

The Klondike Sun

November 21, 2007 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon



The Rink is Ready

By the time you read this you may have already been on skates

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

Despite a mild November (compared to last year's deep freeze), the Art and Margie Fry Arena is ready for skating, and people will probably have been on the ice already by the time this edition hits the newsstands.

This is unusual, as it has generally taken a long stretch of temperatures below -20 to get the natural ice to form and set properly. This November it has hardly been below -20, as opposed to last year when it hit -40 by mid-month.

Mayor John Steins is shown here with City Manager Paul Moore and Public Works Super Norm Carlson, along with Ryan Paolini and Dale Grey, who actually did the job of putting in the ice.

Carlson says that changes to the heating and ventilation systems have made it possible to create the ice surface in record time, just 10 days after construction was finished on the leveling, new boards and changes to the mechanical systems to improve the way the building works.

Dawson does have Safe Water says public works superintendent

Story & photo by Dan Davidson

While it is true that some traces of e-coli were found in one of Dawson's three active wells a month or so back, citizens do not need to be concerned that they had missed a boil water order or that this was an ongoing problem. There wasn't such an order and there isn't such a problem.

Dawson's superintendent of public works, Norm Carlson, began getting calls from concerned Dawsonites after a news story appeared in both the Whitehorse Star and the Klondike Sun in October. Carlson says he had no problems with the story, which was accurate, but that it seems to have stirred up some concerns.

"I guess people react to the word e-coli," he said in a recent interview.

"We chlorinate our water supply as is mandatory. Should

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there be anything in our water supply, the chlorine will destroy it. It's an added measure of safety."

The contamination in well PW3 was detected, and the well was taken out of service, disinfected and superchlorinated.

Carlson stresses that there are many possible sources of e-coli, a very common bacteria, and that it might have been from a sewer line blockage which was detected on Front Street and subsequently cleared out. But it might also have been run-off from dog droppings around the town or from wild animal sources.

Some years back the Yukon Medical Health officer of that day speculated that natural, non-human sources were the most likely origin of any e-coli. contamination to be found in the Yukon or Klondike rivers or along the banks.

"We are close - our wells are close - to the river here," Carlson said, "so we are a little more susceptible to any pollution that could come that way That study has never really been done."

Dawson's three wells are located beneath the commons area just inside the dike, over a distance of about 150 metres, beginning just about opposite the Commissioner's Residence.

Under the new territorial water quality requirements, Dawson will be doubling its sampling regime to a weekly schedule.

"We have to develop a wellhead protection bylaw and a wellhead emergency contingency plan, which we have to have as part of the new regulations. This is something new," said Carlson.

"It will become part of the official community plan."

The latest version of the OCP will be worked on by city council after the adoption of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, which was recently presented to council.

Carlson says the town will also be developing a fourth well, to act as a backup during times when one of the other three might be out of service. There is now an unused fourth well which is actually within the Yukon Energy Corporation compound. It has not been used for some years due to its proximity to possible sources of industrial contamination.

This well could be used in order to keep water circulating in the system if there were a winter emergency. Dawson's water is so cold at its point of origin that were it to stop

moving in the winter the underground pipes would soon be full of slush and ice. If that existing fourth well were ever used, then there would be a need for a boil water order, Carlson said.

The plan is to replace it with a new well and decommission it by filling it in.

In the meantime, well PW3 has been inspected and fresh samples have been analyzed by Gartner Lee Ltd. in Whitehorse. The well was back in service after November 5.

EMS Volunteers Pick up Radios Again

by Dan Davidson

No one plans to need emergency medical services, of course, but those in Dawson who might find themselves in that need can breathe a little easier since the first week in November, when some of the EMS volunteers in the Klondike quietly picked up their oversized radios and signed on for duty.

They'd signed off in July, following a protracted period of government inaction on complaints which they had raised about the way the service was being run, and suggestions they had made to improve it.

The Dawson volunteers were responding to the announcement made by YTG on October 24 which transferred control of the EMS program to the Protective Services Branch of the Dept. of Community Services.

It also promised to recruit full-time primary care paramedics for Watson Lake, Dawson City, set aside funding to train more PMCs, and deal with the thorny issue of on-call remuneration for volunteers when they sign on to carry radios for on-call services.

Speaking for the Dawson EMS group Mike Perry, who has been on the team for 7 years, and is the co-supervisor, said he and his colleagues signed on again as a show of good faith.

There are presently four EMS volunteers working in Dawson, plus the full time paramedic that was put in place to



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cover the situation here while the volunteers were withdrawing service. Perry has been told someone will be here in that capacity until the local crew has polished its skills, recruited some more people, and is ready to handle the job again.

