

# The Klondike Sun

September 12, 2007 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon



Ooooh - That CAN'T be us ...



YTG's answer to the  
Ambulance Crisis?

## Smells Like Team Spirit

### Blue Angels Clean Up at the Outhouse Race

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

The Great Klondike International Outhouse Race was in good form this year, with seven 5 person teams turning up at the starting line by Diamond Tooth Gerties for judging before the race began.

A racing outhouse is a biffy on wheels, with a throne for the fifth member of the team and a towing assembly out front where the other four provide the legwork to get the apparatus around the course.

It's not simply a race. The teams have to follow a course laid out for them on a map. At eight stops along the way they have to get something from each of eight businesses.

In addition, this year, there were 10 checkpoints where

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each team had to pick up a number to prove they had been there. This step was added this year after there were some complaints about shady practices during last year's race.

During the pre-race competition, between 1 and 2 p.m., the entries were judged for the quality of their decorated outhouses, and for the enthusiasm with which they acted out their theme. This included a bit of drama and some bawdy verse, though the idea of an outhouse limerick contest seems to have vanished.

The race began at 2 p.m. with the competitive teams quickly outstripping the others, and the card festooned Royal Flush entry showing early signs of what would be its last place finish.

On the other end of the speed race were the Blue Angels, a preppy group of heavenly bodies whose cheer, decoration and sheer speed brought them in a good ten minutes ahead of the next team and won them the prize, a gold painted toilet seat mounted on a plunger, and decorated with a flapping roll of toilet paper.

The A-team rolled in second, some 10 minutes later.

The judges decided that the best themed outhouse prize belonged to the Rescue Squad, a giant Pepto Bismol bottle which was perhaps inspired by the town's current lack of a volunteer ambulance crew.

The best cheer, an unprintable challenge to the world, was judged to belong to the Asgard Vikings, a multinational crew of barbarians in skins and tatters.

Other entries included the Full Montys, with a cheer adapted from the Python hit "I'm a lumberjack" and the World Goldpanning Sponsors team.

The race was a big public hit this year, with several hundred people gathered to see the fun, many of them tourists from out of town judging by the languages and accents that could be heard.



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## Mayor Steins Frustrated with Ambulance Impasse

by Dan Davidson

Dawson's city council is unhappy with the apparent lack of progress in resolving the town's lack of a volunteer ambulance service.

Mayor Steins reported to the September 6 meeting of council that he felt out of the loop as far as information on this topic was concerned.

At a recent dinner meeting in honour of the Governor of Lapland, Steins said he had broached the matter to the Minister of Economic Development, Jim Kenyon, and that Kenyon has assured him that something was in the works, but the frustrated mayor said he has seen no information to that effect and has not been kept informed if there is any progress.

Volunteer ambulance attendants in Dawson "signed off" duty at 10 a.m. on July 12, fed up with the government's lack of response to their request for reforms in the system under which they were working.

They cited the increase in calls (more than one a day) the lack of training support and the lack of equipment (they fundraised to supply the Automatic External Defibrillator, Propac and pulse oximeter that the station has) as aggravating factors, as well as the need for permanent staff and on-call pay here.

Dawson's council supported the latter of requests that the crew sent to the minister in the spring, but Steins has been told that it never reached his desk.

Dawson's crew followed the one in Watson Lake, which was the first to sign off. This is not, volunteers have indicated, a resignation, simply a refusal to "sign on" to carry the EMS radios until the situation has been resolved.

Steins suggested that his council might want to put a but more pressure on the government on this matter, especially since he had learned that one of the EMS personnel supposedly posted to Dawson full time in the interim had in fact been a volunteer person from Teslin.

He learned this from a former EMS volunteer whose daughter had been medivaced and had observed the on-call person in action. While this situation has since been corrected, Steins felt it was an indication that YTG was not providing the service that Dawson needed.

"Do you feel informed of change or progress from YTG," asked Councillor Diana Andrew.

"No," Steins said, without a moment's hesitation.

Councillor Ashley Doiron proposed that council write a letter urging the government to open the lines of communication, and to request that Minister Cathers meet with council on the issue. Andrew proposed that this become a resolution for the sake of administrative tracking.

## McQuiston's Quest led to the Yukon

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

Jim McQuiston has been hearing about his famous relative, Leroy Napoleon "Jack" McQuesten, for a long time, but it was only about a decade ago that he realized his Jack was connected to the adventure stories by Jack London that he had read as a child.

"I was fascinated by that work, but I didn't even know of a connection to Jack McQuesten at the time. Then one of the family relatives from another town came and brought what we call the McUisdean Book, which told me that Jack was actually the inspiration for one of London's short stories."

He also learned that Jack McQuesten was so far out on the frontier of America for all his life that he didn't even hear about the Civil War until it was over. That made him want to know more.

McQuiston's primary interest in those days was to research the Scottish and Irish roots of his clan, which is known by a variety of names and spellings (McCuistion, McCuiston, McQuesten, McQuestion, McQuesten, McQuistian, McQuistion, McQuiston, McChristian), but has been proven by DNA testing to be a group of individuals with a common ancestor.

