstanding debtors to pay back a total exceeding \$1 million. However, Curtis said the government has not been able to get anything from the golf course in Dawson.

"I don't know what their cash flow has been. They've always claimed that it hasn't been sufficient," he said.

"But we've turned it over to Dana Naye Ventures, who will look at this very closely and will determine what their capability of repayment is before they make a recommendation to us."

Curtis said foreclosing on the golf course would be a last resort, but the collectors are serious about recouping the debt.

"It's a lot of money. It is, however, a great contribution to the community and we don't want to be in the business of operating a golf course," he said.

"I am hoping that a suitable settlement will be reached in the near future."

Reached in Dawson on Wednesday, Top of the World owner Bill Hakonson told CBC News, "It's none of your business," and refused to discuss the matter.

Anti-Lagoon Petition Delivered to Dawson town offices

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

The latest chapter in the Dawson secondary sewage lagoon saga was written when Jorn Meier and Marcia Jordan, organizers of a petition in opposition to the proposed location for the sewage lagoon, delivered their lists of signatures to city office and handed them to Mayor John Steins and city manager Paul Moore.

The petition was allowed under Section 155 of the Michal Act, where it states:

"If a petition for a referendum is received from a number of eligible petitioners equivalent to at least 25 per cent of the total number of electors of the municipality, or, if no list of electors has been prepared in the last three years, 15 per cent of the population of the municipality under section 6 of this Act, the council shall introduce a bylaw in accordance with the request of the petitioners within eight weeks after the presentation of the petition, and shall then submit the bylaw to a referendum within 90 days."

The organizers needed to get 199 signatures and believe they have at least 260.

The next step, said CAO Paul Moore, is for the town to review the signatures and see if the number is correct or if there are any challenges to be made to any of the names.

Voters in a municipal referendum are determined by Section 156 of the Act, where it states that anyone eligible to vote in a municipal election may vote, any taxpayer may vote, and a corporation which is a taxpayer may vote.

The petition was started in opposition to the territorial government's proposal to build an aerated sewage treatment lagoon on lots 1059 and 1058, between the Dome Road and the Klondike Highway, next to the town's ball and soccer fields and across the highway from the Tr'ondëk Subdivision.

One of the major objections is that the lagoon is upstream of the town's water supply, but Meier says one of his primary objections is that the City of Dawson was essentially forced to approve a development variance by the senior level of government in order to meet the deadline for a court hearing in June of 2006, mere weeks after the council had been elected.

Sewage lagoon locations had been a large topic of discussion during the 26 months of the trusteeship and, though the locations had been farther out of town, water quality concerns were still a paramount issue at the public meetings.

Mayor John Steins says he is convinced by the scientific reports that the aerated lagoon can be operated safely near to town, and is further convinced that the operations and maintenance projections make that location the one that the town can afford to run for a long time.

Meier says that might be, but he feels that the town's citizens did not get a proper opportunity to voice their democratic concerns about the location.

"One hand of the administration made the other hand sign and say this place goes there. Our main concern is to get the people of Dawson to vote, so if the lagoon goes there and we have troubles with it, well, it's our fault. We made the



Jorn Meier and Marcia Jordan hand the petition to Mayor John Steins.

decision. Or if we don't put it there then it's also our fault."

Steins felt that fault would have to lie with the previous administrations which did nothing to deal with the sewage issue for 25 years, and with the local apathy that let that happen.

"Because of that we are now in the position, as a municipality, where we have no control (over this project.)"

The thrust of the petition is to require the council to

rescind the zoning variance that it passed to allow the construction of the lagoon in that location, thus forcing the territorial government to chose another site.

Government studies indicate that other sites would cause residents' utility bills (\$1,200) , already twice that of other towns (Whitehorse - \$544), and due to be more (\$1,760) even with the cheapest alternative, to nearly double (between \$1,960 and \$2,600) in some cases.

A further concern is how the courts and the Federal Department of the Environment would react to any action which would delay the implementation of secondary sewage treatment.

One of the chief opponents of the proposed location has been the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, whose new residential subdivision is just across the road from the proposed lagoon location. Meier, the chief spokes person for the petition organizers, is a TH employee, but he maintains that this has nothing to do with his advocacy and that he is acting strictly as a private citizen.