After that, it hoped that the government will soon be hiring at least one full time person to be on site in Dawson.

“That was a big issue for us,” Perry said, adding that funding for training was the second key issue here.

“We haven’t had anything in writing yet but apparently we’re to have a PCP here until we’re ready to take over the reins.”

Later he understands that some \$60,000 is supposed to be put into funding training and paid time for those who wish to take it.

“There’s still a lot of ifs,” Perry said. “I want to make sure that we’re not left high and dry just because we decided to settle.”

He doesn’t want to hear anyone say that the problems are solved and the rest will be dealt with when someone in authority has time for it.

“That’s not an option.”

Promises have now been made by the government, and if those promises aren’t kept, the government now seems to understand that the EMS crews will, on principle, walk away from the job rather than having to face burnout and the sense that they aren’t doing as good a job as they could be doing with proper support.

“I hope that this is just the start of better things,” Perry said.

Former Premier Leads a Busy Life

Story & photo by Dan Davidson

Antony David John Penikett, hereinafter known as Tony, hasn’t quite got enough distance from his time in Yukon politics to produce the book that those who lived here through the period from 1978 to 1992, when he was a major player, have been waiting for.

“Someday I’m going to get back to the Yukon and do a book on Yukon politics, but it’ll take me awhile,” he said after his reading in Dawson on Wednesday evening. “It’s something I’ve been thinking about that I might want to do.”

There is a 2005 collection of essays and memories called *Breaking Trail* (Trafford, 2005) that might be seen as a prologue to that book.

Presently Penikett, who grew up in Dawson City and once worked at the Clinton Creek mine before entering politics, heads up Tony Penikett Negotiations Inc. in Vancouver and teaches a course each April as part of the Public Policy Program at Simon Fraser University.

“They’re very good to me. Because I travel so much they let me teach 8 hours a day for four weeks in April. It’s the last course the students take in the program.”

His business is largely involved with mediation and facilitation these days, though he does do a little negotiating.

“I have two negotiating files left. I negotiate for the Nunavut government on oil and gas devolution, and in Vancouver I negotiate for the Vancouver Symphony musicians, who are brilliant people getting wages below the poverty level.”

Aside from that he doesn’t actually do a lot of work in Vancouver, choosing to live there because it’s where his adult children reside. He travels a lot.

“This past year I’ve been the Middle East, Washington, D.C., the Eastern Arctic and frequently to Ottawa. In slightly longer period I’ve been to Latin America, Hungary and London.”

His latest book, *Reconciliation*, deals with his years observing the treaty making process in British Columbia.

Thinking about his Yukon experience with land claims, he chuckled.

“I’m enough of a writer to appreciate the delicious irony of having the final land claims agreement signed by people who fought it basically all the way for 20 years.

“It’s wonderful, maybe appropriate in a kind of novelistic way.”

Of the Yukon experience, which has often been cited as the most progressive in the country, he maintains a quiet pride.

“We kind of invented where self-government was going to go in the Yukon. We had no templates. We had nothing. No models. The fact that it’s had some problems in implementation doesn’t surprise me at all.

“The big challenge is whether the model is exportable to places where there are huge challenges like in Latin America or Australia.”

Penikett believes that there have been many positive changes since he left the territory, and said that he could see them coming even when he was living here.

“When my son went to school he didn’t have a single Yukon born teacher. By the time my daughters went to school, just seven years later, most of their teachers were Yukon born and a sizable number were first nations.”

In the past few months he’s found himself meeting more and more first nations success stories. In Washington he met a young Tahltan woman who had grown up in



Whitehorse and was finishing her Ph.D. at M.I.T.

"Recently, on a mediation I met two first nation physicians, one of whom was born in the Yukon. Then I met a Kaska chartered accountant who was working in London."

"Things can change," he said.

There is another book in the works, but he's reluctant to talk about it at this point.

"Not till I get it accepted and out the door, but it's on a totally different subject."

Uffish Thoughts: The Response - How Canada Recalls its War Dead

Story & photo by Dan Davidson

In the heat of an early July Ottawa afternoon it would have been easy not to think about Remembrance Day last summer, but the walk between the National Art Gallery and the Parliament Buildings took us past Confederation Square and past a monument that it's hard to miss.

The National War Memorial, sometimes known as The Response, was originally built between 1926 and 1939 to commemorate the 60,000 Canadians who died in the Great War.