In 1996 he began to put his findings on a website and very quickly found he was being contacted by others who were interested.

"There was Kate's family (Jack McQuesten's Athabaskan wife), a museum in Seattle that was creating a display on the Yukon gold rush, and another descendent of Jack's contacted me."

Among those who contacted him were Ed and Star Jones,



former Dawson residents who, at that time, were hard at work on *All that Glitters*, their biography of Joseph Ladue, McQuesten's long time Yukon business partner.

Like Ladue, "Captain Jack" McQuesten was one of the principal grubstakers for hundreds of Yukon goldminers, his efforts earning him the admiration of many of his contemporaries and the honorary titles of Father of the Yukon and Father of Alaska, as well as the signal honour of being the first president of the Yukon Order of Pioneers. Of particular significance to Jim was the fact that he was a friend of Jack London's, making the link to those stories clear at last.

"(Ed and Star) started feeding me stuff little by little, and I fed them what I had. Last year we decided that we were going to get a group of the McQuesten's - all the different spellings - together, and they would come and speak."

It was in advance of that meeting that the men in the family had their DNA tested to see who was related to whom, and were pleased to find themselves all related to each other.

The Joneses not only brought some Yukon memorabilia and an audiovisual presentation with them, but they also brought Jack's grandson, Walter McQuesten.

"This was extremely exciting," Jim said. Walter knew lots of stories.

"At the end of the meeting I asked them when they were going to write Jack's book. And they said, 'We're not, but if you write it, we'll give you all the help we possibly can.'"

Writing was not an entirely new thing for Jim. While he's now in catalog publishing, he'd been part owner of a couple of small town papers earlier in his life, had managed several later, and had written a couple of books about his family's history. He was sure he could do the job; he just didn't know if he should.

He was concerned that the McQuesten branch of the family wouldn't like the notion, but Walter assured him he would give him every bit of help that he could, so the project that would become the book *Captain Jack* (due for release in December 2007) was a go.

Jim says the book kind of wrote itself, like a puzzle that needed to be assembled, with the Joneses proofreading at every step, and Walter contributing as well.

There was one more thing, though. Late last winter Ed Jones called and suggested that there was room for a matching plaque on the boulders at the top of Mary Hanulik Gardens beside Ladue's plaque. The \$3500 needed to purchase the plaque was paid for with donations from Clan Uisdean, USA members; by Jim himself; by Jack's grandson, Walter McQuesten; by Yukon historians Ed and Star Jones, and their friends Jane Lind and John Eidt, and Bob and Mary Majni; and by the Yukon Order of Pioneers. It only took a month to raise the money.

"We, as a family, did not realize how seriously he was taken in the Yukon and Alaska. When you see something in your family book it's not the same as having it recorded in Jack London's writing, or in history books. like (William Oglivie's and Frederick Schwatka."

While in the Yukon Jim got the chance to travel to ruins of Fort Reliance, McQuesten's first fur trading post, visit

Eagle, Alaska, and experience some of the Yukon mystique that kept his ancestor enthralled for so long.

"I'm standing in the place Jack London wrote about and it's an uncanny feeling."

He left certain that his book was going to be stronger and better for his having had this experience.

## **Uffish Thoughts: Adventures in Security on Parliament Hill**

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

It's not as easy to get into the Parliament Buildings as it used to be. At least it's not as easy as I recall it being when I was about 12.

In those days, of course I didn't have to worry about parking a rental car after navigating the maze of one-way streets that make up the blocks around Parliament Hill. That made me wish I was driving something with Yukon plates and a bit of mud on it. In Vancouver they see that combination and cut you some slack. In a rented Taurus in Ottawa I was just another stranger to be cut off while making a turn.

After driving up and down and around and around in the parking garage for about 20 minutes, someone finally left a space I could fit into, and then all we had to worry about was finding our way back to it later, since the path to the street led to a maze of tunnels, an elevator and a shopping mall, all of which brought us out onto a different street than the one we had been driving on.

There's a big tent on the grounds of Parliament where you take a ticket and wait for the time that your particular tour (Center Block, East Block, West Block, Grounds Tour) might be ready to take you away. It doesn't cost a thing, but it's a bit like lining up for the latest Harry Potter movie.

We had time to walk over to the National Gallery on Sussex Drive, view most of the Renoir exhibit, and the Inuit sculptures, walk slowly back to the Hill (while getting sidetracked in a nice park that came to a dead end at the canal locks), and read two chapters of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* while waiting for an available guide.

Our group, led by a nice young lady from Newfoundland, then proceeded to a sub-level entrance and up to the security screening area. Yup - just like getting on a plane.

- Any electronic gadgets in that bag, sir?

Well, yes: a camera, Palm PDA (which contained the Agatha Christie novel), a folding keyboard for the Palm, and a cell phone.

- Would you please take them all out?

Okay - why not? Nothing to hide here after all. Just a tourist passing thr ...

- Where did you get that phone?

Uh-oh. In Dawson City. Is that a problem? (Visions of having to explain to Latitude Wireless what happened to their equipment.)

