

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



The Klondike Sun



\$2

14 FEBRUARY 2024

VOLUME 34, NO.20

SHINING A LIGHT ON THE KLONDIKE SINCE 1989

LOVE IS IN THE AIR



**(ALSO THE BLOOD, THE HEAD,
THE WALLET)**

SEE PAGE 12-13



QUEST QUASHES FULL 450 RACE, DAWSON FINALE LEFT OUT IN COLD
SEE PAGE 3



SHIVER YOU SAY? ART AT 40 BELOW.
SEE PAGE 10-11



RAVEN SAYS:
*Ravens mate
for life. Trust me,
that wasn't
my idea.*

The Klondike Sun

THE KLONDIKE SUN

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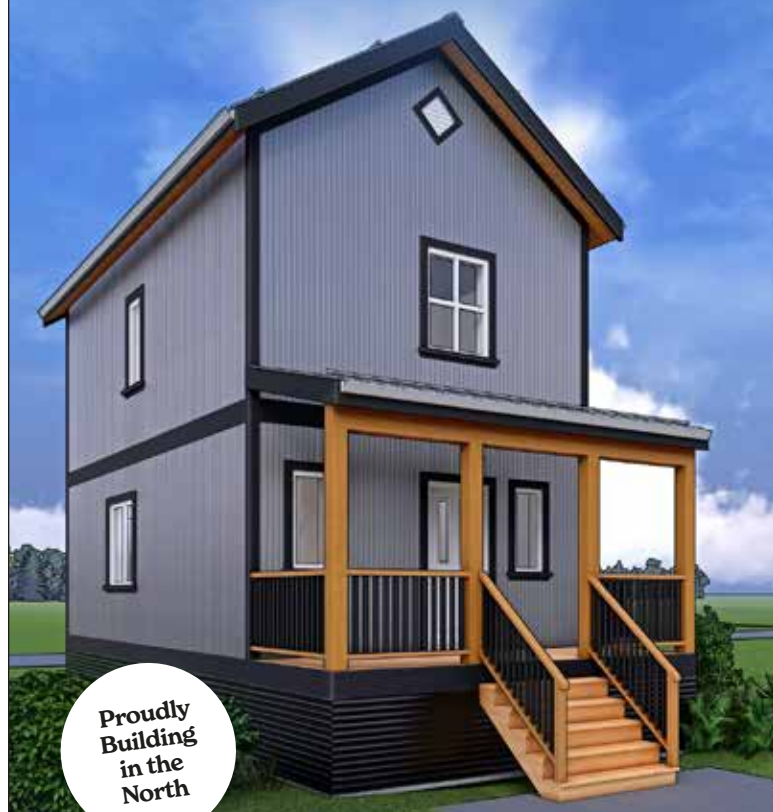
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The Klondike Sun is produced bi-weekly. It is published by The Literary Society of the Klondike, a non-profit organization. Letters to the editor, submissions and reports may be edited for brevity, clarity, good taste (as defined by community standards), 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.

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DEADLINE FOR CONTENT: THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY AT NOON

DEADLINE FOR ADS: FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY AT NOON

For more information: Email: klondikesun@northwestel.net
Telephone: (867) 993-6318

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.

QUEST QUASHES FULL 450 RACE, DAWSON FINALE LEFT OUT IN COLD

By Chris Holt

The unusual weather this winter took another victim, as the Yukon Quest 450, the longest of the three Yukon Quest sled dog races being run in the Yukon, was shortened due to “deteriorating and uncertain trail conditions”, axing the planned finish in Dawson City.

The race started off as scheduled in Whitehorse on Saturday 3 February, but on Monday, just as the Dawson checkpoint was revving up to receive the finishing mushers from the longest leg, the word came down that the mushers and their dog teams would finish at Pelly Crossing instead.

The announcement, made on the Yukon Quest Facebook page, read:

“Given the uncertainty around trail conditions as the race has progressed, the Race Marshall has made the decision to shorten the 2024 Yukon Quest 450 into a 300 mile race. The mushers will leave Pelly Crossing to head to Stepping Stone, and then they will return to finish in Pelly Crossing. This decision was made in consideration of our teams, officials, and volunteers headed to Scroggie Creek. Safety is our primary focus.”

The mandatory rest time for dogs was reduced due to the shortened trail and short distances between the remaining locations. The original 38 total hours of rest time was reduced to 20 total hours.

There had already been doubts about the trail conditions leading up to the race when the Yukon Quest had difficulty getting an air strip established at Scroggie Creek. There was reportedly also uncertainty about the untested thickness of the ice in that area, leading race officials to make the call that it was unsafe for the dog teams to attempt to travel there. The race had already experienced unexpected trail conditions prior to that in the form of open water outside of McCabe Creek.