In form it is a tall triumphal arch made of granite, topped by a winged figure in bronze. More bronze figures, soldiers in a variety of poses, along with horses and cannon, are shown moving through the middle of the arch, in response to the call to arms.

While it was originally inscribed with only the dates of World War I, two other sets of dates, 1939-1945 and 1950-1953, were added in 1982 to honour the fallen in the Second World War and the Korean War.

There was a further addition in May 2000, when the remains of an unidentified soldier were recovered from France and reburied in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This was done to commemorate the 116,000 service people who have died in action over the years.

The current government caused a bit of a stir last March when it proposed awarding the Victoria Cross to the Unknown Soldier. Veterans groups were opposed to the suggestion on the grounds that this award goes only to those who have shown unusual gallantry in the face of battle. In the case of the person in the tomb, it is necessarily impossible to know what he did.

The tomb and the memorial have become the focal point for national Remembrance Day celebrations over the years, as they were on Sunday in a ceremony which can still be viewed on CBC's website.

The memorial has not always been treated with such respect. On Canada Day 2006, a group of young men expressed their displeasure with the government, or perhaps simply their impaired state, by urinating on the tomb. Two teens apologized and were assigned community service. The older young man was charged with mischief. He claimed to be unable to recall what he had done, which probably says something about the condition he was in at the time.

There are supposed to be two guards at the memorial at all times since that event, but I didn't see any the day we were



there. Perhaps they are relying more on video surveillance these days.

There is a further memorial to our war dead in Ottawa, one not quite so obvious to the visitor. In the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings there is a special chamber housing the Books of Remembrance,

We are now adding names to the Seventh of these books, inscribed to the memory of those who have died in service since 1947. The other six commemorate World War I, World War II, Newfoundland, the Korean War, the South African War & Nile Expedition and the Merchant Navy. In it possible to look up names in these books on a Virtual War Memorial Website maintained by the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs.

In this year, when we do have soldiers in combat once again, it is good to recall the past, and hope for the future. Whether or not we agree with the reasoning behind the current mission in Afghanistan, we cannot deny that we have soldiers there risking their lives in a mission on which they have been sent by governments which we elected. We have to hope that this mission does not add too many more names to that seventh book.

Marching in Memory

Story & photos by Dan Davidson

The School's Remembrance ceremony always takes place on the last school days before the holiday. This year's event concluded with a march to Victory Gardens, to Dawson's own War Memorial Cenotaph.



Letter: Dylan's Farewell

Dear Friends,

It is with no small amount of sadness but with a great many very fond memories and wonderful friendships that I have had to bid good-bye to the Yukon. Like so many others, I came to the Yukon to work for just one summer and soon found myself unable to imagine living anywhere else. While the vast open spaces, untrammelled wilderness, and living connection to history were part of its appeal, the true draw for me was always the people I met in the Yukon, and the incredible sense of community and solidarity that I had never witnessed or experienced anywhere else in the world. The Yukon made me feel that anything was possible, and in the eight and half years that I lived there it proved to me that almost anything is, indeed, possible - provided that you are willing to work for it, that you have the support of dedicated friends, neighbours and colleagues, and that you are able to trust that yes, it can indeed be done.

The community in which I lived, Dawson City, is a

testament to this incredible spirit of possibility. A town of less than 1500 people, I found Dawson to be more vibrant and cosmopolitan than the major city from which I moved, and it has become even more so over the years. What other town of this size can boast three major arts festivals, three arts residency programs, an arts institute, a First Nation Cultural Centre, numerous art galleries, a fine arts school, and seemingly daily concerts, dance performances,

workshops, exhibitions, readings, artist talks, and other cultural events and activities? (Not to mention all of the other, non-arts related events and activities, from Discovery Days to the World Gold-Panning Championship to Community Feasts to international sporting events, to name but a few.) With all of this going on, it is no wonder that I was drawn to Dawson's amazing arts community, first as a volunteer at various Dawson City Arts Society events and then as a student of the Yukon College/Klondike Institute of Art & Culture's Arts for Employment program - a program that helped me to land a job with the Vancouver International Film Festival, and from there the opportunity to produce the Dawson City International Short Film Festival, and from there my greatest opportunity, challenge and achievement, working as the producer and artistic director of the Dawson City Music Festival.