- No, it's just really neat and I wondered where you got it. Riiight.

Well at least they weren't checking shoes and belt buckles that day. Walking about on those hard floors in





stocking feet while holding up my pants would have been awkward.

Security was omi-present though not intrusive, but you could notice the guards taking a closer interest in you if you got too far behind the rest of the tour group.

We trekked to the Commons chamber, and then across the building to the Senate on the other side, taking note of the architectural features of the foyers in front of both. Many a stand-up interview and quick scrum has had these for a backdrop and it's interesting to place yourself in those very spots.

To me the most fascinating place on the main floor was the recently restored Parliamentary Library, and I could have happily spent more time in there - except that there was another tour group practically treading on our heels. The fact that we were a little slow in some spots had much to do with the pair of political history groupies who kept trying to come up with questions to stump our guide. They train them well. She didn't break a sweat.

I had never gone up to the Peace Tower before. My wife recalled stairs, but this time there was a dinky elevator, which held maybe six people at a time. The operator, a young woman who must have been tired of spending her whole working day in a windowless moving box, had retained her sense of humour, even that late in the day, though she did admit, with a deadpan delivery, that her job had its ups and downs.

From the windows of the tower there was a magnificent view of the grounds and tidy vista of the city that spread out around the Hill. They were dismantling the stages and supports that had been used to mount the Canada Day celebrations a couple of days before and, as far as I could tell, trucking the lot over to the grounds beside the War Museum to set up for the Blues Festival which was to follow.

The politicians may have been away for the summer, but the nation's capital was still a busy place. We enjoyed our stay there.

## Berton House under siege

By Lisa Passold

From <http://lisapasold.blogspot.com/>

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Back (in Paris) from Champagne to discover that Berton House, the wonderful writers' retreat where I spent last winter, has had its funding application rejected by the Canada Council. This means the retreat will have to raise its entire budget (about \$50,000.) through individual fundraising efforts—there's an annual fundraising dinner every November, so mark your calendars.

Until recently, the Council funded Berton House under a special grant program, but that's been cut. As of this year, each author needs to be individually funded by the Council. This makes for two problems—first, Berton House doesn't know from one season to the next what's happening with its funding, leading to the disaster we're currently looking at; and second, how can Berton House be an independent retreat, inviting the authors it feels most appropriate for Dawson City, when each author needs individual approval from the Council?



This is happening right when Prime Minister Harper is emphasizing the importance of the North for Canada (upping the military presence against international incursions, etc)—doesn't this include the North's phenomenal cultural & historical heritage? Will this unique Northern creation, the childhood home of Canadian extraordinaire, Pierre Berton, simply disappear? The current Berton writer-in-residence, Robert J. Sawyer, suggests that the newly-appointed Minister for Canadian Heritage Josee Verner take a stand on saving Berton House. A darn good idea.

## Celebrating Golden Words in the Klondike

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

One of the things that is perhaps not as appreciated in Dawson City as it ought to be is the degree to which the Klondike legend is dependent on the ink stained scribes who are commemorated along that stretch of 8th Avenue which is known either as Authors' Row or Writers' Block.

In recent years the Klondike Visitors Association has taken to honouring those writers by holding an afternoon devoted to literature during Discovery Week celebrations. The KVA has an interest in two of the sites, while the third is maintained by Parks Canada.

The first to come, of course, was Jack London, who spent a year in the Klondike at the height of the Gold Rush, achieving actual sourdough status by making it through a tough winter. Discouraged, London carved his name in the wall of his cabin, calling himself a "miner, author" and probably having no idea how far off base that self-deprecating pun was to become.



As interpreter Dawn Mitchell told the tale to a steadily growing group of literary fans during the first part of the afternoon, London wrote nothing while he was in the Klondike, but he soaked up the ambiance and the tales that would become his stock in trade when he headed Outside again, including the raw material that became *The Call of the Wild* in 1903 and *White Fang* in 1906, as well as many short stories and magazine pieces.

London became the first big name author of the 20th century, and would have been a millionaire if he had not been such a big spender. All of that started in the Klondike.

As part of the fun of the day Mitchell had her audience produce a progressive poem, the finished version of which will probably never see the light of day, but which was worth a chuckle.

The literati then moved on to Robert Service's Cabin, just up the road, where Johnny Nunan was waiting to perform a Service for them, Robert Service, that is. On this day, Johnny had to compete with a housing project down the street and a hyper-vocal raven in a tree across the street at Berton House but he managed.

Though there were people who swore that they had met



Robert Service on the Chilkoot Pass during the Gold Rush, the banker poet didn't make it to the Yukon until 1905 and to the Klondike in 1908. During the Gold Rush he was trying his hand at being a cowboy, tunnel digger, orange picker, sandwich maker, dish washer and tutor in a bordello in places as far away from the Yukon as Duncan, Seattle, San Francisco and San Diego, after which he spent two years on the hobo trail in the American southwest, making a living doing odd jobs.

He seems to have missed the gold fever of the period entirely, but mined a wealth of experience from everything else that he did, and when he settled back into banking it wasn't long before he began writing the poems that would make him the best paid poet of the 20th century, and his cabin Dawson's first tourist attraction.

