

It ain't gold...
but it's close!



The Klondike Sun



AUTHORS ON EIGHTH
POETRY PAGE 14

\$2

3 JANUARY 2024

VOLUME 34 NO.17

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE KLONDIKE SINCE 1989

GOLF WEATHER



DAWSON CITY HELD ITS INAUGURAL ICE BOWL DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT LAST WEEKEND. SEE PAGE 4.



CRY ME A RIVER: ICE BRIDGE UNLIKELY THIS YEAR
SEE PAGE 3



NUN CHO GA WILL RETURN TO DAWSON AFTER IT HAS BEEN PROPERLY PRESERVED
SEE PAGE 7



RAVEN SAYS:
*Is it just me,
or are
the days
getting longer?*

WHAT'S ON IN DAWSON

TOWN COUNCIL

Council Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meeting

TBD

Council meetings have a standard starting time of 7:00 pm.

The meetings are aired live on Dawson City TV, Channel 12 and broadcast live on CFYT 106.9 FM.

UPCOMING AT KIAC

Cherrie Laurel (DCMF 2024 Songwriter in Residence) & Bird Feet Live Concert

January 12 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm
KIAC Ballroom

The Weather Station

Friday 2 February
KIAC Ballroom

The Ostara Project

Saturday 2 March
KIAC Ballroom

The Juliani Ensemble

Wednesday 6 March
KIAC Ballroom

Hoht'rey ède'a Concert Band Drop-In

Tuesdays 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
KIAC Ballroom

Handbuilding Pottery Drop-in

Tuesdays, 6-9pm KIAC Classroom

Screen Printing Drop-In

Wednesdays, 6-9pm
Free Open Studio Drop-In Saturdays,
1-4pm KIAC Dënäkär Zho Classroom

After-School Kids Painting Classes

Thursday 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Registration Free

Dawson City International Short Film Festival Selection Committee

Come help choose the films for the 2024 festival.

Mondays & Wednesdays @7:30 pm
KIAC Ballroom.

Dawson City International Short Film Film Festival

Final submission deadline January 8
Short films (30 min. or less) of all genres.
dawsonfilmfest.com/submit.html

For more info on KIAC events & programs, call 995 5005 or visit www.kiac.ca

TR'ONDĒK HWĒCH'IN

Elders Wellness Group
Mondays 1:30-3:30pm
Chief John Jonas Centre

Bannock Wednesdays

Wednesdays 2pm
K'ajit-in Zho

(S)HIVER WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL

February 2 - February 4
throughout Dawson

YUKON QUEST SLED DOG RACE

February 3 - February 8
Ends at Dawson City Checkpoint

PARKS AND RECREATION

Oldtimers Hockey Tournament

February 9 - 11
Art & Margaret Fry Arena

Women's Hockey Jamboree

March 1 - March 3
Art & Margaret Fry Arena

Figure Skating

Mondays and Wednesdays After
School Until late March
Cost \$150
Grades 1 and Up

Play Like a Girl Hockey

Tuesdays 3:30-5:30pm
Until end of March
Art & Margaret Fry Arena
For Girls from Grade 1 Up

Beginners Learn to Skate

Thursday 9 Nov-21 Dec
For Kindergarten and Grade 1
Cost \$70
Art & Margaret Fry Arena

Under 5 Open Gym

Saturdays & Sundays
RSS Gym 10am - 12pm FREE

Adult Drop-In Basketball

Mondays 7:30-9pm
RSS Gym FREE

Badminton & Pickleball

Mondays 6-7:30pm
RSS Gym
FREE Drop-in all ages.

Adult Volleyball

Thursdays 7:30-9pm
RSS Gym FREE

Adult Soccer

Tuesdays 8-9:30pm
Thursdays 9-10:30pm
RSS Gym
Drop-in FREE

Open Gym

Thursdays 6-7:30pm
RSS Gym FREE

Cricket Practice

Saturdays & Sundays
5-6:30pm RSS Gym
No experience necessary.



THE KLONDIKE SUN

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PRINTED BY THE YUKON NEWS
IN WHITEHORSE, YT

Societies Registration
34600-20
GST # 12531 0581 RT

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Klondike Sun is produced bi-weekly. It is published by The Literary Society of the Klondike, a non-profit organization. Letters to the editor, submissions and reports may be edited for brevity, clarity, good taste (as defined by community standards), racism, sexism, and legal considerations. We welcome submissions from our readership. However, it should be understood that the opinions expressed herein may not always reflect those of the publishers and producers of the Klondike Sun. Submissions should be directed to The Editor, Box 6040, Dawson City, YT, Y0B 1G0, e-mailed to editor@klondikesun.com or dropped off in the drop-box at our office in the Legion Hall, 1082, 3rd Avenue (back door in the back lane). They should be signed and preferably typed (double-spaced), or saved on a digital file. If you can give a phone number at which you can be reached, it would be helpful. Unsigned letters will not be printed. "Name withheld by request" is acceptable and will be printed, providing the writer identifies themselves to the Sun editorial staff. A Publishing Policy exists for more details.

NEXT ISSUE: 17 JANUARY 2024

DEADLINE FOR CONTENT: THURSDAY 11 JANUARY AT NOON

DEADLINE FOR ADS: FRIDAY 12 JANUARY AT NOON

For more information: Email: editor@klondikesun.com
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Founded in 1989, the Klondike Sun newspaper records the events and activities taking place in the community of Dawson City, Yukon, Canada and the surrounding Klondike Region.

CRY ME A RIVER ICE BRIDGE UNLIKELY THIS YEAR

By Danny Dowhal

The Yukon River remains open in front of Dawson City, and prospects for an ice road this winter are bleak.

Residents on the west side have created a trail across the Yukon upriver from town, reaching land at the Tr'ochëk heritage site, but the crossing is usable only by snowmobile, dog sled, or on foot.

Those coming from the West Dawson ferry landing can access the crossing from a trail that runs along the cliffs on the west side. Inhabitants of Sunnydale can do so from the Golf Course Road or Old Farm Road trail.

As the Klondike River has still not frozen over at the confluence and is flowing freely, those crossing the Yukon must also find a place to cross the Klondike

Currently, there is a path across the Klondike and up a steep bank just west of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in C4 Subdivision. A bush trail runs along the shore to this spot but there is an alternate route that runs along the frozen south edge of the Klondike, although this has been subject to sporadic overflow, as indeed

have other parts of the overall route at times.

On Sunday, a snowmobiler trying to take a shortcut across a freshly frozen section of the Klondike closer to the confluence went through the ice. The rider was unharmed, but his machine had to be winched to the shore.

No formal tender for construction of a 2024 ice road has been issued by the Yukon Government. The Department of Highways and Public Works created a special web page for the Dawson Ice Bridge, in December, which states:

"While we continue to monitor the conditions of the river, it is unlikely that an ice bridge will be open to the public in December 2023. We'll start to build the bridge when the conditions are favourable and safe."

Last month, a small group of Westies attempted to devise their own bridge solution. Using chainsaws, they cut off a section of ice estimated to be about 900 feet long and tried to spin it across the open lead, but the attempt was unsuccessful.



AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE IN DECEMBER TO WRANGLE A CUT SLAB OF ICE INTO PLACE AS A BRIDGE. PHOTO BY SEBASTIEN WEISSER.

VGCX VICTORIA GOLD CORP *xceptional xpploration
xcellence xpression xact
xtraordinary xperts xcel
xtra xperienced xecutives
xert xpplorer xhilarating*

Wishing you a prosperous 2024 from the Eagle Gold Mine

Victoria Gold Corp's Eagle Gold Mine is located northeast of Mayo, in the Dublin Gulch claims region. In full operations the mine will produce approx. 200,000 oz of gold annually and employ 350-400 workers. The mine is the largest gold mine in Yukon's history and a significant contributor to the Yukon economy.

For more information about the Eagle Gold Mine, visit: **VGCX.com**



THE KLONDIKE RIVER IS STILL FLOWING FREELY AT THE CONFLUENCE, FEEDING THE OPEN CHANNEL IN FRONT OF DAWSON CITY. PHOTO BY GABRIELA SGAGA.

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 2024 MOOSEHIDE GATHERING

By Chris Holt



Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has begun planning for the 2024 Moosehide gathering, which will take place from July 25th to July 28th this year. A call has been issued for volunteers to join the Moosehide Gathering Committee 2024. Any TH citizen 16 years of age or older is eligible to participate.

"Your input will be greatly appreciated as we prepare for this momentous and joyful gathering," Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government said on its Facebook page.

Committee members will be required to attend the first meeting, which will take place on January 11th at 5pm and the second meeting, which will take place on March 14th at 5pm. The remaining sessions will be determined as the schedule progresses, but are expected to be monthly.