I am incredibly proud of my involvement with this legendary event and of the work that I have been able to do on behalf of and in partnership with this incredible organization. Through the festival, I have met and worked with some of the most talented, dedicated and inspiring people I have ever come across, from artists to funders

to business people to board members to the hundreds of volunteers who have built and continue to sustain this amazing event. The Dawson City Music Festival was never just a job for me, and it is never just an event for those who put it on: It has always been and I am confident it will always continue to be a great opportunity for a community - of artists, of organizers, of volunteers, of sponsors and supporters, of neighbours and of music lovers - to come together to create something so improbable that it can only be magical. I will miss the festival and all who I met and worked with at the festival very, very much.

To all my friends in Dawson City and around the Yukon, thank-you for your trust, your support, your friendship, your love and all of the incredible experiences - good, bad and just plain messy - that we have shared together over the years. I know that I will see you all again soon.

Much love,
Dylan Griffith

Letter: Museum Thanks

Dear Editor:

The Dawson City Museum would like to thank all those who attended our 30th Annual Charity Auction. It was a warm and twinkly night filled with good food, fine drink and fast talkers! We were so pleased by the support that Dawson has for their museum, it was the best auction ever and we will endeavor to outdo ourselves again next year. You have warmed our hearts and it is our hope that you enjoyed the festivities as much as we did planning and hosting the event. Cheers to all involved.

The Museum would also like to invite one-and-all to our first ever Thursday Night Classic Movie Series! We will be throwing open the doors of the Museum Theatre to show fantastic black and white flicks from the era of movie-making sophistication and elegance. Nov. 15 was our first in the series with *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*. This up-coming Thursday the 22nd is the film noir, *Mildred Pierce* starring Joan Crawford, who won an Oscar for her role, and finally on the 29th, *Now, Voyager* with the impeccable Bette Davis. Come let us entertain you with the best and brightest of old Hollywood. Members are \$3 and non-members are \$5; concession is provided; all films start at 7:00 p.m.; please use the back entrance. See ya at the movies!

Carla Powell

Program Coordinator

Dawson City Museum & Historical Society

Taking a Step on the Journey toward Equality

story & photo by Dan Davidson

Dawson's bookstore, Maximilian's Goldrush Emporium has followed the lead of its Whitehorse parent store, Mac's Fireweed, and is offering parity pricing on books and magazines for the next month. Until January the lower \$US price on the cover is the one that Max's customers will be paying.

"They're pleased, They're saying it should have happened a long time ago," said manager Tammi Wallace of the



public's reaction to the promotion.

"It was never really understood by a lot of people why they were printed with US prices when we're a Canadian company."

Wallace says that the trend in the publishing industry that she's seeing is to stop putting two prices on the covers.

"This is because of the response that they're getting," she said.

Magazines, which have a much shorter lead time than books, are already beginning to appear with a single price, she said. She expects that paperbacks appearing in the new year will have made the same change.

"That's good, because it does make a big deal for people when they see the American price. You can't justify it."

The policy at Maximilian's will continue for one month.

Sailor in Snowshoes Translated to Italian



Fred Lincoln, president of the 88th "Blue Devil" Division Association, presents Mayor Ettore Romoli of Gorizia, Italy with a book "Sailor on Snowshoes" written by a former Member of the 88th. Dick North was among the soldiers who paraded to the ratification of the Italian peace treaty during WW 2. The book, translated into Italian, concerns North's following Jack London's trail in the Yukon and Alaska.

More on this story next issue.,

KIAC Artist displays Plastic Bag Art

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

UK based installation and performance artist Claudia Borgna recently wrapped up her stay as an Artist in Residence with the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture's McCauley House program with two site specific installations that were erected for viewing on November 8, 9 and 11.

Borgna works with natural and manufactured elements,



and her work in Dawson dovetails nicely with the Conservation Klondike Society's focus on the town's waste disposal problems.

Borgna likes to work with plastic bags.

Rush hour in Dawson City was installed at Kippenberger's Underground (next to the Bunkhouse) for viewing on Sunday, November 11. It appears to show a vast host of white blossoms swarming out of the imaginary subway station, but closer investigation shows them to be grocery bags on hundreds of sticks as if they were flowers.

The second, similar installation, called Pilgrimage to Perdition, was set up on the gravel bars at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike rivers for viewing on November 8 and 9.

Borgna says her art "entails the investigation of the 'evolution of landscape,' a process started and effected by modern life-styles and consumerism. The installations are the materialization of an ongoing observation and questioning of how the "plastic" and the natural realms interact with one another and thereby come to create new ephemeral orders.

Prior to setting up her two installations, Borgna posted the following on the KIAC website.

"I have found that residencies are the best means for me to produce better work and to continue my visual but also cultural and intellectual investigation. These are for me precious opportunities to keep the ongoing process of observation and questioning of how the "plastic" and the natural realms interact with one another and thereby come to create new ephemeral orders.