Across the street was the eventual home of Laura Berton, a teacher with whom Service once shared a dance or two at social events before she married Frank, before she had children, one of whom grew up (and up and up) to be Pierre Berton. Berton the journalist kept an interest in the North long after his family moved to Victoria, and worked his way through college in the goldfields. Berton the historian and film maker wrote *Klondike*, a book he himself later called flawed, but which nevertheless was the seed from which forests of Northern scholarship have since sprouted.

Subsequent to that, he worked on the creation of *City of Gold*, a National Film Board production which changed the



way such films were made, and inspired the multimillion dollar federal investment which is now the Dawson Historic Complex and the bedrock of our tourism industry.

Berton, who became one of Canada's best known historians and media personalities, bought his family home in the 1980s and turned it over to the Yukon Arts Council, which partnered with the Klondike Visitors Association and the Dawson Community Library Board to establish the Berton House Writers Retreat program, now in its successful eleventh year.



As the crowd moved across 8th Avenue, it was welcomed by the current resident authors, science fiction writer Robert J. Sawyer, and his wife, poet Carolyn Clink. Sawyer took the group on a tour through the house, which is seldom open to the general public since it is being used as a residence, and then acted as master of ceremonies for the third leg of the literary journey.

He and Clink had already participated in the event by being the judges of the Authors on Eighth Writing Competition, selecting a winning short story and a winning poem from among the submissions.

Dawson's Helen Winton was the poetry winner, and she was present to read her clever and moving "Matti Goes Home".

Sawyer himself read from "Washed Out", by Whitehorse's Jessica Simon, whose cover letter proclaimed her a big fan of his novels, and who will be coming to Dawson in September to meet him personally.

The afternoon ended with sweets and juice on the Berton House lawn.

## **Dawson confronted by 'ominous threat': mayor**

By CHUCK TOBIN and DAN DAVIDSON  
Whitehorse Star. Sept. 7, 2007

Dawson City's reaction to the news that it might soon become home to Thane Moore, the convicted rapist from Prince Edward Island, has been swift and furious.

"Since I have been in office, I've never witnessed a reaction from the community as swift and vehement as today," Mayor John Steins wrote in his Mayor's Blog on Thursday afternoon.

"My e-mails are clogged up and the phone is ringing off the the hook. The message is loud and clear: 'Please do not allow this individual to relocate to Dawson!'"

The mayor said this morning it is very disturbing that someone classified as likely to violently re-offend should be sent to a small, isolated town with limited facilities for monitoring him.

The town has hired Whitehorse lawyer Lori Lavoie to immediately review the transcripts from Moore's court appearance Thursday to determine if there is any means of appealing the decision permitting Moore to relocate to Dawson, the mayor said.

A petition is being organized, he added.

"(It) will be part of an appeal to him directly suggesting that his presence in our community is not welcome.

"Dawson is a small town and it will be very difficult for him to disappear into the woodwork."

The petition will also go to the territorial government and the courts, he said.

Moore was convicted in 1993 and sentenced to 14 years in prison for raping and beating a woman who had given him a ride while he was hitchhiking. Twice during the attack, he choked the 21-year-old victim into unconsciousness, and left her for dead after stealing her car.

Evidence indicates he's done little to rehabilitate himself through available programs, and authorities have modelled him a danger to re-offend violently.

But he has served his full sentence, and will be a free man Sept. 16.

While there are no parole conditions, the federal Department of Justice did use a section of the Criminal Code to force conditions on Moore's release for one year.

The specific section used by the Crown allows the court to impose conditions where there is a fear the individual will commit a serious personal injury offence.

Under law, the order is good for one year, though the Crown can apply for an extension of a year if it still fears the individual is a threat.

Moore was in the Yukon in 2000 and 2001 on parole at the Salvation Army's halfway house, the Adult Resource Centre.

He was returned to prison after breaching his parole, and escaped in 2002 but was found a day later in Moncton.

The federal Crown's office asked the New Brunswick provincial court judge yesterday to prohibit Moore from relocating to Whitehorse because of threatening letters he'd sent from prison to individuals in Whitehorse who he met while here.

Moore had also written the premier complaining about the conduct of one of his parole supervisors, who has apparently rejected his advances.

In addition to not being allowed to be in Whitehorse, Moore is forbidden to contact the supervisors of the ARC Steins said a town meeting has been called for Monday



night to discuss the matter.

"I think the whole town will be coming out for that."

Steins said he contacted the office of Premier Dennis Fentie and Justice Minister Marian Horne for assistance, but has heard nothing.

Nor has he heard from Klondike MLA Steve Nordick of the Yukon Party.

Cabinet spokesman Albert Petersen said this morning neither the premier nor Horne will comment on the situation.

Nordick, however, told the Star this morning he has begun a lobby effort to prevent Moore from relocating to Dawson.

Moore is not wanted nor welcome in Dawson, and if he does arrive, will very quickly understand how unwelcome he is, the MLA said.

Nordick said a small northern community the size of Dawson is not an appropriate community to relocate such a violent offender, as it simply doesn't have the capacity to manage those types of individuals.