"In the petition we have not given any position as to where we want it. We're acting as private citizens."

He says he will be content with whatever the outcome of a referendum might be, as long as there is one.

From the French Corner...

Il y a une aurore boréale toute neuve à Dawson!

La grande ouverture de l'école des arts visuels SOVA ouvre finalement ses portes vendredi le 17 août.

En effet c'est durant les festivités de la fin de semaine de «discovery days» que les visionnaires de SOVA ont choisi pour l'ouverture officielle de l'école.

C'est un week-end rempli d'activités à Dawson! Il y a plusieurs artistes en ville pour la 7ième édition du festival des arts qui a lieu sur les bords de la rive du fleuve Yukon. En plus, Dawson la capitale du précieux métal; (Or), abonde de gens qui viennent de partout à travers le monde pour assister au championnat mondial du fameux «goldpanning. »

C'est donc vendredi à 19:00 que tous, artistes, étudiants, dignitaires, touristes et dawsonites se rencontrèrent pour l'ouverture de l'école des arts visuels. Rappelons que l'école SOVA fut un projet qui a pu se réaliser par DCAS/KIAC (Dawson City Arts Society/Klondike Institute of Arts) avec la collaboration des Trondek Gwech'in ainsi que le Collège Yukon.

M. Eldo Enns représentant pour le Collège Yukon a introduits de nombreux dignitaires dont M. Darren Taylor chef des Trondek Gwech'in, M. Terry Wenienger président du Collège Yukon, Kyla Macarthur vice-présidente de DCAS/KIAC ainsi que M. Steve Nordick, député pour le Klondike qui ont fait des discours.

M. Dave Curtis, administrateur de la nouvelle école, m'indique lors de notre interview que ce fut un long projet et tellement de travail a été mis pour sa réalisation et ceci grâce à la participation de nombreux membres de notre communauté. Il m'avoue aussi que «Les citoyens de Dawson

peuvent être fiers de cette école et nous croyons que ce sera un succès et un atout pour tout le Yukon. C'est certainement une première pour une communauté yukonnaise et un exploit pour le collège Yukon» un thème qui fut répété par tous, ce soir.

Aujourd'hui est en fait une célébration car c'est le baptême de l'école. Son nom officiel est révélé par M. Edward Roberts représentant des Trondek Gwech'in: «Yuks», qui se traduit par Aurore Boréale. Le tout est suivi par une danse traditionnelle et une visite «portes ouvertes»de l'école.

Le programme que l'école offre servira de base pour les étudiants en arts visuels. En plus ces cours seront accrédités et transférables aux écoles à travers le Canada dont la fameuse Institue d'Arts «Emily Carr» ainsi que le Collège des Arts de l'Alberta, celui de l'Ontario et de la Nouvelle Écosse.



Pour les deux premières années, l'école accueillera 20 étudiants. Ils espèrent d'avoir une classe de plus à la troisième année dont un total de 40 étudiants. Lorsque je demande à M. Curtis quels sont les projets à long terme pour l'école, il me répond qu'éventuellement ils veulent que le programme soit complet c'est à dire de pouvoir offrir un Baccalauréat en arts visuels. Ceci est une proposition très intéressante en effet pour la petite communauté. Qui sait, peut-être Dawson deviendra à nouveau une capital, cette fois la capitale des arts et culture au Nord du 60ième parallèle...

Pour avoir d'amples renseignements sur les cours que l'école offre, vous pouvez contacter M. Curtis au info@kiacsova.ca ou visiter le site web: www.kiacsova.ca

Par Marielle Veilleux à Dawson.



Moose Flies on the Barkerville Road by Dan Davidson

**There just is no time.
as the moose fills my mind
in the haze on the Barkerville Road.**

**He's suddenly there
large as life, everywhere.
and I can't dodge while pulling this load.**

**I brake and I turn
hoping maybe he'll learn,
but his shoulder looms large as I slow**

**There's an almighty bump,
then a pause, then a thump,
as the moose hits first car, then our tow.**

**I pull to the side
to assess our ride
and behind the moose stands and is still.**

**Then we drive to Quesnel
and it walks off as well.
Of this drama we've both had our fill.**