The 100-mile YQ100 race finished in Braeburn as planned with Sean de Wolski taking first place. The YQ250, also finished in Pelly Crossing, with Crystal To crossing the finish line just 18 minutes ahead of Louve Twedell.

The abbreviated YQ450 was won by Michelle Phillips, who was also first into Dawson during last year’s full-length 450-mile race. Mayla Hill finished second, and Kailyn Olnes finished third.

A separate Alaskan version of the Yukon Quest races was held across the border the same weekend, with 80-, 100- and 300-mile events. Veteran musher and past champion of both the Yukon Quest and Iditarod, Brent Sass, won the Alaskan 300-mile run.

Formerly a 1000-mile international race between Whitehorse and Fairbanks, Alaska, the race separated into two separate versions in 2022 after the Canadian and American Boards of Directors disagreed about how to run the event.

Facebook comments about the decision to shorten the YQ450 were largely positive, with contributors noting that it could not have been an easy call for the organizers to make. “Hugs and hand shakes all around for an agonizing decision. Safety first for all involved,” one comment read. “Thank you for keeping everyone safe,” said another.



LAST YEAR'S YQ450 WINNER, MICHELLE PHILLIPS, REPEATED AS WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S ABBREVIATED RACE. PHOTO BY BY CRYSTAL SCHICK FROM YUKON QUEST (CANADA) FACEBOOK PAGE.



Yukon Rendezvous Festival & Quest for the Crown

Victoria Gold is pleased to be a Gold Level Sponsor of the 2024 Yukon Rendezvous Festival and the Title Sponsor of the Quest for the Crown. Join in the fun February 9 - 25, 2024



Photo credit: Manu Keggenhoff

For tickets and more information visit: yukonrendezvous.com



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

WHAT'S ON IN DAWSON

TOWN COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Tuesday 20 February 2024

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday 5 March 2024

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

Handbuilding Pottery Drop-in

Tuesdays, 6-9pm

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

March 28 - March 31

dawsonfilmfest.com

Intro to Augmented Reality

Workshop with Jonny Klynkramer

February 17

Rocky Horror Dawson Show

Diamond Tooth Gerties

February 24

KIAC Winter Performing Arts

The Ostara Project (Jazz)

Co-presented by Jazz Yukon

Saturday, March 2

ostaraproject.ca

The Juliani Ensemble

(Flute, Viola, Cello)

Co-presented by Whitehorse Concerts

Wed, March 6

Julianiensemble.org

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

PERCY DEWOLFE MEMORIAL MAIL RACE

2024 Fun Mail Run Edition

March 7th 2024 at 10am

PARKS AND RECREATION

Women's Hockey Jamboree

March 1 - March 3 at the Arena

Youth Parkour

Grades 2-4 RSS Gym \$50

Mondays until Feb 12th

Youth Muay Thai

Age 7-12 RSS Gym \$50

Fridays 3:30pm - 5pm

Drop-In Rock Climbing

Fridays 6-7pm RSS Gym

Adult Archery

with Emma Tom Tom

Saturdays 1-3pm RSS Gym

Stick Curling

Wed 6:30pm & Thu 2pm

Email parkerlamb@northwestel.net

Figure Skating

Mondays and Wednesdays After

School Until Late March

Cost \$150 Grades 1 and Up

Under 5 Open Gym

Saturdays & Sundays

RSS Gym 10am - 12pm FREE

Petite Pliés Ballet

Sundays until March 10

3-5 years old 3-4pm

6-9 years old 4-5pm

Minto Concession \$60

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 FREE

No experience necessary.

YUKON RIVERSIDE ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS IN 2024 CELEBRATING ART AND CULTURE IN DAWSON CITY

From KIAC Press Release

The Klondike Institute of Art and Culture (KIAC) has officially announced the return of the Yukon Riverside Arts Festival (YRAF) for its 2024 edition. This highly anticipated event will take place from June 13th to 16th in Dawson, and promises to be a vibrant celebration of art and culture in the region.

The YRAF is a free, family-friendly event that offers something for everyone. Visitors can enjoy the artist market, featuring a diverse range of handmade crafts and artworks, as well as a hands-on demonstration tent where they can try their hand at a variety of artistic techniques. Children will also have the opportunity to participate in fun and educational activities programmed just for them.

Live music will be a highlight of the festival, with a lineup of talented local and regional musicians performing throughout the weekend. The festival will kick off on Thursday, June 13th with a town-wide self-directed art crawl: The Gallery Hop is a vibrant event where businesses and community spaces transform into art galleries for one night. Visitors can interact with local artists and discover their works across different styles, mediums, and techniques.