Sarah Winton, emphasizing she was not speaking on behalf of the Dawson City Women's Shelter, where she works, insisted this morning that Dawson does not have the proper resources to monitor such a person.

"I just think it is real scary that somebody like this may be in our midst."

Whitehorse RCMP Sgt. Roger Lockwood explained Thursday the Yukon's Public Notification Committee will be meeting soon to assess the Moore file, and determine if there is a potential threat. If they find he is, they can recommend to the RCMP whether a public notification is warranted of the offender's pending arrival, he explained.

Lockwood said there is obviously public concern, and anyone observing a violation or possible violation of his release conditions should contact the RCMP immediately.

The officer did note, however, there are other individuals in the community who on are various release conditions for various criminal offences.

The mayor of Dawson recognizes there is a time for what he called Christian charity, where offenders take steps to improve.

He recognizes Moore has rights.

But this is a case where it appears as if there was every indication that this person is not remorseful, nor did anything to take advantage of rehabilitation programs available to him, and the authorities themselves have tagged him at high risk to re-offend violently, Steins pointed out.

"So who in their right mind would welcome them into their community, regardless of the Charter of Rights?"

Steins said there is no question Dawson City was blindsided by the development Thursday.

There was absolutely no opportunity for the community to be heard at Moore's hearing, he pointed out.

He said somebody obviously didn't want him in Whitehorse, but one has to question why the entire Yukon wasn't placed off-limits.

It's not possible to live in the Yukon and not have the

ability to visit Whitehorse, since the communities and capital are so intertwined, for shopping, health care needs and so on, he said.

Stein said if there's a fear around allowing Moore to relocate to Whitehorse, letting him move to Dawson isn't any sort of solution, as the communities are just a stone's throw away from each other.

It's likely the provincial judge hearing the case didn't really appreciate the layout of the land and the dynamics of the Yukon, he suggested.

Stein said he hopes the fact that the City of Dawson was not consulted nor given the opportunity to be heard is enough to open the door to an appeal of the decision yesterday, where the town could then be heard.

Postings to the cityofdawson.com website indicate outrage that the territorial government has not protested this federal decision, and that Moore would be banned from the capital but not from Dawson.

Comments note that Dawson's streets are not all brightly lit and that the back alleys are pretty dark.

Steins concedes that it is hard for the community to do very much to prevent Moore, who has served his entire 14-year sentence, from coming to Dawson, but feels the courts ought to have been more savvy about the facts of life in the Yukon.

"Obviously, the court should have included the whole Yukon as being off-limits to him, rather than exposing our community to this ominous threat."

## The Great Puzzle Wall is Finally Revealed

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

The night the DCAS Puzzle Wall was unveiled was one of great excitement and odd miscalculations. It was a little hard to believe that the Dawson City Arts Society had underestimated the size of the crowd and failed to provide for a sound system to bolster the voice of executive director Gary Parker as he attempted to be heard above the white noise of the multiple conversations going on around him.

DCAS (and its program arm, the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture) does not, after all, make a practice of being modest in its assumptions or in aiming low





The evening's purpose was to reveal the final image of the enormous puzzle mural that was proposed as early as 1998 and has been growing on the north wall of the ballroom since shortly after the building opened in 1999.

The 8 foot by 12 foot jigsaw puzzle was originally intended to be a variation on the old fund raising thermometer theme, with each of the 400 pieces representing \$5,000 in funds raised for KIAC's numerous projects.

Ironically, the money got raised before the puzzle was anywhere near to completion, and it eventually became one of the longest running projects in DCAS history. The acquisition, renovation and commissioning of the new KIAC School of Visual Arts took less time than the puzzle did.

The four hundred pieces are in just about every artistic medium one might imagine: painting, carving, bronze, sculpture and photography. They embrace every sort of art style from realism, to abstraction, surrealism and on.

Individually, they are separate works of art, rendered according to the unique styles and skills of the many hands which created them. Together, especially if you step back a bit, they blend into an almost Norman Rockwellesque depiction of the DCAS dream.

After a flourish in which contest winner Vincent LeBlanc of Spruce Grove, Alberta (he guessed what the final product would look like), assisted DCAS president Greg Hakonson in removing the shroud over the mural, there were six final pieces to snap into place. Drafted to do the honours were Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber, MLA Steve Nordick (Yukon Party), Georgette McLeod (for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in), Terry Weninger (Yukon College), and DCAS members Greg Hakonson and Sharon Edmunds.

## World Goldpanning Proves to be a Dynamic Event

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

"We are BLUE  
We are WHITE  
We are Finnish Dy-no-MITE"

With that recurring chant the Finnish contingent swarmed the podium time after time at the closing ceremonies of the World Goldpanning Championship, often taking all three of the medal positions in any given heat of the four day event, bringing to mind a similar feat by the Czech team in 1996.

There were, however, enough plaudits to go around, and many other countries also had their winners. Indeed, the national competition the top marks went to the Netherlands, Great Britain and Slovakia.

Vincent Thurkettle, speaking for the World Goldpanning Association, has high praise for the 2007 event.