Launched in 1993, Moosehide Gathering is a celebration of Hän traditions and culture, bringing together people from Canada and Alaska as well as international visitors. The three-day festival is open to everyone and held every second year at the heritage site of Moosehide village, which is 3 kilometers downriver from Dawson City. Attendees can enjoy live performances, dancing, drumming and singing, guest speakers, arts and craft, feasts and more.

Those eligible to and interested in joining the 2024 Moosehide Gathering Committee can download an application from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in website, or can contact events@trondek.ca for more information.

DAWSON HOLDS INAUGURAL ICE BOWL

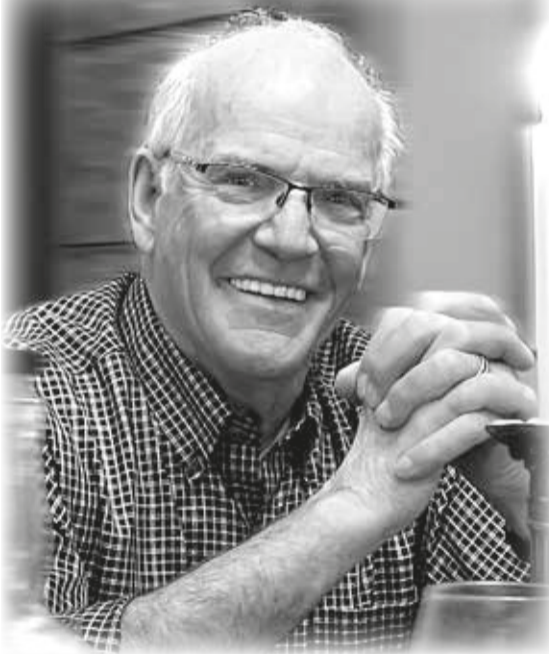
By Paul Robitaille

It was a fun, snowy day last Saturday up at the Crocus Bluff Disc Golf Course for the inaugural Dawson City Ice Bowl. We had 16 participants on a beautiful -15°C afternoon out on the course.

Simon Vincent had the round of the day with a -4, taking the mixed open championship. Ethan McDonald and Birch Gerberding battled it out for the youth crown with Ethan taking it. Both winners took home a practical trophy, which was a snow shovel.

Ice Bowls are sanctioned events with the goal of promoting disc golf as a fun year-round sport, and fundraise for a local charity. This event definitely aimed to do that as well. Nearly \$400 in cash was raised for the Dawson City Food Bank, as well as about 30 pounds of non-perishable goods.

A reminder that our course is the furthest northern disc golf course in Canada. If we can disc golf on December 30th, it's doable nearly anytime. The course is free to use for anyone, and discs are available at the first hole. It's a great way to get outside and stay active during events that we run, like this one, or on your own, when you have a spare 45 minutes.



DECEMBER 24, 1945 - NOVEMBER 14, 2023

BOYD JOHN GILLIS

It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the passing of Boyd John Gillis after a brief illness took him suddenly from us.

A truly wonderful man who was born in Campbellton, New Brunswick to a Scottish father, Boyd Sr., and French mother, Louise. Boyd had three sisters Rachel, Sandra and Michelle. He grew up on the family farm on the Restigouche River, straddling the New Brunswick/Quebec border.

In the winter, Boyd's family logged with horses, in the summer they managed 'Camp Harmony' a prestigious fishing lodge owned by elite Americans. He was a fishing guide by age 12 and could cast a fly 50 feet into the river with grace and ease.

Boyd had an adventurous spirit – at 18 he travelled west to Manitoba, where he worked as a diamond driller, then to the high Arctic drilling for oil, and then to Yellowknife drilling for Con Mines. During those years he became a well respected underground miner which brought him to Whitehorse in 1974 to work at Whitehorse Copper. He enrolled at Yukon College in 1978, graduated with his Heavy Duty Mechanics ticket, and went to work for Finning, which took him to Dawson City.

In 1984, he and his mechanic partner John Schmidt started Northern Kat, in Dawson. In 1988 they expanded, building a new commercial shop which became Northern Superior Ltd. While John moved on to other endeavours, Boyd continued to work until his retirement, building Northern Superior into an important and essential business that flourishes in the community to this day.

Boyd had a wide variety of interests and passions; he was an avid reader, innovative problem solver, and motorcyclist. He loved travelling, music, hiking, people and friends. He was authentic, honest, always helpful, a hard worker, and was able to laugh even when things were bad... he had the greatest laugh, it was his signature.

Boyd met his life partner Sharon on Dominion Creek in 1987. For 36 years Boyd and Sharon enjoyed a wonderful, adventurous, loving life together, sharing many good times with friends and family. Boyd was a generous person in all aspects of his life - he was real and he will be missed by many.

Boyd is survived by Sharon, his sister Sandra Sutherland, a niece, nephews, and their families in Ontario... and sister and brothers-in-law, and their families, in Victoria, BC.

A celebration of life is planned for a later date.

REALITY CHECK DOWNSIZES NEW DAWSON REC CENTRE PLANS

By Dan Davidson

The conclusion of slightly over half an hour's debate by Dawson's council on December 19 was the following resolution:

"That Council direct Staff to develop a work plan to redesign the proposed New City of Dawson Recreation Centre within a \$65 million Capital Budget."

This must mean that the replacement for the current ailing facility will not be the Cadillac version citizens had hoped to see,

This is the result of an admission by council that the two story facility that has been proposed during what Councilor Julia Spriggs characterized as the "dreaming phase" over the last nearly three years was not within the town's financial reach.

The need to replace the current Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre remains a reality, as the administration's briefing note details:

"The City of Dawson has been pursuing the construction of a new Recreation Centre for many years as the existing Recreation Centre, which contains an Ice Rink, a Curling Rink, and a concession area, has faced structural problems since its construction."

From the foundation issues to the roof envelope, the building has been a disappointment and a drain on the town's resources since within months after it was opened nearly two dozen years ago. There were construction issues that were never resolved.

On the other hand, the original form of the resolution proposed by the town's administration did go into more detail than the final form, calling for the required plan to support "an Ice Hockey Arena (replacing the existing structure); a 2 Lane Curling arena (replacing the existing structure); Concession Facilities (replacing the existing facilities); and Recreation programming space (if possible within the capital budget)."

Council members were reluctant even to go that far, given that the combined territorial and federal money committed to the project is \$65 million.

There is some urgency in deciding to move ahead within that budget, since: "This funding is dependent on Existing federal funding programs and there is some concern that the identified funding programs may change in the fall of 2024 with less focus on Recreational infrastructure."

"The current Class C estimate for the facility council would have liked



**“THERE IS SOME URGENCY
IN DECIDING TO MOVE AHEAD”**

to build is \$95.1 million, leaving the town to try to find an additional \$30 million for construction, a sum that seems to be unattainable.

Up to this point, planning for the new rec centre has involved picking a new location (a muddled process that ate up two years), and deciding what activities it should support, eliminating thoughts of a new pool, and adding some form of gymnasium space, to replace what has been lost by the reallocation of recreational space at the Robert Service School.

The administration's notes answer many of the questions that arise when looking at the current state of the project.

Why not just fix the existing centre? "The existing Rec Centre is failing structurally and poses a financial challenge as costs increase, an operational challenge as failure will result in a lack of service, and a safety challenge."

Why has the replacement cost jumped so much?

"It is frustrating that a great deal of work has been done to date on the current configuration. Prior to the recent escalation of construction costs it was reasonable to think that \$65 million in capital funding would build more than an arena and curling rink and it was a reasonable process to go through the consultation / design / costing process which identified the financial scale of the project."

Why is it essential to make a decision to go ahead with reducing the scale of the new rec centre at this time?

"Now, with cost estimates in hand, council and funders can make decisions based on what the desired product has included at this point. The reality of the funding programs dictates that additional capital will not be coming from the Yukon Government and the currently committed funding is at risk if the project does not go forward now."

As proposed, the new facility was going to cost substantially more to

run: \$1.5 million annually, up from the current \$1.2 million, which was likely to necessitate a tax increase.

It is worth noting that users outside the town's boundaries, either down the Klondike Valley or across the Yukon River, are not part of the town's tax base.

The new resolution will likely produce a plan similar to the Option A offered to council some months back. This plan merely replaced the existing rec centre facilities and added a gym.

The preferred plan was Option B, which added a second floor, with a fitness centre, running track, and curling lounge. Planning proceeded to develop this option.

Downsizing expectations "will result in a replacement of like infrastructure and is more likely to contain operating cost increases which will have a direct impact on the taxpayer."

The resolution, moved by Mayor Kendrick and seconded by Spriggs, passed by a recorded vote of 4 to 1, with Alexander Somerville and Brennan Lister supporting it. Patrik Pikálik, who was most disturbed that the town had been allowed to pursue its dream without being told very firmly what the potential limits were, voted against it.