"We're eager to present a new edition of the Yukon Riverside Arts Festival's evolving program. We aim to offer new and diverse experiences each year, and it is always exciting to see how it comes together" said Maria Sol Suarez Martinez, the Festival Coordinator. "This event is an important showcase for the vibrant arts and culture scene in Dawson City and the surrounding region, and we're excited to welcome visitors from near and far to experience it for themselves."

YRAF is made possible through the support of local businesses and community partners, as well as funding from the Yukon Government and Government of Canada. For further announcements on upcoming YRAF events, performances, and exhibitions, visit yraf.ca or KIAC Social Media sites.



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A MAKESHIFT TRAIL AROUND THE PERSISTENT OPEN LEAD IN THE YUKON RIVER IN FRONT OF DAWSON CITY COMES WITHIN 40 FEET OF THE FAST-FLOWING RIVER. PHOTO BY DANNY DOWHAL.

YUKON RIVER STILL REFUSES TO FREEZE, HOPES OF A 2024 ICE BRIDGE MELTING

By Danny Dowhal

Despite repeated spells of cold weather in January and early February, with temperatures as cold as -47°C reported, the open lead in the Yukon River in front of Dawson City remains, all but extinguishing hopes of an ice bridge for motor vehicle crossing this year.

In its most recent update, the Yukon Government states the obvious — that there is “not enough ice to build a bridge.” The communique goes on to say: “If the ice becomes thick enough, the Yukon government will make every effort to build a crossing for light-duty vehicles,” (which are up to 10,000 kg) implying they see no prospects of building a bridge for heavy-duty vehicles weighing up 40,000 kilograms.

Last year a sanctioned light-duty bridge was in service by January 5th, and an official heavy-duty bridge completed by February 2nd. The communique, like its predecessors throughout the winter, includes an explanation that “the ice jam where the Klondike River and Yukon River meet has made the usual freeze-up take longer than usual.”

While upriver jamming due to low water levels does appear to have contributed to the lack of ice in front of Dawson, it does not explain the persistent lead of open water which has a strong current and has defied the coldest weather.

The most common theory for the open lead — and it is only a theory since no studies, official or otherwise, have been undertaken of the problem — is that the excessively wet summer of 2022 and the floods of the spring/summer of 2023, pushed silt and other material out of the Klondike River, building up its delta to the point that it became a pinch point for the current. This fast-moving compressed current is what is believed to be causing the open lead to persist.

According to some oldtimers, in past decades bulldozers or excavators were used to remove the silt and decrease the size of

the build-up at the delta.

Meanwhile, life goes on for inhabitants of the west side, who have established several different routes for traversing the river, one of which circumvents the open lead, coming within 40 feet of the water at points. Where the Yukon has frozen, however, the ice is adequately thick, but worries are already surfacing about the coming freeze-up, and how quickly the trails will deteriorate.

Historic Properties Assistance Program

Do you own a historic property?

The Historic Properties Assistance Program provides funding to support the preservation, restoration and interpretation of historic properties.

Application deadline is March 1 at 4:30 pm



To learn more, visit:

yukon.ca/historic-properties-assistance-program

You can contact the Historic Sites Unit at:

heritage.grants@yukon.ca

867-667-5386

Toll free (in Yukon)