"Dawson is a magical place. When I was a boy, a long time ago, I knew the names Eldorado, Klondike, Yukon, Bonanza and Dawson City. There have been many gold rushes in the history of the world, but the most famous is

Dawson - the rush to the Yukon.

"I can tell you that I have seen almost nothing but smiling faces. I think the organizers are happy, the sponsors are happy and the gold panners are very happy. Particularly the British panners are very happy.

"On behalf of all the gold panners and prospectors of the world, I would thank the sponsors and the organizers and the good people of Dawson for hosting such a wonderful week."

Indeed, the Klondike was blessed with fine weather for late August and if it rained a bit most mornings, it was more of a drizzle than anything else and the days dried out to be hot and sunny by noon

Brenda Caley, chair of the the Klondike Goldpanning Association, made a special presentation to the three individuals responsible for bringing the first of four world championship events to Dawson back in 1984

In the early 1980s Dawson City's mayor of the day, Peter Jenkins, was approached by a Canadian Airlines official who told him of a world goldpanning competition that sounded like it ought to be held in Dawson.

"A bid package was quickly put together," Caley said, "and the 1984 championship was awarded to Dawson City. This was the first time it had ever been held outside of Europe.

"Today, as we bring the 2007 championship to a conclusion, we feel very fortunate to have hosted the fourth World Goldpanning competition in the Klondike."

SO saying, she invited Peter Jenkins, Kauko Launonen and Inkeri Syrjonen onto the stage to receive special recognition for having been instrumental in bringing this event to Dawson in the first place and continuing to support it over the years.

Kauko responded that he was very surprised to be receiving an award and said that it was very good to see all the panners every year, where ever the event was held.

"But I think the best place must be Dawson City," he said.

Former mayor Peter Jenkins said that awards really ought to go to all the volunteers who make the events what they are.

In a dig at his former cabinet colleague, Jenkins thanked Minister Archie Lang and his staff for finding the time to make all the little claim posts that were used at the banquet



to give out the door prizes.

Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber recalled a time in her youth when gold didn't seem such so important.

"When I was younger, gold was about \$35 an ounce and didn't seem to be a big deal to the locals. The odd old timer, and I mean that in every sense of the word, who still sluiced with a small rocker box and a shovel, were about town. But most had aged and sat on chairs out on the sidewalk in front of the local hotels or whatever shady spot they could find, to reminisce about the good old days, perhaps when Dawson was on its heyday.

"The Yukon Consolidated Gold Company's dredges clanged and banged along the Klondike Valley and they made gold bricks. That was all a young child needed to know about gold.

"We also knew that we had a tremendous history and that that was the very reason why the Klondike Visitors Association was born, to insure that the history was preserved and shared and, of course, done with style.

"Dawson City is my home town, and it has to be the number one capital of summer events. Every week or weekend during the summer months there's not just a local or Yukon event, but world class events such as the championship you've just experienced, and sometimes several in one weekend.

"When we say 'gold', especially in Dawson, we think of the precious metal, or wealth, but it also could mean excellent and important, as in 'gold standard'. Dawson always seem to meet and exceed that gold standard and that is due to the many volunteers and the organizers and the outstanding commitment to excellence.

"Thanks also to you for making this a huge success by travelling from distant parts of the globe and for being so enthusiastic. Dawson threw the party - and you came. The stories that you will now be able to share with friends and family, will add to the mystique of the Klondike and the search for gold will continue."

Top three contestants in each category:

National Team Competition - 16 nations competing to find 19 flakes of gold

1. Great Britain; 2. Slovakia; 3. Netherlands (Canada came 13th)



Proficient Women Panners - 30 contestants seeking 11 flakes

1. Ulla Kalandar-Karlson, Sweden; 2. Pirjo Muotkajarvi, Finland; 3. Daniela Muckova, Finland (Top Canadian - Noreen Sailer in 17th place)

Proficient Men Panners - 30 contestants seeking 9 flakes

All from Finland. 1. Veikko Karanen; 2. Antti Seppala; 3. Auvo Syrjala

Veterans Final Panners - 30 contestants seeking 12 flakes

1. Antti Seppala, Finland; 2. Johan Gronlund, Finland; 3. Stig Soderlund, Sweden (Top Canadian - Rod Walker in 24th place)

Traditional Panners - 30 contestants seeking 9 flakes

All from Finland. 1. Venla Karkola; 2. Anita Raisanen; 3. Jouko Korhonen

Children (11 and under) - 7 panners seeking 8 flakes

1. Ryely Love-Moore, Canada; 2. Baillie Walker, Canada; 3. Liam Thurkettle, Great Britain

Juniors (15-11) - 7 panners seeking 8 flakes

1. Jon Rossi, Finland; 2. Salvador Dominguez Durante, Spain; 3. Surprise Thulelo, South Africa.

Open Team - 30 teams seeking 16 flakes - no nationalities listed

1. Vakia Sanoa; 2. Gold and Adventure; 3. AÓhkypOÓhkoÓ

Couples - 30 couples seeking 10 flakes - no nationalities listed

1. Seppalat; 2. Anita and Teuvo; 3. Kuka

## Dawson Photographer Produces Sensual Calendar

by Dan Davidson

While his latest calendar project, Dawson City Girls 2008, is filled with images of scantily clad women, photographer Ed Vos says his work is about sensuality, not sex, and that the calendar is intended to promote Dawson in a positive way.