AIOU: AI FIRMS OWE COMPENSATION TO CREATORS FOR USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

A Klondike Sun Editorial

Last week The New York Times announced it was suing OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement over the unauthorized use of published work to train artificial intelligence technologies. The lawsuit is on top of others already launched by fiction and non-fiction writers, including one last September by the Authors Guild, a U.S. trade group for writers, on behalf of 17 plaintiffs, including well known writers like John Grisham, George R.R. Martin, Jodi Picoult, Michael Connelly and Jonathan Franzen.

The authors' complaint is that AI products like ChatGPT used the content of copyrighted material without permission, and it will be interesting to see how this will ultimately play out in a case that will very likely end up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

OpenAI has countered that their ingestion of the material for training AI systems is not a direct reproduction of the original works but rather an extraction of patterns, themes, and linguistic structures. They argue that this transformative nature falls within the realm of fair use, a legal doctrine that permits the use of copyrighted material for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research.

AI advocates for the current practices also point out the practical challenges of obtaining explicit permission for the vast amount of data needed to train AI models effectively. The sheer scale of the datasets required makes it logistically difficult to seek individual permissions for each piece of content. This raises questions about the feasibility of obtaining comprehensive authorization without impeding the progress of AI research. But what they are really saying is that their unauthorized use of the material is so widespread it is more practical to do it without permission.

The NY Times's lawsuit, however, gets more to the heart of the matter, which is not about the ethics of the situation, but about the economics. "Defendants seek to free-ride on The Times's massive investment in its



journalism," their complaint says, accusing OpenAI and Microsoft of "using The Times's content without payment to create products that substitute for The Times and steal audiences away from it."

And there's the key point. AI-generated content has the potential to displace and potentially bankrupt those very creators whose work was used to enable the technology in the first place, including writers, illustrators, 3D modellers and animators. This seems inevitable to some degree. The question is whether there will be some sort of compensation for those that AI replaces.

AI-generated content is a genie that will not be stuffed back into the bottle. OpenAI is already valued at \$80 billion, and businesses everywhere are jumping on AI technology, real and imagined, in a big way that hasn't been seen since the internet's Dot Com bubble of the 1990s. But when the click of a mouse will generate thousands of words of coherent, albeit mundane, content (not to mention decent quality imagery) in a jiffy, for free or at low cost, hucksters, criminals, and unscrupulous entrepreneurs are inevitably all over it trying to get rich quick. That's on top of lazy consumers who have found a great way to cheat or cut corners. These types of individuals have seldom looked at the big picture or cared about the people who are harmed by their actions.

We as a society need to find middle ground in this debate that ensures that AI development aligns with ethical standards and respects intellectual property rights. Striking a balance between the need for diverse training data and the protection of copyright is a complex task that will require collaboration between AI developers, content creators, and policymakers.

One potential solution could be the establishment of clear guidelines and ethical frameworks for the use of copyrighted material in AI training. This could involve developing industry standards that outline responsible practices and ensure transparency about the sources of training data. It should also include a fund to compensate those whose intellectual property is being exploited by the technological firms, much like the Public Lending Right program that exists in over 30 countries around the globe, including Canada, to compensate authors for the use of their books by libraries.

NUN CHO GA WILL RETURN TO DAWSON AFTER IT HAS BEEN PROPERLY PRESERVED

by Dan Davidson



NUN CHO GA — THE BABY MAMMOTH. YUKON GOVERNMENT PHOTO



DEBBIE NAGANO IS TH'S DIRECTOR OF HERITAGE.

It is now quite clear why the territorial government did not want to have Dr. Grant Zuzula giving any solo interviews regarding the Baby Mammoth Mummy (Nun Cho Ga) during the first week in December.

They had something else planned, but didn't want to say what then.

The response to a request at that time was a blunt: "Dr. Zuzula won't be conducting further Nun Cho Ga-related interviews at this time."

So the invitation to media issued on December 14 for a press conference on the next day was a bit of a surprise.

"Media are invited to a second information session on upcoming plans for Nun Cho Ga, the mummified woolly mammoth calf discovered in the Klondike gold fields in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory in summer 2022.

"Jointly hosted by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Government of Yukon, the information session will include remarks from Debbie Nagano, Director of Heritage with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and Dr. Grant Zuzula of the Yukon government's palaeontology program."

At the press conference Zuzula and Nagano were definite about the joint decisions taken by YG and TH, that they would always speak together on this subject, thus underlining both TH's overriding interest in the find, and emphasizing the joint agreement about how it should be handled, which has been in place since shortly after the discovery by a placer mining outfit, Treadstone Mining, on National Indigenous Day, June 21, 2022.

The corpse was actually cut in half by the mining equipment slicing through permafrost layers on that day, but the operator quickly stopped when he realized what he was seeing, and the whole animal was carefully excavated by geologists from the Yukon Geological Survey and University of Calgary, who were quickly brought to the site, YG's Jeff Bond being one of the first to arrive.

At the December 15 press conference, Nagano and Zuzula repeated much of the background that had been covered during two days of workshops and information sharing in Dawson on December

4 and 5.

The first day was for TH citizens only. It produced an outline for further activity, grounded in the TH motto of Tr'ehude (Living in a good way), which outlined priorities for decision making, education for TH, and preservation of the mummy.

It was emphasized that there are no plans to put Nun Cho Ga on regular display or to use it as some sort of tourist attraction. It is thought this would not be respectful of the find.

On the second day about two dozen members of the general public were in attendance to hear presentations by Nagano, Zuzula, Jeff Bond (recently retired from the Yukon's Geological Survey), and Elizabeth Hall (Yukon's Assistant Palaeontologist)

As noted in the original YG press release in 2022, this discovery is considered very special by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and they intend that the mummified mammoth should remain in TH hands once it has been processed and preserved.

It is seen locally as having a special spiritual significance. As the late elder Peggy Kormendy said at the time: "This baby can heal us."

This was further indicated in a PowerPoint presentation on December 6:

"Nun Cho Ga is more than a scientific discovery. For Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Nun Cho Ga is an ancestor that symbolizes the reclamation of tradition and a bridge between the past and the present."

Named Nun Cho Ga (big baby animal) after consultation with the elders' council, it was determined that the baby was probably female, although that will only become certain after further study.

A special committee, composed of John Flynn, Kris Janus, Clara Van Bibber, Victor Henry, and Patty Sidney will guide the community in managing this and other such treasures in accordance with TH laws and traditions.

As Zuzula noted during the press conference, many such artifacts have been unearthed during mining activity over the last 125 years. Most of these have ended up residing elsewhere.

One of the higher profile finds in the territory was the mummified wolf pup that miners discovered in

2016. This tiny wolf pup was named "Zhùr", which means "wolf" in the Hän language, and is said to be from the ice age. It has been dated at 57,000 years BP (before the present time).

Nun Cho Ga was buried in a slide some 36,000 years ago BP and was preserved in the permafrost that overtook the area.

It is one of the most complete examples of a mammoth of this size, as most other samples are missing either the trunk or the tail or both.

Zuzula remains gobsmacked by this discovery and, as always, referred to it during the press conference as a "once in a lifetime dream come true" for himself.

Since its discovery, the body has been kept in a deep freeze, encased in a specially designed, insulated crate constructed by local carpenters shortly after it was found.

The immediate plan is to ship the body to the Canadian Conservation Institute where it will be treated by freeze drying, a process that Zuzula says could take weeks or months, given the size of the animal.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has applied to CCI to take on the preservation task, and things look positive, but it remains uncertain just when this will take place.

Nagano conceded that this find raises once again the issue of a permanent regional paleontological facility here in the Klondike.

"I think it will, and it has," she said. TH will have a new 27,000 foot square heritage complex to be built north of the present Steve Taylor Building after the defunct fish processing plant on Front Street is demolished this coming summer. This to happen by 2027.

Nagano said there is also a planned expansion of the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, and discussions have begun about finding a location out in the mining zones.

"We're starting to talk about it and to inform our citizens to see what they think about it also."

The subject has been raised by all territorial parties over the last several decades, but while strong hints were dropped during successive campaigns, nothing has ever happened.

YUKON UPDATES PLAN TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Edited From Yukon Government Press Release



The Yukon Government is doubling down in its fight against climate change with the addition of 42 new actions to its current strategy.

These new actions will be incorporated into the government's existing climate strategy, dubbed *Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy*, and implemented by 2030 according to YG. The initiatives focus on seven designated areas of climate action, including transportation, homes and buildings, energy, people and the environment, communities, innovation and leadership.

The stated goals of the government's *Our Clean Future* strategy are: reducing the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions; supporting Yukoners to access reliable, affordable and renewable energy; making sure the Yukon is adapting to climate change impacts; and supporting the transition to a green economy.

The 42 new actions added to the strategy were informed by The Yukon Climate Leadership Council's *Climate Shot 2030* report (released September 2022), which provided

advice on actions the government could take to further reduce the Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions; YG's climate risk assessment report, assessing climate risk and resilience in the Yukon (released September 2022), which outlines seven priority areas to address to support the Yukon in adapting to climate change; and the work of the Youth Panel on Climate Change, who shared youth perspectives to support the government's work on climate change.