"In Dawson I am planning to exploit and take advantage of the great new space I am offered and to create a large outdoor installation with my main medium: plastic bags."

The work for her Dawson installations was created by standing 1,000 sticks in ice & affixing 1,000 plastic bags.

Some Confusion on the Dawson Waterfront

by Dan Davidson

Marc Johnston would like to get clarification of his status as regards the winter berthing of the Yukon Rose on a pad atop the dike.

Johnston has had the Yukon Rose berthed there for several years while he has been working on restoration of the boat. He informed council that he had been given permission to put the boat there by a previous town administration, though there is no paperwork to back this up.

While the pad is within the town boundaries and therefore subject to local bylaws, the property, which was developed as a parking pad for the MV Anna Maria some years back, is YTG land. Johnston is seeking permission from the territorial government to remain there and expects to be successful in that.

In terms of his relationship with the City of Dawson, Johnston maintained that he had never received any correspondence from the town, though he was aware that there seemed to be some dissatisfaction with the Rose being there.

He had been visited by the town's Bylaw Officer during the spring of 2007 and by the Community Development Officer and the Fire Chief this fall.

Some of the concerns which were expressed, he said after the meeting, seemed to have stemmed from the false impression reported to the town by some people that he was living on the boat while working on it. He says he was not doing this, though he was working odd hours during the long days of the summer, and might have been found on the boat at any time of the day or night.

In requesting clarification of the issue from the council, Johnston noted that the Dawson waterfront doesn't actually seem to have a zoning plan that says anything about boats.

Including the Yukon Rose, there are three boats currently stored above the dike, the others being the territorial government's George Black Ferry and Chief Isaac Inc.'s Luk Cho (formerly the Yukon Lou).

Johnston noted that these are likely to be joined by the Klondike Spirit, which will be under local ownership next season, as well as other possible vessels which might at to winter.

There is a need, he told council, to develop such a plan in advance of the actual need.

Council instructed CAO Paul Moore to write a letter to Johnston outlining what the city sees as the issues related to his boat.





Testimonials from Students Gr. 4-8 who participated in Preventative Circles in Robert Service School in Dawson City from 2006 - 2008:

- In Gr. 3, people were being mean to each other; like calling people names and physical bullying. Until we started Community Group Conferencing! When Gr. 4 started, we kept doing the conferencing and we have become great friends. We put up a name-calling chart and people are not calling each other names so much anymore!

Here are some of the ways this has helped me:

People aren't excluding each other

Everyone is learning to express their feelings

People are being kind and helping each other

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we do Journals. In our Journals we write about what we like and dislike that a person did. Then on Wednesday, we discuss what we liked and disliked with each other by throwing a ball of yarn to the one we want to tell what we liked and disliked.

Thanks to Community Group Conferencing we are good friends!

-This program has helped me because I have told my problems to the class. I can feel safe in school and I get more friends. P.S. It helps me to write better and think about my feelings.

- I think it makes us a way better class. We are all getting along much better. We are like a family. It's helping me a lot. I think we are getting along. It helped my friends a lot too. I think we need it to get a great class. Well at least better than we are now.

- This program has helped our class a lot there is less and less bullying. It also made our class happier. I really do thank you.

- This Community Group Conferencing has helped me because you get stuff out. Not just holding it in, because if you have it inside of you, you will get madder and madder.

- This program has helped me because nobody bullies me or does any kind of bad behavior to be. Just because of this program, nobody else gets bullied either. It's fun because people know what you like and what you don't like and

people know what not to do and what to do because you write it down.

- When I had a problem Community Group Conferencing helped me solve it, even just little problems. It really helped me with expressing my feelings. I can also express my mistakes without somebody laughing at me. It has helped my class get to know what another doesn't like and what they like.

- This program has helped me because when I was bullied it was solved. It has helped with exclusion, name calling and bullying. I like it because you can solve most of your problems. I like writing in our journals every Tues. Wed. Thurs. Ever since this program has been going on _____ put up a name calling chart of name calling, bullying and exclusion and we haven't got any of the marks except for 2.

This program is going very well.

I like it when we all sit together in a circle and ask for feedback and then use the ball of yarn to all be connected in the circle. I like that we write in our journal to say the right thing. I want to see this program go on.

- It helped me work out problems with my friends.

- I liked the activities and they gave me the tools to work out some fights I had with my friends.

- I learned how to work out problems with people.

- I really liked doing the group work. It has also inspired me to work out my own problems. Thanks.