1-800-661-0408, ext. 5386

THE DANGERS OF MEDIA HYPE

A Klondike Sun Editorial

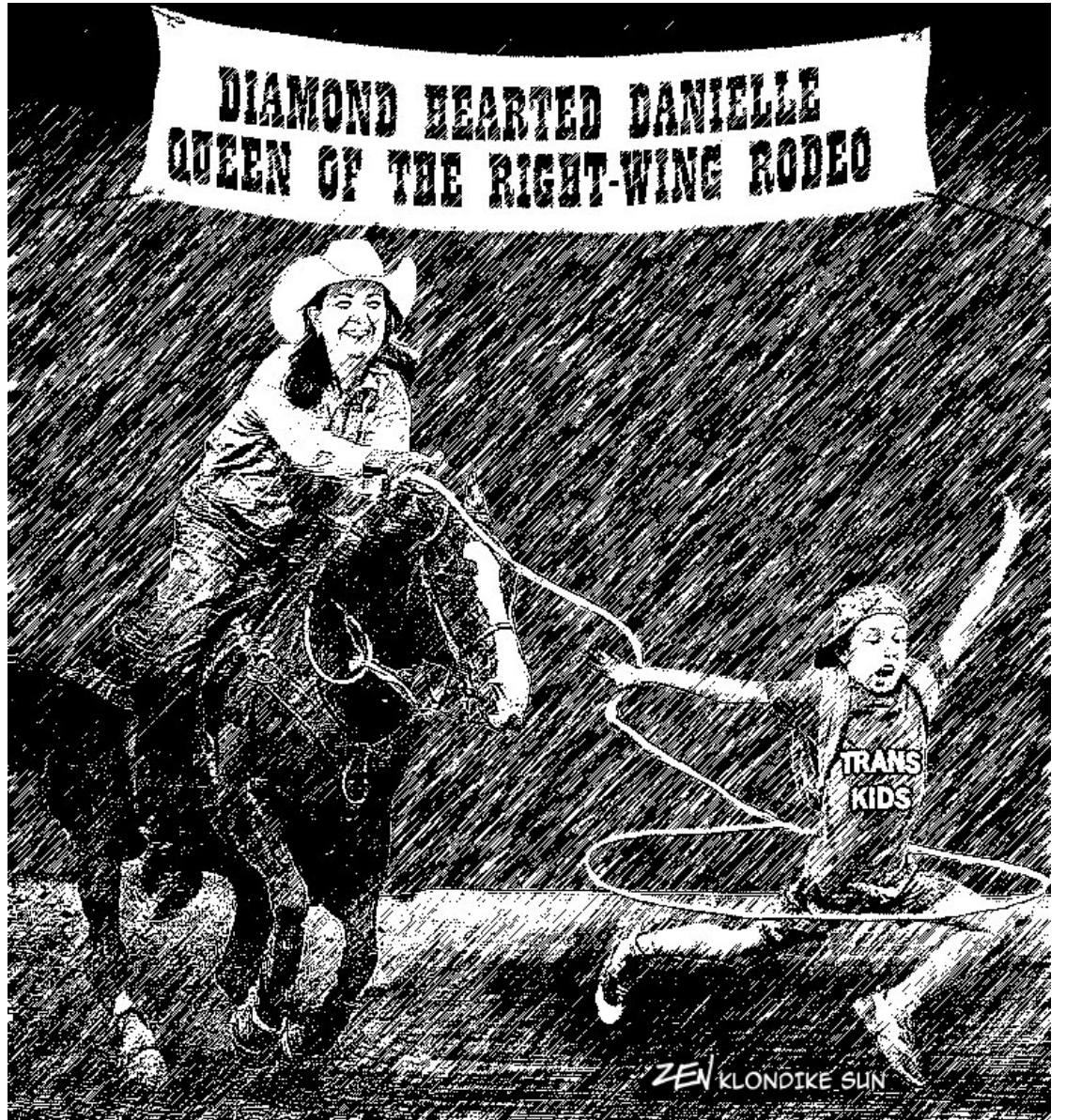
We have reached a point where media wields unprecedented influence, shaping public opinion and driving the narrative on virtually every issue. But even more disturbing than the constant deluge of news cycles and breaking headlines, is the overriding media hype.

With a tendency to exaggerate or sensationalize stories for the sake of grabbing attention, media hype poses real dangers to society. It can undermine trust in journalism, perpetuating misinformation, and distorting reality.

As hyped content becomes the norm, it can start to erode public trust in the media as a reliable source of information. When news outlets prioritize sensationalism over accuracy, credibility becomes collateral damage. Attention-grabbing headlines and exaggerated narratives breed skepticism and cynicism among audiences, leading them to question the veracity of media reports and undermining the very foundation of a well-informed society. Reality becomes distorted and public perceptions are skewed as entertainment value trumps objective truth.

By inflating the significance of certain events or issues, while downplaying others, the media creates a warped lens through which audiences perceive the world around them. This distortion not only leads to a misallocation of attention and resources but also perpetuates a cycle of sensationalism in which the most salacious stories dominate the headlines and the public discourse, overshadowing the more pressing issues that warrant genuine attention and action.

In this way, media hype impacts democratic governance, as it shapes public perceptions and influences political discourse. When news outlets prioritize sensationalism over substance, political debates devolve into spectacle, with attention-grabbing soundbites and theatrics taking



precedence over meaningful dialogue and informed decision-making. This superficial approach to political coverage not only undermines the democratic process but also perpetuates a cycle of polarization and divisiveness, as audiences become increasingly entrenched in their own echo chambers of sensationalized rhetoric.

The world of social media, with its anonymity or fake accounts is even worse, as it can create the illusion of legitimacy

for what is, at best, misinformation and, at worse, a deliberate attempt to manipulate our views or undermine our institutions.

We all need to learn to cut through the hype and to teach our kids how to navigate the hyperbole and sensationalism and to recognize the truth. When getting information we should always question the source, look for a multitude of opinions (no matter how much they may conflict with our own) and learn to think for ourselves.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GET OUT AND VOLUNTEER!

Dear Klondike Sun:

I love the fact that a lot of people in Dawson volunteer for things and want to encourage folks to do more of that. We have so many different organizations that do wonderful stuff for this town, and they all need volunteers. The stronger they are the better off we all are. Wouldn't we all rather be part of a caring community with lots of local support and facilities and interesting activities for its citizens than some moneygrubbing place where people only look out for number one?