As part of its announcement, the Yukon Government also shared its third annual progress report on climate action. The *Our Clean Future* 2022 annual report detailed the government's progress on its stated goals and targets, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing the actions outlined in its strategy.

The climate actions YG reported implementing in 2022, included: introducing a new Clean Energy Act to legislate the Yukon's greenhouse gas reduction targets; a new Better Buildings program to offer financing

for energy retrofits on Yukoners' homes and buildings; establishing a geohazard mapping program to understand the risks from climate change to the Yukon's transportation corridors; and progress on Community Wildfire Protection Plans for communities across the Yukon.

The 2022 annual report revealed areas for improvement, however. For example, the rolling average of electricity generated from renewable resources on the Yukon's main grid over the past 25 years is 95 per cent, while in 2022, 92 per cent of the grid's electricity was generated from renewable sources. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions, not including mining emissions, were one per cent above 2010 levels and four per cent above 2020 levels.

There was evidence that the strategy is working overall. Notably, under the Build a Green Economy section, per capita emissions for Yukoners reduced 13 per cent and per unit of GDP reduced 18 per cent from 2010 to 2021.

In 2023, further progress was cited on many actions. For example: the

Mining Intensity Target was set at 45 per cent intensity reduction by 2035; the Yukon surpassed 300 electric vehicles registered and 1,000 rebates issued for electric bikes; and electric vehicle chargers were completed in Ross River, Faro, Mendenhall, Beaver Creek, and Burwash Landing allowing for travel between all road-connected Yukon communities.

"Across the Yukon, there is incredible work being done by Yukon First Nations, municipalities, businesses, industry and Yukoners to address climate change," said Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources John Streicker. "It is critically important that we all take action now to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Through our collective action we can make the transitions to a green economy, adapt and build resilience. Together, we have an opportunity to reach our long-term goal of being net-zero by 2050 and leaving a cleaner, better future for all Yukoners."

Included in the 42 new actions were a variety of programs and initiatives. For example, the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources (EMR) has committed to research a green hydrogen fuel demonstration project with a construction start of 2027 and operating timeframe of 2029. EMR will also continue to support development of micro-generation capacity in collaboration with Yukon's public utilities.

For Yukoners still using fossil fuels for heating, there are some new programs on the horizon.

A program is already underway to incentivize fuel switching for buildings regardless of other retrofit upgrades. YG has also committed to create a funding program by 2025 for low-income Yukoners to switch from fossil fuels to smart electric heating systems.

A hydroelectric project on the upper Yukon River may also be in the cards, as the Department of Environment, in collaboration with Yukon Energy Corporation, will undertake a study by 2027 to improve understanding of groundwater in the Upper Yukon River Basin to inform decision-making related to hydro-electric generation.



TOMBSTONE BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL MARCH 6

In 2024, backcountry campsite reservations for Grizzly Lake, Divide Lake and Talus Lake campgrounds in Tombstone Territorial Park will be available starting March 6 at 9 am Yukon Standard Time.

The Yukon Government will be launching a new campground reservation service pilot project in 2024 and Tombstone Territorial Park backcountry reservations will be hosted on this new platform. The revised booking date for 2024 backcountry camping reservations provides additional time to transfer to the new system.

Backcountry reservations will be available at yukon.goingtocamp.com, where users will be prompted to use or create a MyYukon account and pay for their campsites upon booking. The operating season for these campgrounds will be from June 28 to September 8, 2024.

THREE NEW RECIPIENTS NAMED TO ORDER OF YUKON FOR 2023

Commissioner of Yukon Adeline Webber, in her capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Yukon, will present the Order of Yukon to three Yukoners on January 13.

The 2023 inductees have each "exhibited remarkable achievements in their pursuits and have made outstanding contributions to the social, arts, cultural or economic wellbeing of the Yukon and its residents."

Yann Herry has contributed to the development and promotion of the Yukon's Francophone history and heritage. His community involvement has been notable in various areas, such as education and international relations. His significant contribution to the vitality of the Franco-Yukon community serves as an inspiration for many.

Tim Koepke has dedicated over 50 years to the cultural, socio-economic and political development of the Yukon. He played a substantial role in land claims negotiations and remains

committed to raising awareness about the history and content of the agreements.

David Stockdale has been involved in promoting sports in the Yukon for over five decades. He played a key role in establishing the Sports Federation, now known as Sport Yukon and the Northern Games, now known as the Arctic Winter Games.

The three inductees were chosen from nominations submitted by the public to the Advisory Council.

"On behalf of all Yukoners, I congratulate Yann Herry, Tim Koepke and Dave Stockdale on their induction to the Order of Yukon," said Commissioner Webber. Their tireless work, exceptional contributions and countless hours of volunteerism have shaped the Yukon of today. Thank you to the members of the public who took the time to submit nominations for this award, and to the Advisory Council members for their work in selecting the inductees."

Inductees will receive their Order at the Commissioner's Levee on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse at 2 pm.

The Order of Yukon is the highest honour in the territory and is equivalent to similar national honours.

The Order of Yukon is awarded to individuals who have shown excellence and made significant contributions to the wellbeing of the Yukon and its residents in social, cultural or economic aspects.

FEDS FUNNEL FUNDING TO INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND 2SLGBTQIA+ GROUPS

The Government of Canada has announced almost a million dollars in support for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Yukon

Last week Brendan Hanley, Member of Parliament for Yukon, on behalf of the Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, announced over \$900,000 for two community organizations in Yukon.

The Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS) is receiving over \$400,000 for their Intergenerational Equality Planning project.

Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle is receiving \$500,000 for their Increasing the Capacity of Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle project.

The feds say the goal is to enable Indigenous women's and 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations to address the root causes of gender-

based violence and ensure that Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and their communities, can prosper now and in the future.

This announcement builds on the bilateral agreement between the Government of Canada and Yukon announced in October 2023 that supports the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

This funding is also aligned with Pillar 4 of the National Action Plan, which focused on implementing Indigenous-led approaches.

In November 2022, the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Forum of Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women launched the 10-year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.

The Plan is a framework for addressing gender-based violence. It includes five pillars: support for victims, survivors, and their families; prevention; a responsive justice system; implementing Indigenous-led approaches; and

Sun Strokes
NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE YUKON



social infrastructure and enabling environment.

This funding is part of the approximately \$601.3 million that the Government of Canada committed through Budget 2021 to increase efforts to end gender-based violence.

This announcement builds on previous Women and Gender Equality Canada funding of over \$13 million for more than 100 commemoration projects to help honour the lives and legacies of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

This funding is a part of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ People. The funding is also a contribution to Implementing Indigenous-led approaches, Pillar 4 of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.



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A LOOK BACK AT 2023



THE TREE WAS ALIGHT AND SO WAS THE SKY



THIS NUTCRACKER WAS ONE OF MANY LIGHTED DECORATIONS AT THE PARK



THE YOUTH FIDDLERS LIVENED UP THE SHELTER



SANTA AND FRIEND TAKING A BREAK

YULETIDE CELEBRATIONS

Minto Park was full of light and energy early on the evening of December 6, between 5 and 7:30 as the town gathered to see the lighting of the park's Christmas Tree, along with a short fireworks display put on by the Fire Department.

There was fiddle music inside the shelter by the youth fiddle group and later the St. Paul's Kid's Choir led in some carols outside.

Santa was on hand to skate round the outdoor rink with the kids, who could either get laced up or take a break in the warm-up tent.

Speaking of warming up, there was hot chili inside, along with coffee, hot water for tea, and a assortment of seasonal goodies to munch.

The place was crowded and busy for most of the two and half hours of the event, which was put on by the City of Dawson Recreation Department.

Story and Photos by Dan Davidson



KIDS SKATED WITH SANTA ON THE OUTDOOR RINK



THERE WERE CHILI SNACKS AND DRINKS FOR ALL THE FAMILIES

RSS XMAS CONCERT WAS THE SWEETEST HOLIDAY TREAT

Story and Photos by Dan Davidson



THE RSS FIDDLE CLUB PLAYS "COLD AND FROSTY MORNING" & "CAROL OF THE BELLS"

Robert Service School ended the fall semester with a busy Christmas production, "A Winter Wonderland", which was launched by this poem on the evening of December 19.

"Here in Dawson our winters are long
Tonight we celebrate them in song.
You'll see students having fun in the snow
So please sit back and enjoy the show."

This was a mixture of live performances by Kindergarten to Grade 7, with the high school students as stage crew.

There were additional pre-recorded video segments in between each musical number.

The videos, mostly of outdoor activities, were produced by the KEEP class, the acronym standing for the Klondike Experiential Education Program.

Totalling the live and video segments, there were about 18 items on the program for the evening.