- The group work helped for some problems. Others I had to improvise. Thank you.

- It helped because I had some problems and after the group work, it was okay.

- It helped me work out problems with my friends. It also made me realize that I was leaving people out.

- It was a chance for people to hear what everyone had to say.

- It helped me get through some fights that were going on.

- I thought it helped the class open up to everything that was bugging them. It let people comment on other people in a positive way.

I think it's making us a way better class. We are all getting along much better. We're like a family. It's helping me a lot. I think we are getting along. It helped my friends a lot too. I think we need it to get a great class. Well atleast better than we are now.

The 29th Annual Dawson Invitational Volleyball Tournament

Story by Helen Dewell

Photos by Sue Dragoman

The 29th Annual Dawson Invitational Volleyball Tournament was an incredible collection of athletes, coaches, spectators, volunteers & community members. It takes a community effort to support the needs generated by a collection of athletes & coaches arriving in Dawson City during the winter season.

Robert Service School administration & staff would like to thank all the coaches who accepted the invitation to come and play volleyball in our town. We would like to extend our thanks to the businesses who put on extra staff and extended their hours to insure a proper level of service for the visitors. A special heartfelt thanks goes out to the custodial staff for cheerfully maintaining the premises for the benefit of all involved.

Twenty-seven teams participated in the Grade 7/8 to Grade 11/12 categories: mixed, men's & women's. The Robert Service School student body hosted volleyball games from 7 am through to midnight & later on November 1 – 3rd. Dawson was humming with energy, enthusiasm and talent! The school gym was definitely the place to be for entertainment and for seasonal visits with friends and community members. The Alumni game provided a few grins for the students and an opportunity for the “old-timers” to strut their stuff. The Music Department hosted a dance and the volleyball players were given an opportunity to “cut the rug.”

Robert Service School, St. Elias, JV Clark, Del Van Gorder, FH Collins, Porter Creek Secondary & Vanier were all represented at the DIVT. RSS 8 Girls battled RSS 8 Boys in the final game. The RSS 8 boys' team won the division, congratulations!

Porter Creek Secondary School and Vanier were the finalists in all other divisions. The PCSS versus Vanier



rivalry was a splendid exhibition of volleyball talent. PCSS won the 9/10 girls, 9/10 boys, 11/12 girls & 11/12 boys' categories. We extend our compliments to all athletes for the talent and dedication they exhibited during the tournament.

Next year, for the 30th DIVT, we would like to invite every Yukon community to bring a team. The PE class in your school would be most welcome to participate in this rural tournament. See you next year & thanks for the great volleyball memories from the 29th Annual DIVT!



Waiting for the ice bridge ...

BEARS AND MORE SCARY BEARS

By Sylvia Sands Johnson

There's a problem and someone is not facing it. It's not like we're suffering from overpopulation in Rosswood, where garbage is on every street. But tell me why my

partner and I have had to eliminate the following: three strawberry beds (which were totally trampled by bears), and two mature black currant bushes. We tried to save our ONE fruit tree by hanging mothballs in it, and pouring human urine all around it. That worked for a while. But we forgot 4 small nearly ripe plums at the top of the tree. The bears came in and ripped down one-third of the plum tree. We sawed down the injured branch and tarred the worst wound.

The raspberries were spared because they happened to ripen around the same time as the wild raspberries, or blueberries, or whatever the bears were gorging on at the time. Plus we soaked the border of the raspberry beds with more saved human urine. The urine was supposed to indicate where OUR territory is to the bears. I got that idea from a woman who lived in Alaska and had trained the blacks and grizzlies to stay off HER territory. Reading, “Never Cry Wolf,” by our famous Canadian author, Farley Mowat, was also a contributing factor.

For the first time in FOURTEEN years, the bears have begun to get into our worm bins. I don't know how many bags of leaves we've put in the bins to cover any odour of garbage. These are Red Wiggler worms, whose one purpose it is, is to eat garbage. The soil they create is perfect humus for the garden. I actually had this cockeyed theory that somehow the worms were covering up the smell of garbage. So much for Sylvia's archaic theories. So we've had to

close off all garbage of any kind going to the thousands of worms, and put nails (pointed UP) around the tops of the bins, to deter the over-friendly bruins. Plus surround the bins with coils of wire, etc. And more of you-know-what.

A woman in Terrace tells me that she's had unwanted visitors too. She erred in leaving two bags of pears overnight on her deck. There was also a treadmill exercise machine nearby. At night, a bear came in, ate ALL the pears, then left his calling card, (a

huge mound, she said) right on the exercise machine. It seems that the pears inspired the bear to keep in shape.