Volunteering doesn't only help the organizations, though, it helps you. You can meet lots of interesting people when you volunteer, and for older folks it's a way to get out and fight loneliness. For younger people, volunteering is a great way to learn new skills and take on responsibilities that will help you later in life. Who knows? You might discover some hidden talents in yourself.

Dawson has dozens of non-profits that count on volunteers so can choose something you're interested in or believe in. From sports to the arts, from helping kids to seniors to animals, from the trades to the media, these organizations strengthen the fabric of our town and really help define what kind of a special place we are. So if you're not already giving some of your time, consider doing so. We'll all be better off for it.

Sincerely,
Mary McLean



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday March 20th 2024

Doors open at 5:00 pm

Meeting at 5:30 pm

Location: Diamond Tooth Gerties

Nominations for the Board of Directors of the Klondike Visitors Association are now open

KVA is seeking to fill four 2-year positions. In addition to a call for nominations at the AGM, nominations may also be filed in advance at the KVA office. Eligibility lists are posted at the KVA Office and available upon request.

Memberships can be purchased at the KVA office or at the AGM

YUKON RANKED LUCKIEST PLACE IN CANADA TO LIVE

The Yukon is the luckiest place to live in Canada, according to a new study.

Online gambling site Lucky Days analyzed seven varying factors to rank the luckiest place to live in Canada. Each province and territory was rated based on average life expectancy, hourly wage, population growth in the last five years, 2023 Consumer Price Index (CPI), unemployment rate, the rate of crime incidents per 100,000 people, and annual investment in residential construction per 100,000 residents. The regions were then each given a luckiness score out of 70 and ranked.

Despite being one of the least populated areas in Canada, the Yukon topped the study as the luckiest place to live in the entire country. The territory soared to the top of the list thanks to having the lowest unemployment rate of 3.6% in 2023. Meanwhile, the rate of investment in residential construction is over \$50 million more in the Yukon than in any other region in Canada. Between November 2022 and November 2023, approximately \$621,640,631 was invested in residential construction per 100,000 people. The Yukon also ranked high for population growth in the last five years, coming second with 11.39%.

Falling just short of top spot and ranking above every other province, Ontario secured its position as the second luckiest region in Canada.

British Columbia was deemed Canada's third luckiest place to live, according to the new study.

Nunavut placed rock bottom of the study as the unluckiest region in Canada. Despite boasting the second-highest average hourly wage at \$31.55 and lowest Consumer Price Index for 2023, the territory ranked last due to investment in residential construction and low life expectancy. The Nunavut unemployment rate is the highest in the country (11.3%), while the rate of crime is second only to the Northwest Territories.

RANK	AREA	SCORE
1	Yukon	56.43
2	Ontario	55.84
3	British Columbia	55.11
4	P.E.I.	53.71
5	Quebec	53.02
6	Nova Scotia	51.89
7	Alberta	50.94
8	New Brunswick	49.56
9	Manitoba	47.53
10	N.W.T.	45.48
11	Saskatchewan	43.70
12	Newfoundland and Labrador	39.28
13	Nunavut	38.41

Sun Strokes
NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE YUKON



FULL-SERVICE MIDWIFERY CARE RESUMES FOR YUKONERS

The Yukon Midwifery Program has resumed accepting applications for full-service midwifery care as of February 12. The program team has grown and now includes second birth attendants in addition to three registered midwives.

A second birth attendant is a regulated health professional, often a registered nurse, who works within their own scope of practice to support out-of-hospital births alongside a registered midwife.

Publicly funded and fully integrated, the Yukon Midwifery Program provides Yukoners with an additional option for "safe, accessible and high-quality maternity care."

The program is open to all Yukoners, but in-person care and birthing services are only available in Whitehorse at this time. Virtual care visits will be scheduled as requested.

In the Yukon, midwives are registered health care professionals who specialize in providing maternity care for pregnant people and their babies. Full-service midwifery care includes comprehensive care through pregnancy, labour and birth and up to eight weeks post-partum. Yukoners in their first 20 weeks of pregnancy with due dates in July 2024 or later are eligible to apply to receive midwifery care.

The Yukon Government says it will continue to work with local and national partners to ensure the Midwifery Program is fully integrated into the territory's health system "to offer the highest quality care for Yukoners."

YUKON OPPOSITION PARTY CALLS FOR YUKON FIREARMS ACT

The Yukon Party Official Opposition is calling on the Yukon Liberal government to developing a Yukon Firearms Act for the territory. The Yukon Party says the action is necessary to protect the rights of hunters and other firearms owners in the face of the federal government's passing of Bill C-21.