Beginning with the Fiddle Club and Kindergarten, the program alternated between primary and intermediate grades until everyone assembled for the finale, a rewrite of the old standard composed by Felix Bernard and Richard Bernhard Smith, "Winter Wonderland", with new lyrics focussed on Dawson.

*Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?
On the Dike, snow is glistening.
A beautiful sight,
we're happy tonight.
Dawson is a winter wonderland.*

*Gone away is the robin;
here to stay is the raven.
He gurgles a song,
as we go along.
Dawson is winter wonderland*

*On the river we can build a snowman,
Then pretend that he's a circus clown.
We'll have lots of fun with mister snowman,
Until the other kiddies knock him down.*

*When it snows, ain't it thrillin'
Though your nose gets a chillin'?'
We'll frolic and play
the Dawson City way.
Dawson is a winter wonderland.*



KINDERGARTEN'S "LITTLE SNOWFLAKE/HOLIDAY ROCK" MEDLEY



GR. 1 PERFORMS "WHITE WINTER HYMNAL"



GR. 1 PERFORMS "WHITE WINTER HYMNAL"



GR. 7 SINGS "SANTA CLAUS IS BACK IN TOWN"

Sun Spots

Klondike Poems & Stories

THE WOODSMAN'S STEW

By Sienna Sabin

Mist oozed its way through the forest, tendrils of vapour touching the pine trees. Reflecting brightly with a braw clear sky and Moon, it softly flowed deeper and deeper, searching. Its tributaries retracting and meeting the main body.

The only sound, the gentle creaking of the nodding pines. A warm yellow light crept through the glade, highlighting branches with a weak glaze of gold. In the area within, a dark square space, a cabin. The mist vanished. A male voice called out to the night, 'Hello?'

The trees swayed as a cloud cloaked the Moon. Their creaking grew louder, until some popped, cracked and split, the heads of the surrounding pines landed with violence. The voice, alarmed shouted, only to be swallowed by the wind.

Then silence.

The Moon unveiled and cast a silver light beneath. A figure stood, but bent, it hobbled forward to the cabin and the man, whom paced about, trying to make sense of what had happened. The tree tops were staked to the ground, with their broken shard ends pointing arrows to the night sky, a wall of spears.

'Who's that? Who are you? I have a gun and my axe!'

The figure stood tall, cloaked in fluttering rags, a gentle voice, like spring water responded,

'Please I am looking for my home.'

'Young Lady, you must be lost, there's nothing here but my cabin.' The man's countenance was gruff but not uninviting.

'Lost, you say?' the young woman replied mournfully, her breath frosting in the air.

The man leaned his gun against the wall, and beckoned for her to come into his dwelling,

'Please be my guest, and stay this night.'

She looked about her, and stepped onto the cabin's deck. It groaned like the shrouds of a ship in a storm. The man frowned, he held himself as he stood in the doorway, 'Did you hear that?'

'What?' the woman voiced like a flute.

'Uh, nothing. But did you hear the trees crashing in the wind earlier?'

'That is what it was? I heard and followed the sound.'

'The trees . . . they broke, look around, look!'

In the weird light the silhouette of a tall phalanx. Her head turned about, taking in the tableau, the shards encircling them.

'Are you a woodsman?'

The man gave a rich coughing laugh that betrayed his smoking pipe tobacco, 'I am!'

'Then look upon them as a gift, the tops are dead and dry, enough wood for winter I'd say.'

The man warmed a little, 'I'm Gustav. You're right, it's a good thing. Come in.'

The young woman lifted her ragged skirts to step onto the deck. She hobbled in.

'It's so warm in here,' she announced with wonderment. The wood stove crackled, a pot simmered on top. Wolf pelts hung from the walls.

'Please take a chair,' Gustav offered.



They sat silently, the woman drew back her hair that framed her smooth face, she stared at the pelts. The pot bubbled.

Gustav broke the silence. 'Would you like stew?' he nervously asked.

She replied with a rasping voice, 'The wolves?'

'Ah, yes,' his chest puffed with pride, 'I set a gang trap, the leader stepped into one, then the pack panicked and ran into others. I got them all, the whole pack!'

'All of them?'

'Yes! Plenty of meat for stew, this winter. Pelts fetch good price in Town.' He beamed with idiot pride.

The beautiful furs hung from their eyeless heads. 'Without wolves, the forest dies,' she stated, refusing a bowl.

'Ha', an invalidating quip, 'Wolves are killers, they consume everything, land is better off without them.' Gustav's authoritative opinion did not impress the woman.

She asked the question, 'How did you come by this house in the middle of the forest?' She crossed her hands and pushed back her shoulders.

He smiled and confided, 'Why it's been a year ago now, authorities it is said, burned a woman, a hag, a witch. Burned at the stake in town! Land came up for lease earlier this year, price was lowered as everyone thought it cursed. So I, Gustav, bought it for only ten rubles, it was a steal. Everybody said I was brave to do so!' he revelled in himself.

'They burnt a woman alive? And you gained her home?'

Gustav looked uncomfortable as the epiphany struck him. 'But she was witch!' he defended.

The woman stood, her hair charged wild, rippling in the air of the cabin, it was as though the cabin

shifted.

'I am not lost', she declared.

'Oh? What do you mean, there is nowhere but here,' Gustav was fraught and confused.

'You must leave, I have come home', her voice was raven. Wolf shadows danced across the walls. Gustav was startled, 'You must be making joke?'

The wolves growled.

'Get out of my house!'

'I will not, I paid good rubles for this land and home. I invite you in to eat and shelter, now this outrage? You get out, go back to the forest and freeze,' he shouted with rancor.

The door swung wildly open, as the dwelling lurched from side to side and lifted. Gustav caught his balance. 'This is witchcraft! Upon my heart, I will die before you take this house!' he anxiously declared.

The woman bore her teeth and cried, 'Out!' A storm blew from her mouth as the house tipped forward. Gustav fell, his arms flailing for purchase in the air, he rolled over and over, and fell from the deck with a shriek of terror, then . . . silence.

The witch walked outside onto the deck. The house with its chicken legs, walking slowly forwards. The witch looked down at Gustav's motionless body, impaled beneath, a tree shard piercing his heart.

Baba Yaga sang to herself, she cleared the pelts from the wall. A pot of stew bubbled.

The house wandered through the dark forest, illuminated only by a lantern, made from a man's skull, suspended by a chain, it swung gently above the deck.

And so too, a wolf pack danced in its wake. An owl hooted.



AUTHORS ON EIGHTH

THE *AUTHORS ON EIGHTH WRITING CONTEST* IS A CELEBRATION OF WRITERS JACK LONDON, PIERRE BERTON, ROBERT SERVICE AND DICK NORTH. SUBMISSIONS ARE JUDGED BY A PANEL INCLUDING THE BERTON HOUSE WRITERS' RETREAT WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE AND A LOCAL JUDGE. PRIZES INCLUDE GOLD NUGGETS AND KLONDIKE BOOKS. THIS YEAR'S THEME WAS "FRAGRANCE."

SEASONS

By Jeffrey Mackey

2023 Authors on Eighth Poetry Submission

The wind
Going over on the ferry
On a summer night, it is 9pm
But not getting dark here
Running up the highway
Nostrils filled with dust
I can smell Fireweed
And the trees by the roadside
Though I cannot identify them
Only interrupted by the exhaust
Of an occasional passing truck

It is dry now
Though it has rained so much this year
When we sandbagged in the spring
The scent of mud and wet sand
The sweat of those working together
To aid their neighbours
Reinvigorated by hot coffee
Relief from,
The persistent damp
That follows you everywhere

I learned a new skill this summer
Made a medicine bag down in Vancouver
Mint and sweetgrass
So close to the ocean
The air was different
The medicine bag will remind me
Of my time there
Scent evokes the strongest memories
Changing times and changing seasons

Soon running up the highway
Will smell like winter
Fresh snow and dropping temperatures
And the reassuring wood smoke.