"It needs colour and character, now more than ever," he says. After having produced two previous calendars as fund raisers focusing on Dawson's women and one on its men, Vos is doing this one for himself, to make a bit of money and promote his own work.

Even so, the calendar has a theme and focus for him, as all his

calendars have had so far. The first two were fund raising efforts for causes, the first for the late Agata Franczak's initial run at the Yukon Quest and the second to promote awareness of fetal alcohol syndrome.

This one, shot against outdoor backdrops, is intended to focus attention on cancer in women, and on our treatment of the planet, two subjects which Vos feels have a connection that is often missed.

"I feel that the pink ribbon campaign is fine, it's great, but it's like closing the barn door after the horse is gone. We need to think about prevention. We spend so much money after the fact and so much effort, while we ourselves are literally being poisoned.

"I feel if I can draw some attention to that it gets people thinking."

In terms of his models for the shoot, Vos likes to showcase ordinary women, 65 of them altogether, ranging from 18 to 55 years of age.

"I'm trying to dispel the myth that only youth and thinness is beautiful."

The corporations have, he says, sucked us all into this false mindset when it comes to judging beauty.

"It might sound corny, but I really believe that a lot of success with the photo shoots has to do with the woman herself and her inner beauty. The inner beauty will definitely shine out if they're willing and happy and they feel good about themselves."

His experience with his models has been that many of them don't have a high degree of self-esteem. He says he's been told that the process, whereby he coaches, poses, and chats with them about their lives, has made them feel better about themselves.

"I get words like 'therapeutic' or 'calming', 'boosting self esteem' from them," Vos says.

For their time in front of his lens these amateur models get to keep the images that he has shot, so the calendar will also give the women something to show their children in their later years. Showing the new calendar around in the stores of Dawson he's heard a number of older middle aged women say rather wistfully that they used to look like that.

"But they have no pictures of it and they were saying how wonderful it is that some of these younger girls will have that."

The photos in the present calendar are not all from the current year. Vos has been taking photos for projects over a five year period, so some of these are new and some are older.

His calendar projects were put on hold when his long time partner and fiancée, Sherry, was stricken with cancer and eventually succumbed to it, dying just a few weeks before Agata Franczak, the female musher to whom this 2008 calendar is dedicated.



"Agata was a big reason why I moved up here. I met her in Whitehorse and she had this idea of doing a calendar as a fund raiser. I came up here and shot it, and fell in love with Dawson."

That was in 2003, with the first calendar coming out in 2004. Vos wrapped up his obligations down south - he was doing a lot of portrait photography and snow shoots in Banff - and moved to Dawson.

He now lives in a cabin/studio in West Dawson, a lot more in touch with the world now that Dawson has cell phone service. Much of the calendar was shot in the wild near his place.

There are 120 photos in the current calendar. Vos sees it as an art calendar, one that he designed and laid out himself to get the effect he wanted: useful, not cluttered, and beautiful.

There have been many comments ranging from risqué to classy, but Vos likes to think he has avoided being like so much of the "sexual crap" he has seen on the market.

"Sensual is fine. We are all sexual beings. It's part of us, and we shouldn't feel ashamed of it, as we are here in North America."

There will be another Boys calendar. The first one actually sold better than the Girls model and it's an easier project, he says.

“A beer before and a beer after and a manly pose in between and that’s basically it.”

## **Berton House Writer wins China’s top SF Award**

Press Release

photo by Carolyn Clink

CHENGDU, CHINA, 26 AUGUST 2007: Robert J. Sawyer of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, today won China’s top science-fiction award, the Galaxy Award, in the category “Most Popular Foreign Author of the Year.” The award, voted on by Chinese readers, was presented at the Chengdu International Science Fiction and Fantasy Festival, the largest science-fiction conference ever held in China. (The last international SF&F conference in China was held ten years ago, in 1997.)

Chinese translations of Sawyer’s novels are published by Science Fiction World, headquartered in Chengdu, and his short stories have appeared in Science Fiction World magazine, the world’s largest-circulation SF publication; Sawyer is also a past columnist for that magazine.

In his acceptance speech Sawyer said, “I come from Toronto, which was bidding against Beijing to hold the 2008 Olympics. In fact, I was on a committee to help decide arts and cultural programs that would be held in conjunction with the Olympics, should they be awarded to Toronto. And so I have to confess that I was sad when it was announced that China was getting the 2008 Games. But I forgive you now! I don’t know how many of my countrymen and countrywomen will bring home medals next year — but I feel like I’ve just won a Gold for Canada.”

Sawyer added, “Seriously, the great thing about science fiction is that it transcends national boundaries. It’s wonderful to be at a conference along with writers from the United States, England, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, New Zealand, and Canada. Science fiction really is the literature of Planet Earth.”