In concert with the proposed act's development, the Yukon Party is also calling for the establishment of a territorially-appointed Chief Firearms Officer position for the Yukon. The proposed officer would have jurisdiction over the licensing, storage, transportation, and carrying of firearms, as well as licensing instructors to provide firearm safety training in the Yukon. Currently, the Yukon is served by a federally appointed Chief Firearms Officer for BC, and the Yukon based in Surrey, BC

Bill C-21 received Royal Assent in December. Its intent is to combat gun crime, and includes codifying the national handgun freeze, bringing increased penalties for firearms smuggling and trafficking, and provisions intended to better address the role of firearms in intimate partner and gender-based violence.

Although the Liberal government said the bill was not intended to target hunting rifles and shotguns, an initial list of prohibited weapons included some models in use by hunters. This sparked opposition from rural-based politicians, including the Yukon's Liberal MP, Brendan Hanley, and the Yukon's Liberal government.

YG EXTENDS ENGAGEMENT PERIOD FOR REVIEW OF THE CHILD CARE ACT

The Yukon Government has extended the period for public engagement for review of the Child Care Act to February 29, 2024. This will allow Yukoners more time to respond to the proposed changes to the legislation.

The engagement period launched on November 27, 2023, and according to YG has garnered several hundred responses from parents, early childhood educators, operators of family day homes and early learning and child care centres, First Nations governments, education partners and interested stakeholders.

Changes to the legislation are intended to address quality, affordability, inclusivity and accessibility. YG says a *What We Heard* document will be prepared and released following the end of the engagement.

Those interested in offering their feedback can visit Yukon.ca/engagements to learn more and take a survey.

YUKON'S MINIMUM WAGE TO INCREASE ON APRIL 1ST

Effective April 1, 2024, the Yukon's minimum wage will increase from \$16.77 to \$17.59 per hour. This increase is based on the 2023 Consumer Price Index for Whitehorse which is 4.9 per cent.

The gross annual salary for a worker earning minimum wage at 40 hours per week would increase to \$36,587 after April 1, 2024.

According to 2022 Yukon Employment and Skills survey data, 629 of 23,481 (or 2.7 per cent) of employed persons in the Yukon were earning a minimum wage in the fall of 2022. The same survey determined that the overall average wage for Yukon workers in the fall of 2022 was \$36.80 per hour.

Eleven of 13 provincial and territorial jurisdictions in Canada have increased their hourly minimum wage to or above \$15.

Yukon Historic Resources Fund

This fund provides financial support to projects in:

- Archaeology
- Palaeontology
- Museums and cultural centres
- Historic sites and historical research
- First Nations language preservation
- Place names

Application deadline is March 15 at 4:30 pm

To learn more, visit: yukon.ca/historic-resources-fund
Or contact Historic Sites at: heritage.grants@yukon.ca
867-667-5386

Toll free (in Yukon)
1-800-661-0408, ext. 5386

DAWSON SEEN

OLD TIMERS HOCKEY JAMBOREE

The Dawson City Old Timers Hockey Association held its hockey jamboree this weekend. A mix of Old Timers (35 years of age or older) as well as under-16 and women players were shuffled and distributed to form the teams. The Klondike Wildfire went undefeated in the tournament to take the trophy, narrowly defeating the Gold Diggers in the final. Playing five games in 24 hours was hard on the old bodies, but it was a fabulously fun time.



TH ELDER VICTOR HENRY DROPS THE CEREMONIAL PUCK PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GOLD MEDAL GAME. PHOTO BY GABRIELA SGAGA.



THE GENERALS AND THE RAMS COMPETE IN THE BRONZE MEDAL GAME, WON BY THE GENERALS. PHOTO BY STARK DALEY.



DAVE EZZARD, KLONDIKE WILDFIRE CAPTAIN, HOLDS UP THE TOURNAMENT TROPHY, AWARDED BY TH ELDER AND SUPER FAN VICTOR HENRY. DAWSON GOLD DIGGERS CAPTAIN TROY SUZUKI LOOKS ON. PHOTO BY GABRIELA SGAGA.



PLAYERS FROM THE TWO FINALIST TEAMS POSE FOR A COLLECTIVE GROUP PICTURE. PHOTO BY GABRIELA SGAGA.

THE JIG IS UP

A contingent of youth fiddlers from Old Crow were hosted by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Education last weekend. After full-day jigging workshops for the kids on Friday, it was time for everyone to kick up their heels at a community dance on Saturday night, hosted by TH Education and the North Klondyke Highway Music Society.



LOCAL INSTRUCTORS HELPED THE KIDS FROM OLD CROW HONE THEIR FIDDLING SKILLS. PHOTO BY KATHRYN MACDONALD.



IT'S HOPED THE NEW GENERATION OF FIDDLERS WILL HELP KEEP THE JIGGING SPIRIT GOING IN OLD CROW, WHERE IT IS A TIME-HONOURED TRADITION. PHOTO BY KATHRYN MACDONALD.