ALL THAT IS NOT EVERGREEN

By Rachel Arnold

2023 Authors on Eighth Poetry Submission

The true scent of spring
Is not that of flowers
And unfurling leaves on trees
But more so
The return of scent at all

Spring is every season
All at once
The middle ground
A dress rehearsal for the birds

All that the snow had blanketed
Now revealed
The warm dirt, the bugs
Fallen leaves from an autumn
That had become a distant memory

New streams
Created during the big thaw
The fragrance that lingers
Is all of the new beginnings
The end of hibernation

Spring begins in sepia tone
Waterlogged, threatening floods, fireplaces still ablaze
Crisp air still makes your nose run
Take it all in, for it will be gone by next week

Only when we have welcomed back
The dry earth under our feet
Do the petals and blossoms come out to play
And set the scene for a long summer

COURSE NO.5

By Jake Risk

2023 Authors on Eighth Poetry Submission

Sweating up a sloping hill
watching my footing and gasping for air
knee high grass and leaning pines
up came a clearing somehow bare
I checked around to read the signs
claw-marked trees and scat covered ground
not a whisper, not a sound
but overwhelming stench abound
I called out, turned, and walked back down



[BOOKENDS]

HOW TO LIVE A VERY LONG LIFE

by Dan Davidson

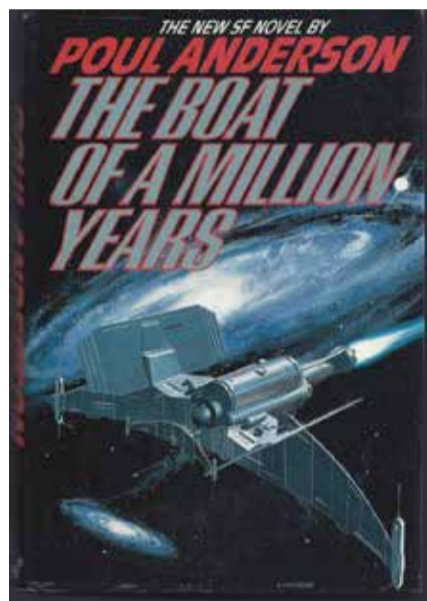
THE BOAT OF A MILLION YEARS

BY POUL ANDERSON

iBooks edition

\$3.00 from BookBub

Orbit Books, 554 pages, \$14.24



Poul Anderson is best known to me as a science fiction writer, with his own extensive future history series. I have 17 of his books on my shelves and they are mostly SF, though some dip into a sort of hard edged fantasy. I was aware that he and his wife, Karen, wrote a number of historical novels, but I haven't seen those.

This book, one of a dozen reprints that I have happened upon through BookBub, might persuade me to try the historical books, because much of this tale takes place in what feels like realistic historical settings dating from 310 B.C. to 1975 in the first 19 chapters.

Some of the commenters on this book have reacted to it as if it were that science-fiction staple, the "fix-up" novel, in which a bunch of short pieces that first appeared in magazines were later stitched together with bridging material to make them into novel.

This isn't one of those, though publication notes do indicate that one early chapter did appear in a science fiction magazine. The rest of it, however, seems to have been carefully planned as one of Anderson's later books.

This book deals with the problems created by immortality, following the lives – the very long lives – of eight or nine individuals, five men and four women. For reasons unknown to them, they do not age after their late 20s or early 30s; they never get sick; they recover from anything less than a mortal wound. The eldest among them is over 3000 years old.

They have problems. When they have relationships, which they all do, they have to accept the pain of watching their lovers and spouses age and die while they remain vital, and find it even more disturbing to outlive their children and even great, great, great grandchildren.

They have mental issues. Hundreds or thousand of years of memories have to be stored and sorted in brains designed for perhaps a century. As they move about they have to learn new languages and customs every few decades. For most of history, being immortal is easier for men than for women, who have fewer opportunities and lesser independence open to them.

Since they do not age, in more superstitious centuries they are often thought to be demons or witches, and since they can be killed, they have to master the art of disappearing and starting life over elsewhere, sometimes pretending to be their own descendants.

In other times and places they are considered wise persons and even semi-divine, but those have their own sets of problems.

As their lives extend further into the 20th Century, where there are more written and, later, digital, records, it becomes more difficult for them to hide who and what they are and survive without being unmasked.

Friendships are difficult for them. Normal people seem so ephemeral, that it is really hard for them to find others to share their lives with, so they all spend a lot of time looking for other immortals, the only sort of people who can really understand them and the way that they have to manage their existence.

For most of the first 13 chapters, our characters live solitary lives. There may well be other immortals that we don't meet, but it's easy for us to assume that most people blessed with this longevity aren't as good at hiding, passing themselves off as normal, and therefore surviving, in spite of the odds against them.

We actually only meet nine of these people, and one of the men does die in a fight.

Sometime late in the 20th Century, they decide that they are done with hiding, share what biological and medical knowledge they have learned about themselves, and pass on a type of longevity to the people of earth. This knowledge changes the psyche of the planet – and our immortals find that they no longer feel like they belong there.

Having lived adventurous lives, of necessity, they manage to persuade the powers-that-be to help them outfit and launch a massive interstellar spaceship, suggesting that they might find other planets where people could live before earth gets too crowded.

Just because they have their ages in common doesn't mean that they always get along. Tensions arise during interstellar travel over what seems to be many decades in the latter part of the book. After the faster pace of the first 450 pages, the last hundred seemed to me to drag a bit.

On the whole, however, this was an engaging book and it would appear that the fans of the day agreed, since it was nominated for both the Hugo and Nebula awards for the year (1989) in which it was published. During his career Poul Anderson picked up multiples of most SF and fantasy awards in 13 different categories. His bibliography of short stories and novels runs to 13 pages in Wikipedia and it's nicely categorized.

I have rediscovered him due to e-book reprints.

I feel that I should note that the hardcover and paperback covers feature spaceships, which is very misleading. It would've been a shock to turn to page 1 and suddenly discover yourself in 310 BC on a sailing ship. The cover for the e-book edition is much more appropriate.

ELVIS AND THE FIRST ROCK 'N' ROLL CHRISTMAS

THE CONTROVERSY AND CLEVER MARKETING BEHIND ELVIS PRESLEY'S ROCK 'N' ROLL CHRISTMAS ALBUM

By Pat Murphy

Teenagers in the 1950s couldn't escape the music of their parents. Despite radio's new-fangled Top 40 and the attendant infiltration of rock 'n' roll, the sounds of the past were all around.

This was particularly the case for Christmas songs.

But things began to change in late October 1957, thanks to Elvis Presley announcing the impending arrival of "a rock 'n' roll Christmas." The setting was a San Francisco press conference and the reference pertained to the imminent release of Elvis' Christmas Album.

Unsurprisingly, the media took the bait, waxing indignantly about the desecration of Christmas music. Even Time magazine got into the act. At the height of its influence, the magazine did one of its trademark putdowns, warning of the "most serious menace to Christmas since I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

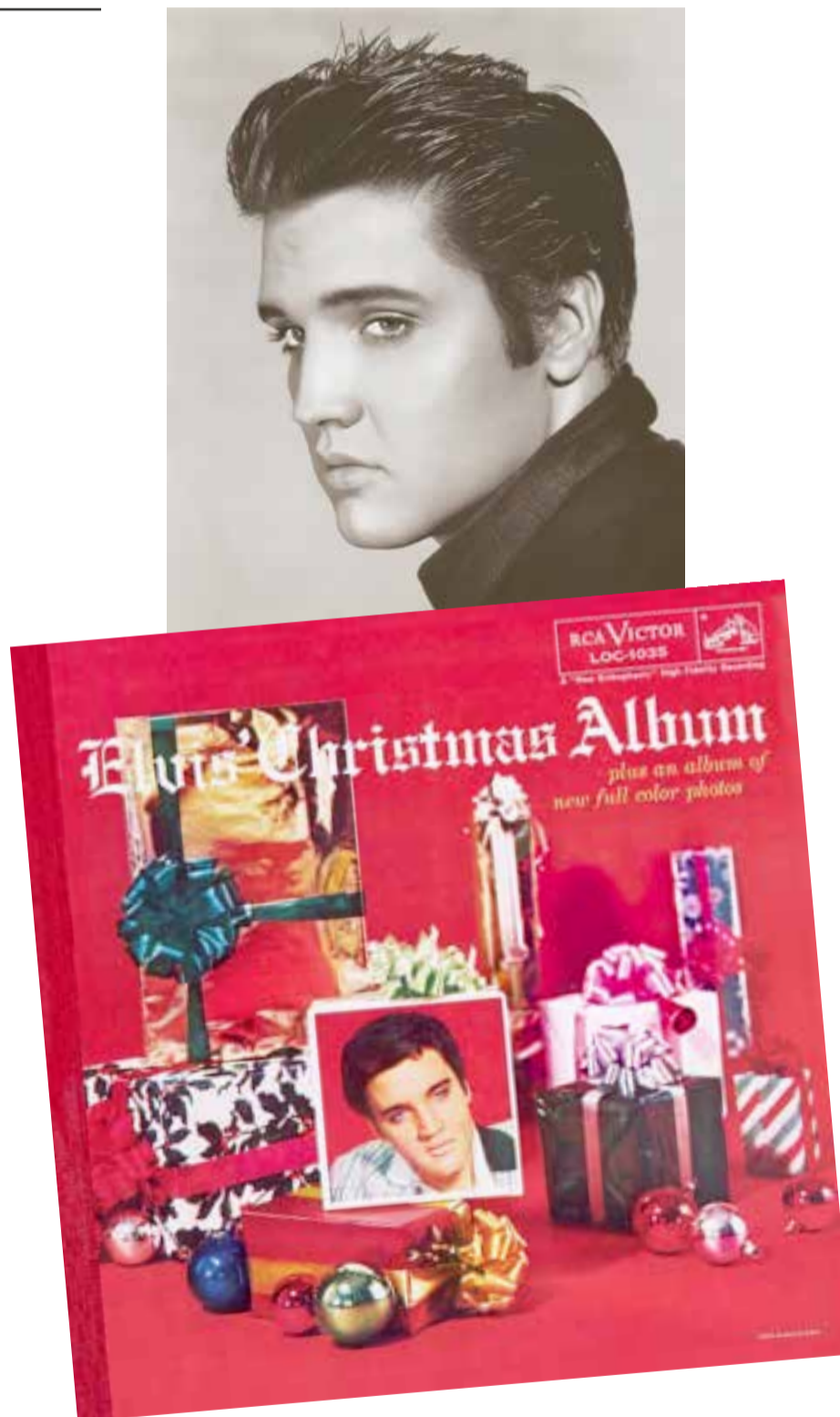
From the perspective of Elvis and his record company, the universe was unfolding as it should. Adults would profess shock and horror while teenagers would embrace the thrill of faux rebellion by flocking to the record stores.