In addition to Chinese, Sawyer’s work is published in Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, and Spanish. He has previously won the top SF awards in Spain (a record-setting three times), Japan (three times), and France.

English-language honors for his work include the World Science Fiction Society’s Hugo Award for Best Novel of the Year (which he won in 2003 for *Hominids*); the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Nebula Award for Best Novel of the Year (which he won in 1996 for *The Terminal Experiment*); the John W. Campbell Memorial Award, the SF field’s top juried award, for Best Novel of the Year (which he won in 2006 for *Mindscan*); and a record-setting nine Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards (“*Auroras*”).

The Galaxy Award honors Sawyer’s entire oeuvre, rather than a specific book. The award was presented at a gala ceremony at the Chengdu Museum of Science and Technology.



Sawyer, 47, and his wife, poet Carolyn Clink, were on hand in Chengdu — the capital of Sichuan province — for the ceremony. Science-fiction writers David Brin, David Hill, Nancy Kress, and Michael Swanwick from the US and fantasy novelist Neil Gaiman from the UK also attended the conference.

Sawyer’s seventeenth novel, *Rollback*, has just been published in English by Tor Books, New York. In its starred review of *Rollback*, denoting a book of exceptional merit, *Library Journal* said, “Above all, the author’s characters bear their human strengths and weaknesses with dignity and poise. An elegantly told story; highly recommended.”

Sawyer also made an appearance at the Beijing International Book Fair later that week; he returned to Canada on September 3, 2007.

## **Launch of a new Yukon book by local artist Chris Caldwell**

Press Release

On September 15, 2007 artist Chris Caldwell will release her first self published book since *The Best of Bush Panic* cartoon anthology in 1980.

Based on the artist’s life experiences, *Scenic Adventures in the Yukon Territory* is a hard cover coffee table book filled with art accompanied by narrative text that reads like a letter between friends describing all aspects of day to day life in Canada’s North. From orienteering maps to fishing expeditions, work days to sports events, big game hunting to Gold Rush history, this book has a little something for every interest in 144 pages of humor and art illustrating the unique lives of Yukon residents in “graphic” detail.

*Scenic Adventures in the Yukon Territory* features a



# Scenic Adventures in the Yukon Territory



*A selection of paintings & illustrations by Yukon artist*

**Chris Caldwell**

*With personal anecdotes  
on subjects, experiences and inspirations*

**\$59.95 Hardcover**

multitude of paintings never before published along with a selection of Chris's well known poster art, some of which have been out of print for many years, plus numerous cartoons and graphics. This is the quintessential book for every Caldwell collector or outdoor enthusiast.

The launch of *Scenic Adventures in the Yukon Territory* will commence this Saturday, 9:00 am at Mac's Fireweed Books on Main St. in Whitehorse, with a simultaneous release in Dawson City at Maximilian's Gold Rush Emporium. Chris will be on hand at Mac's in Whitehorse to authorize books from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and again at 6:00 pm for the "late bloomers". However, quantities are limited.

In addition to the usual advertising mediums, a little surprise has been planned for visitors to and residents of the Whitehorse area on the Saturday of the book release. Here's hoping everyone enjoys the unusual wildlife viewing opportunity!

(DD Note – I've been looking forward to this since I did the proofreading of the galley sheets last spring. It's a great book.)

## Take a Walk and Look at all the Flowers 2007 Yard Awards

Have you driven, or better yet, walked around Dawson City in the summer? Please do that next year, as you may be the one chosen to judge which yards meet the criteria for the Chamber of Commerce Yard Awards. Every year we have

more beautiful yards that we can see by walking by peoples' homes, and we have the feeling that there are back or side yards that we can't see.

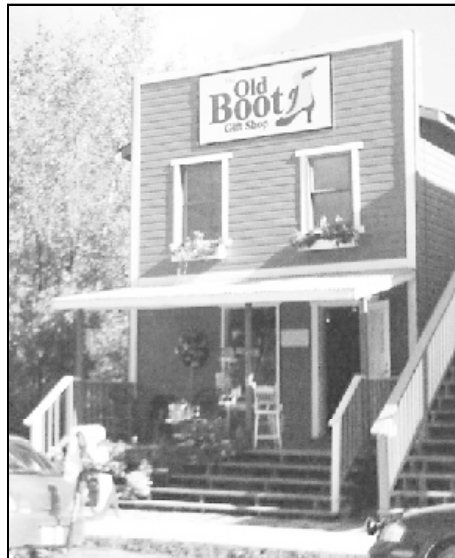
Then we have Brian MacDonald's flowers that he tends so lovingly all summer so that many of our businesses look so nice. Riley Brennan also spends her summers tending flowers to beautify our town.

With great difficulty, and using the criteria, the following are our winners. In our newsprint edition, the



actual names  
of the  
winners did  
not show up.  
So here they  
are for the  
first time.

Best  
Klondike  
Yard –  
Dianne  
McCready



Best Business  
– The Old  
Boot



Best  
Residential  
Yard – Dawn  
Dyce

# KEVIN'S MUD BOG PAGE

photos by Kevin Hastings