And isn't it interesting that I saw a bear CUB in OCTOBER, doing it's monkey tricks in one of Parmenter's trees on the edge of their huge field in this small village?

I'd like to point out that the bears are everywhere in Rosswood, and since I fish every Fall in Kalum Lake, I'm in a position to give an honest report on the shortage of salmon spawning in the lake, which also includes many tributaries that should be loaded with fish. Where are the mother and father fish who are going to leave their dead behind to help feed a starving bear population? Where are the usual number of eagles and other birds?

The point I'm trying to make is that all the blame for the 'poor hungry bears' is being placed upon the main human populations of Terrace and Kitimat, etc. 'Attractants' are the problem. Too many unpicked fruit trees. Too much garbage left out. But no one is explaining to me why there is NOT ENOUGH natural food for a bear population where the food is supposed to be — in our natural forest, streams, and hills. No one is explaining the bear population explosion. All we're hearing is a bunch of sob-sisters not facing the fact that there are TOO MANY BEARS, and not enough food to fill their bellies before winter. Hellloooooo. Why don't we just let the bears take over the towns, and we'll move into the woods?

I have made a private, extensive survey. Here is one fact. Those people who are having the least problem with bears, have dogs, even more than one dog. Now doesn't that come as a surprise! However, there are millions of dogs in North America — and billions of cans of dogfood being fed to them every day. Maybe some of that "puppy-dog" money could be spent trying to save the millions of children who are dying of starvation. Mind you, I will admit that I'm in a somewhat 'sour grapes' mood, having lost

the last of five family dogs. The truth of the matter is that I eyeball other peoples' dogs and have almost reached the point of wanting to kidnap one. But my partner says, "No."

Another report has just come in, from a family trying to protect their livestock

from the predations of the monster bear. It seems that the bear has taken a liking to chicken food. The chickens are not even on the menu as they gawk, paralyzed, with fear, while the bear stuffs himself. This reminds me of one of the 'bad bears,' in the Yukon, that I personally saw wipe out an entire window with one paw, while the mother of the house where I was visiting for coffee, had to run past the window to rescue her baby girl in a back bedroom. The next day, the

bear went to the neighbours, and started to rip their bag of chicken food up, but fortunately, Peter wasn't working on the gold dredges that day, and

shot the bear. That was the rule of the Yukon. If there was a 'bad bear,' the word soon got passed along the moccasin telegraph line, and the bear was history. I know of one instance there, when a dredgemaster's wife actually shot at a nuisance bear right THROUGH a kitchen window. We were 12 families living in the middle of nowhere.

I'm hearing that another villager here lost eleven out of 12 chickens. I can't imagine how terrified the twelvth chicken was.

Would someone like to face the fact that we have too many bears for the amount of natural food we have in the woods? This is beginning to sound like a Hitchcock movie, but

I'm tired of people getting all the blame, while the nice little teddy bears go scott free. Whose department is responsible for what is happening — God's? Has anyone taken a serious bear population count recently? If so, we'd love to know the results.

Museum Auction Sets New Record

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

The 30th edition of the Dawson City Museum Auction on November 3 was "fabulously successful", in the words of director Laura Mann.

"We raised pretty much \$17,100.00 and change, which is a god couple of grand over last year's record breaking auction."

With 110 items on the auction block and another dozen set aside as a silent auction, guests of the museum were kept busy bidding of everything from a loaf or bread per month for a year to hand crafted pottery, airline tickets, art prints and photographs, income tax services, restaurant dinners and a subscription to the local paper.

Auctioneers Tim Gunter, Fred Osson, Nancy McCarthy and Marnie Bramadat were kept busy showing all this stuff off and taking the bids.

Downstairs pianist extraordinaire Dwayne Kelly tickled the recently tuned ivories on the museum piano and the group described as the Food Network on the program kept the goodies coming in the gift shop area.

"We had a good 90 to 100 people here, and the enthusiasm on the bidding was exciting. Everyone really wanted Jim William's plant stand - a stunning piece of furniture - and the bidding was quite fierce."

Things were so busy that the launching of the Museum's new website kind of got overlooked by a lot of people and Mann says they may have a different event to show that off.

The museum board is very thankful to all the people who both donated and bought things and Mann, who has been in the job for about six months now, is very pleased with her first big fund raising experience.

"It's a lot of work, but it's also a wonderful way for the community to come together and have a nice party in November."



Mann gave special thanks to the City of Dawson, which provided the actual costs of running the event.