Come Rendezvous With Us
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February 9-25th,
2024

yukonrendezvous.com



(s)hivver you say?



FESTIVAL GOERS TAKE IN THE SOMETHING WHERE IT SHOULDN'T BE EXHIBIT. PHOTO BY CONSTANCE DOWNES.



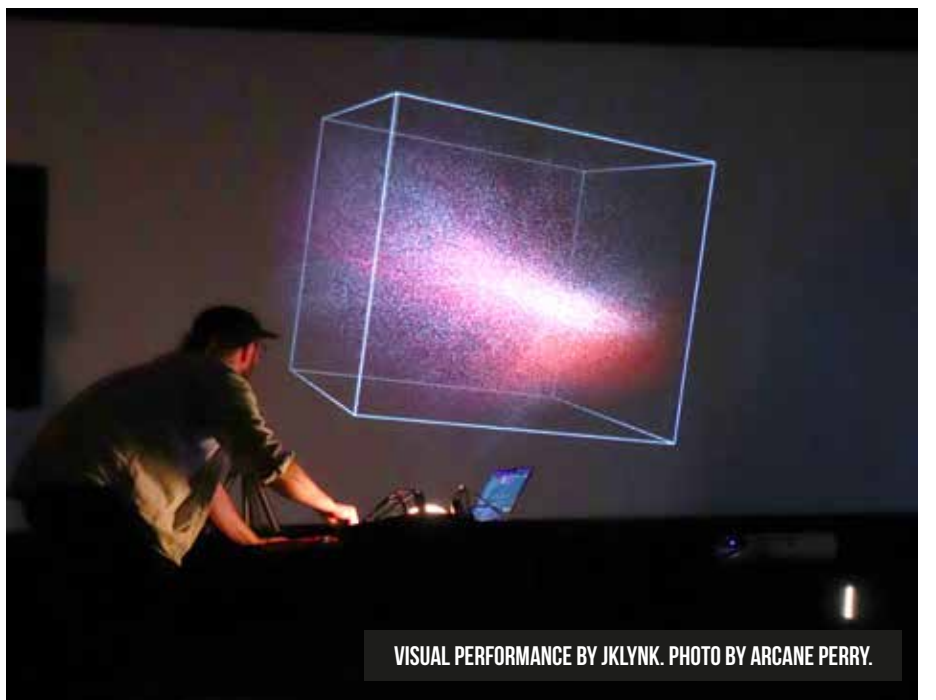
DUMP GOLF BY BASIA HINTON. PHOTO BY MICHAEL CROSS.



SOVA WILLOW GALLERY. PHOTO BY JAMES BODDIE.



TRUE LOVE BY JON TRAVIS. PHOTO BY MICHAEL CROSS.



VISUAL PERFORMANCE BY JKLYNK. PHOTO BY ARCANE PERRY.

Art at 40 Below



BURNING OF PYRAMID BY JOSÉ YOX AND LUDOVIC ANTOINE. PHOTO BY ARCANE PERRY.



RELEMENTS AT BAY BY CUD EASTBOUND. PHOTO BY MICHAEL CROSS.



PORTAL BY DAN BROWN. PHOTO BY MAX FINKELSTEIN.



SOVA WILLOW GALLERY. PHOTO BY ARCANE PERRY.



RAVEN MONSTER DRESS BY NICOLE BAUBERGER. PHOTO BY MICHAEL CROSS.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

(ALSO THE BLOOD, THE MIND, THE WALLET)

Today is Valentine's Day, the annual orgy of chocolate, flowers, candy, jewelery, romantic dinners and greeting cards, all allegedly in the name of love. Billions of dollars will be spent across North America to mark the occasion, which quite frankly has become a commercially-driven exhibition of consumer excess matched only by Christmas.

According to one survey, Americans will spend an average of \$175 today, with men spending twice as much on average than women (\$235 vs. \$119). In Canada, over half the population will make a Valentine's purchase of some sort.

ROMAN FERTILITY RITES

The origins of Valentine's Day can be traced back to ancient Rome, where the festival of Lupercalia was celebrated in mid-February. It was a fertility festival characterized by rituals that included sacrificing animals and pairing couples through a lottery. While some aspects of this festival might hint at romantic connections, its primary focus was on fertility and purification rather than the modern-day notions of love and romance.

The transformation of Lupercalia into Valentine's Day can be attributed to the Christianization of Europe. The Catholic Church sought to Christianize pagan festivals by associating them with Christian saints or, in the case of the Yule Tide, with Christ himself. So, Lupercalia was merged with the feast day of St. Valentine, a Christian martyr who reportedly performed secret marriages for soldiers forbidden to marry. Over time, the celebration evolved into a day associated with love and affection.