It was an object lesson in clever marketing. Press the right buttons and people will step up to their assigned roles. All in all, it's less expensive than a paid advertising launch.

The album had 12 tracks – four secular Christmas standards, two new rock 'n' roll items with references to Santa, two traditional carols and four gospel recordings that Elvis had released in a different format earlier in the year.

The carols – O Little Town of Bethlehem and Silent Night – were performed in a conventional, straightforward fashion. And while the Presley voice may not have been to everyone's taste, there was really nothing to get offended about.

Still, the idea of the guynicknamed Elvis the Pelvis tackling such sacred texts was inherently offensive to many. You could say – as some did –



that it bordered on sacrilege!

And although the carols were played straight, such wasn't the case with the secular standards. Here Comes Santa Claus, for instance, had a rock 'n' roll sensibility that you didn't find in the Gene Autry original. Where the venerable Singing Cowboy had projected a hokey sense of down-home, Elvis brought a touch of street edginess.

However, it was the rendition of White Christmas that touched off a firestorm. Legend has it that the man who wrote the song, Irving Berlin, characterized the Elvis interpretation as a "profane parody" and wanted radio stations to ignore it. True or false, it's a good story and indicative of the controversy the recording generated.

White Christmas had an iconic

place in mid-20th-century popular culture. Introduced by Bing Crosby in the 1942 movie Holiday Inn, it struck a powerful wartime chord. For soldiers serving overseas and their families at home, it conveyed a sense of aspiration that was simultaneously melancholic and hopeful. And Crosby's smooth, warm baritone was the perfect delivery vehicle.

Elvis, though, took a different approach. Inspired in part by a 1954 rhythm 'n' blues adaptation, the Presley recording sounded nothing like the version people were accustomed to. It was white southern rock 'n' roll, not mellifluous easy listening. To many, it was downright disrespectful.

Those of us inclined to a touch of cynicism will wonder just how much of the controversy was contrived.

Take, for example, the ostensible firing of Portland, Ore., disc jockey Al Priddy. While the hot news story was that Priddy lost his job for defying his radio station's ban on Presley's White Christmas, it's since been suggested that the whole thing was a publicity stunt. Priddy, the revisionist version goes, was back on the air within a month and on the payroll during his absence.

Canadians weren't immune.

A Calgary station described the album as "one of the most degrading things we have heard in some time," and Toronto's powerful CFRB turned thumbs down. Mind you, given CFRB's natural demographic, one suspects that Elvis circa 1957 wasn't a mainstay of its normal playlist.

For the first three weeks of December, Elvis' Christmas Album sat at the very top of Billboard's bestsellers. It was replaced by Bing Crosby's Merry Christmas in the last album chart of the year but regained the top spot the following week.

Unlike Elvis, Crosby never hit the summit again. As ever, the old was giving way to the new.

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25 Years From Now in the Sun



The Klondike Sun

\$3

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TAX DOLLARS ...
IF I PAID TAXES,

6 JANUARY 2049

VOLUME 59 NO.16

It ain't gold ... but it's close!

YG SUES CONTRACTORS OVER DREDGE POND NUCLEAR PLANT



PROJECT WAY LATE, OVER BUDGET. SEE PAGE 3.



IS THIS THE YEAR THE LEAFS' 82-YEAR STANLEY CUP DROUGHT ENDS? SEE PAGE 14



MOOSEHIDE WATER SLIDE PLANNED SEE PAGE 5



DAWSON FIDDLERS PERFORM FOR KING WILLIAM. SEE PAGE 12.

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Dawson City, YT
Y0B 1G0

Phone: 867-993-6476
Cell: 867-993-3862
mail@borealis-painting.ca
www.borealis-painting.ca

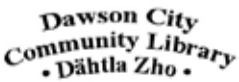


**HUMANE SOCIETY
DAWSON**


Box 1143
Dawson City, Yukon
Y0B 1G0
(867) 993-6900
hsdawson@northwestel.net

HOURS
Tuesday – Saturday: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

Registered Charity # 710064
under Yukon Government's Societies Act



**Dawson City
Community Library**
• Däh'tla Zho •



Yukon Public Libraries

Located inside the
Robert Service School Building
on 5th Avenue
between Queen & Princess Streets

Open Monday to Friday
Noon to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 1 to 4 p.m.

Books • Magazines • DVDs
Public computers • Free WiFi

Phone 993-5571
Email dclib@klondiker.com

The 2024 Yukon Quest Dog Sled Races

The Yukon Quest will take place again next year, starting in Whitehorse on February 3rd, and ending in Dawson on February 8th. Teams are expected to start arriving in Dawson shortly after midnight on Wednesday the 7th, with the last team expected over the finish line sometime, early on Thursday, February 8th, 2024.

The finish line is on Front Street near to the Visitor Information Centre.



Please join us as we cheer the teams as they arrive. Official Yukon Quest merchandise will also be available for purchase. We hope to see you there!

Please help the race by keeping your dog and other pets safely secured at home.

KLONDIKE OUTREACH JOB BOARD

ADMINISTRATION/OFFICE

Accounting Clerk
 Administrative Assistant
 Senior Financial Accountant
 Accounting Clerk Supervisor
 Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant
 First Nation Court Worker
 Operations Team Leader
 Admitting & Discharge Medical Records Clerk
 Bookkeeper

ANIMAL CARE

Vet Assistant
 Shelter Attendant

AUTOMOTIVE/HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Auto Service Technician
 Gas Station Attendant/Tire Technician

CAMP JOBS

Gold Mine Worker

CUSTODIAN/JANITORIAL

Custodians/Janitors

DRIVER JOBS

Fuel Truck Drivers
 Pick-up and Delivery Drivers
 Snow Removal Driver

EDUCATION

FT or PT Educator;
 Cultural Education Advisor
 Education Oversight Committee Administrator

Adult Learning & Employment Services

Assistant
 Early Childhood Educator
 Sponsored Child Care Worker
FAMILY SERVICES
 Family Wellness Worker
 Youth Support Worker
 Shelter Attendant

HEALTH/WELLNESS

Registered Nurses
 Community Health Representative
 Combined Lab/X-Ray Technician

LABOURERS

Metal Fabricator
 Handyman
 Snow Removal Labourer
 Maintenance Worker

MANAGERIAL/COORDINATORS

Social Programs & Services Manager
 Wellness Administrative Coordinator
 Special Projects Coordinator
 Government Relations Coordinator
 Bank (Cage) Manager
 Cultural Connections Manager

MISCELLANEOUS

Freight Day Helper
 Security Guard
 Digital Imaging Technicians
 Fish & Wildlife Trainee
 Conservation Officer
 Trainee

Park Ranger - Klondike**RETAIL/SALES**

Cashiers
 Clerks
 Bakery Assistant
 Grocery Clerks
 Produce Clerks
 Stock Clerks
 Retail Sales
 Post Office Assistant

SERVICE INDUSTRY

Banker Assistant
 Bank Cashier
 Bartenders/Servers
 Butcher/Meat Cutter
 Cooks/Line Cooks/Kitchen Help
 Dishwashers
 Door Staff
 Freight Helper
 Front Desk
 Housekeepers
 Kitchen Leader/Chef
 Kitchen Supervisor/Chef
 Produce Clerk

TRADES

Electricians
 3rd or 4th Year Apprentice Electricians
 Plumber, Oil Burner Mechanic, HVAC, Labourer
 Plumber, Oil Burner Mechanic, Pipefitter
 Carpenter, Carpenter's Apprentice & Journeymen
 3rd Year Apprentice Carpenters

STUDENT & YOUTH

Youth ECE Afterschool Leader
 First Nations Youth Hospital Intern
 AOC Youth Snow Removal Labourer

Positions with Closing Dates

GradCorps: Conservation Officer: Jan 3
 Regional Social Worker: Feb 27

Job Seeker and Employer Surveys are now available at the Klondike Outreach Office or on our website at www.klondikeoutreach.com.