"It does cost money to put on a fund raiser," Mann said, "but thanks to them, the money we raised is really the money we raised."

Remembrance Day: Hoping for a More Peaceful World

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

They had to add chairs to the Robert Service School gym for the Remembrance Day Service again this year. Even so, the walls were lined as usual for this event as the community gathered to pay homage to those who have served and those who have died in service over the last 140 years.

The assembly rose as the RCMP colour guard marched in, followed by the Rangers, Junior Rangers and members of the Legion.

The Robert Service School Choir led in the singing of "O Canada" and retired Archdeacon Ken Snider opened the gathering with a prayer.

The choir presented the anthem "Let there be Peace".

Legion members read "The Act of Remembrance" and the message from the Prime Minister.

Mayor John Steins spoke to the theme of Canada's place in a world currently in turmoil on several fronts.

"We Canadians are a non aggressive nation. We don't go into the world looking for trouble nor do we impose our will on others without just cause. Regretfully, not everyone respects the democratic social order of other nations in the same way...

"We Canadians are a tolerant nation. We invite a diversity of cultures to flourish and prosper in our great land. We answered the call to arms many times helping our allies defend the very freedoms and liberties that all Canadians enjoy today. This is why remembrance and respect for our fallen and our veterans is all the more poignant, because we sent our men and women into harms

way, not because of aggression on our part, but because our allies needed help with the necessary task of repelling the tyranny of madmen."

It was impossible, he said, for us to imagine the terrible circumstances in which our soldiers have had to serve in the past.

"Spared the agonies of war we must never forget the unspeakable sacrifice made by our Canadian Forces.

"Having reaped the fruits of these sacrifices, we now enjoy a comfortable and abundant life in this country."

Steins hoped we could look forward to a brighter future.

"Maybe the day will arrive when the remembrance of our heroes will be confined to a finite number knowing that no more will have to be killed to quell an ideological outrage or expansionist motives. Until that day comes, I for one will always be in deep gratitude for the life I have today thanks to the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made by our Armed Forces."

Betty Davidson recited "In Flanders Fields".

The indoor service concluded with the laying of wreaths



around the white cross at the front of the room, but the event continued at Victory Gardens, where the Rangers, Junior Rangers and Legion members gathered around the cenotaph between the German field artillery pieces in Victory Gardens.

The formal part of the day was followed by a reception at the Dänojä Zho Cultural Centre.

Why is the Extreme Measure of War Necessary?

A Remembrance Day address by
Mayor John Steins

Thank you for inviting me to speak today.

We Canadians are a non aggressive nation. We don't go into the world looking for trouble nor do we impose our will on others without just cause. Regretfully, not everyone respects the democratic social order of other nations in the same way. Look at the pages of history to read about individuals and groups who embraced ambitions and ideologies that were, and continue to be forced upon the world with terror, hatred and violence.

We Canadians are a tolerant nation. We invite a diversity of cultures to flourish and prosper in our great land. We answered the call to arms many times helping our allies defend the very freedoms and liberties that all Canadians enjoy today. This is why remembrance and respect for our fallen and our veterans is all the more poignant, because we sent our men and women into harms way, not because of aggression on our part but because our allies needed help with the necessary task of repelling the tyranny of madmen.

The circumstances and details of how existence must have been for our troops during the time of conflict can be hard to fathom. Many of us belong to a generation that has no first hand knowledge of how truly horrifying it was in the dark quagmire of the World War trenches or landing on a beach with fellow soldiers dropping dead and maimed all around;

like some surreal penny arcade shooting gallery. Spared the agonies of war we must never forget the unspeakable sacrifice made by our Canadian Forces.

Having reaped the fruits of these sacrifices, we now enjoy a comfortable and abundant life in this country.

One wonders why it is necessary that we have to take the extreme measure of having to pay with our lives to protect and preserve this existence? Why can't the rest of the world accept us and leave us, and others like us, well alone? Perhaps part of the answer to this seemingly naive question suggests that the world has become smaller. The repercussions of cause and effect are far more reaching and immediate then ever before, especially in the context of a technological world. Therefore the demands of leadership placed on us as a civilized and forward thinking nation have intensified.

Today this call for leadership is reflected by our involvement in Afghanistan where we again have to offer up the lives of our soldiers to repel another tyranny known as the Taliban.

Maybe the day will arrive when the remembrance of our heroes will be confined to a finite number knowing that no more will have to be killed to quell an ideological outrage or expansionist motives. Until that day comes, I for one will always be in deep gratitude for the life I have today thanks to the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made by our Armed Forces.

Thank you.