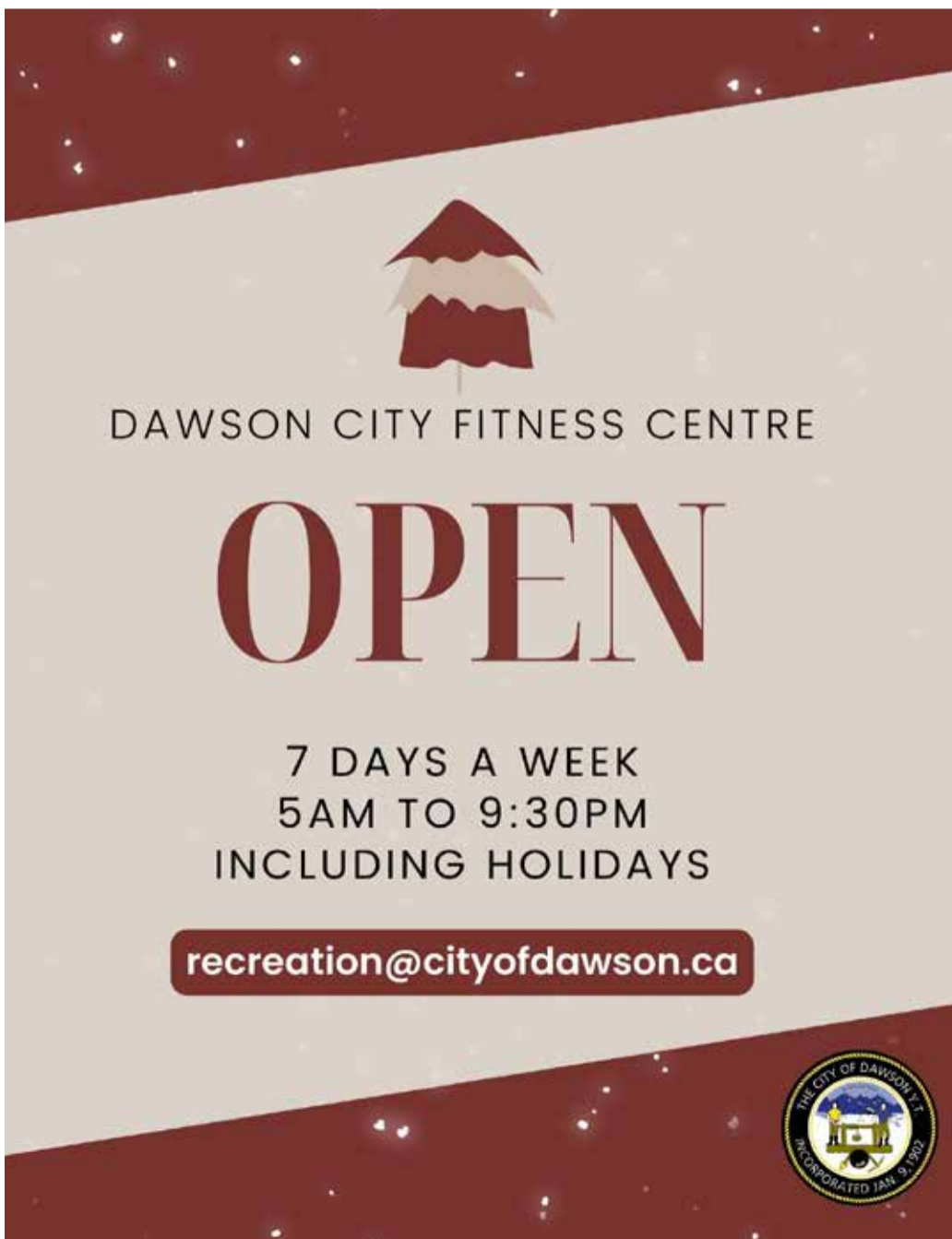
Your input is very important to us, we would love to hear your thoughts and concerns regarding our services and how they work or don't work for you.


Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 9am – 1pm


Phone: 867-993-5176

info@klondikeoutreach.com www.klondikeoutreach.com

We are the Klondike's year-round employment service... drop by or give us a call




 DAWSON CITY FITNESS CENTRE
OPEN
 7 DAYS A WEEK
 5AM TO 9:30PM
 INCLUDING HOLIDAYS
recreation@cityofdawson.ca





JOIN THE 2024 COMMITTEE
Moosehide
GATHERING
 For more information contact
events@trondek.ca



**ADVERTISE IN THE
 KLONDIKE SUN AND REACH
 A LOCAL AUDIENCE**
EMAIL ADS@KLONDIKESUN.COM





THE CITY OF DAWSON

P.O. Box 308 (1336 Front Street), Dawson City, Yukon, Y0B 1G0
Tel: (867) 993-7400 ~ Fax: (867) 993-7434

www.cityofdawson.ca



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Consolidation Application

(Consolidation Application #23-117)


Subject Property	Lots 3, 4, and 5, Block 1, Day's Addition
Date and Time	16 th January, 2024, 7:00pm
Location	Council Chambers, City Hall
Listen to Public Hearing	Radio CFYT 106.9 FM or cable channel #11




As per Bylaw, S.5.1.4.II, upon receiving an application for consolidation, Council must give public notice of the application. Therefore, the City of Dawson is now requesting input from the public regarding the consolidation application of Lots 3, 4, and 5, Block 1, Day's Addition

For more information or to provide your input prior to the public meeting, please contact:

Planning Assistant
Box 308, Dawson, YT Y0B 1G0
PlanningAssist@cityofdawson.ca
867-993-7400 ext. 438



THE CITY OF DAWSON


Box 308 Dawson City, YT Y0B 1G0
PH: 867-993-7400 FAX: 867-993-7434
www.cityofdawson.ca

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Bylaw Amendment

(Zoning Bylaw Amendment No. 28 – Bylaw #2023-18)

Subject Properties	Klondike Highway Subdivision Parcel D/F
Date and Time	January 16, 2024, 7:00pm
Location	Council Chambers, City Hall
Listen to Public Hearing	Radio CFYT 106.9 FM or cable channel #11



As per the *Municipal Act*, S. 294.1, upon receiving amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, Council must give notice to the public of the proposed changes. Therefore, the City of Dawson is now requesting input from the public regarding the ZBL Amendment No.28 (Bylaw #2023-18) that establishes a new residential zone (R4) in the City of Dawson Zoning Bylaw and governs future construction and development within the Klondike Highway Subdivision Parcel D/F.

For more information or to provide your input prior to the public meeting, please contact:

Planning Assistant
Box 308, Dawson, YT Y0B 1G0
PlanningAssist@cityofdawson.ca
867-993-7400 ext. 438

City of Dawson

ON-SITE FOOD WASTE DIVERSION PILOT



FoodCycler™

THE IN-HOME FOOD WASTE DIVERSION SOLUTION

Join your municipality in tackling food waste by piloting FoodCycler™ technology in your home. Support your municipality by testing this innovative technology!

Why should I participate?

Did you know that up to 50% of household waste is composed of food waste? By helping your municipality address food waste, you are supporting your community's environmental initiatives, while reducing your carbon footprint.

What is required of me?

Not much! Purchase a FoodCycler™ from your municipality at a subsidized cost, track your use once a week for a period of 12 weeks and then answer a brief exit survey.

Pilot Project Timeline
JANUARY - MARCH 2024 (12 WEEKS)

PURCHASE YOUR UNIT

FoodCycler™ FC-30: \$150 CAD (+ tax)
FoodCycler™ Eco 5: \$300 CAD (+ tax)

PILOT DURATION

Divert your food waste using the FoodCycler™ for a period of 12 weeks. Track the amount of waste you divert with a tracking sheet (to be provided to you by the municipality).

END DATE

Fill out a closing survey (to be provided by the municipality) about your experience using the FoodCycler™. Once complete, the FoodCycler™ is yours to keep!

FOODCYCLER OFFERS:

- 90% Reduction in food waste volume
- 95% Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from food waste

FOODCYCLER IS:

- ENERGY EFFICIENT**
Only ~\$2 in energy costs every month!
- ODOURLESS**
Carbon filtration controls odour!
- EASY TO USE**
Just press Start!


SIGN UP HERE:
bit.ly/ECSDawson




Only 80 spots available! Join today!
TO LEARN MORE:
ProjectManager@cityofdawson.ca 867-993-7400 ext. 304

CITY OF DAWSON

PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF DAWSON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Would like to remind community members to not put snow from their property onto the roads as it creates safety hazards

Bylaw #07-03, Part III – Property Management

Sec. 7 – Sidewalks (3) - No owner/occupier shall deposit snow and ice upon any street or sidewalk in such a way as to create a safety hazard.

With gratitude, we acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, who have lived along the Yukon River for millennia.