However, the commercialization of Valentine's

Day as we know it today gained momentum in the 19th century with the mass production of Valentine's cards. Esther Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," began selling elaborate handmade cards in the 1840s, laying the groundwork for the greeting card industry.

After a reduction in postal rates following the 1840 invention of the famous "penny black" postage stamp, the number of Valentines posted in England alone soared, with 400,000 card sent just one year after the stamp's introduction. These stamps also made it possible to exchange cards anonymously, which is believed to be the reason for the sudden appearance of racy verse in an era otherwise prudishly Victorian. Production increased, and Charles Dickens noted one operation, which he dubbed "Cupid's Manufactory," that had over 3,000 women employed in manufacturing cards.

From Victorian England the practice spread to North America, and, in fact, all over the world. Soon packaged chocolates and gifts were added to the mix and, well, the rest is hysterical history.

WHAT IS LOVE?

But as crass as the holiday has since become, it flourishes because it touches on one of the most primal of urges, even if it is wrapped in lace and plastered with heart-shaped icons that look nothing like the human heart, and completely smothered in romantic notions. Indeed, industry and the media only have to invoke the magic four-letter word, L-O-V-E and the world falls into line.

But what exactly is love? It's certainly a profound and complex state of mind that has captivated humans for millennia. It has inspired countless

works of art, literature, and music, yet its true nature remains elusive.

Hollywood and literature like to depict love as a romantic ideal, but in truth it encompasses a spectrum of emotions and experiences that are deeply influenced by both chemistry and psychology.

Take, for example, pheromones, sometimes referred to as "love chemicals". These substances are produced by many animals and insects to attract the opposite sex. Evidence indicates that humans also produce and sense these chemical compounds, and that they can play a role in determining someone to be a suitable mate.

THE CHEMISTRY OF LOVE

Indeed, Chemistry lies at the heart of love, driving the physiological responses and sensations that accompany romantic attraction. When two individuals experience the initial spark of attraction, a cascade of chemical reactions occurs within the brain and body.

One of the key players in this process is dopamine, often referred to as the "feel-good" neurotransmitter. Dopamine levels surge during moments of romantic interest, leading to feelings of euphoria, excitement, and pleasure. This neurochemical response is akin to the rush of adrenaline experienced in thrilling situations, heightening our sense of arousal and anticipation.

Another crucial component of romantic chemistry is the role of neurotransmitters such as serotonin and oxytocin. Serotonin helps regulate mood and social behaviour, contributing to feelings of contentment and emotional bonding. Oxytocin,



often dubbed the "love hormone," is released during intimate interactions such as hugging, kissing, and sexual activity. It promotes trust, empathy, and attachment, fostering a sense of closeness and connection between partners. These neurochemical interactions create a potent cocktail of emotions that fuel the early stages of romantic attraction.

Hormones also play a significant role in shaping romantic experiences. Testosterone, for instance, is associated with libido and sexual desire, while estrogen influences mood, energy levels, and receptivity to romantic advances. Cortisol, known as the "stress hormone," can either enhance or hinder romantic attraction depending on its levels.

OR IS IT ALL IN THE MIND?

Beyond the realm of chemistry, there are cognitive, emotional, and behavioural aspects of love, and scientists have gathered research findings and developed theories from various fields of study. One influential theory is Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love, which posits that love consists of three components: intimacy, passion, and commitment. According to this model, different combinations of these elements give rise to distinct types of love, such as romantic love, companionate love, and consummate love.

Attachment theory provides another framework for understanding the dynamics of love and relationships. This theory explores how early childhood experiences shape our patterns of attachment and intimacy in adulthood. Secure attachment is characterized by trust, comfort, and emotional closeness, whereas insecure attachment brings anxiety, avoidance, or ambivalence in relationships. These attachment styles influence how individuals perceive love, express affection, and form interpersonal connections.

Evolutionary psychology offers valuable insights into the adaptive functions of love and mate selection. From an evolutionary perspective, love serves as a mechanism for promoting survival, reproduction, and the transmission of genetic material. Mate preferences and mating strategies are influenced by factors such as genetic fitness, parental investment, and reproductive potential. Evolutionary psychologists argue that certain traits and behaviours associated with love, such as physical attractiveness, kindness, and resourcefulness, are selected for their reproductive



advantages.

Researchers have also explored how factors such as communication styles, conflict resolution strategies, and emotional intelligence influence relationship satisfaction and longevity. Effective communication, mutual respect, and empathy are essential ingredients for nurturing healthy and fulfilling relationships. Conversely, poor communication, unresolved conflicts, and emotional neglect can erode trust and intimacy over time.

RECLAIMING VALENTINE'S DAY

Unfortunately, the pressure to conform to societal expectations on Valentine's Day can create feelings of inadequacy and loneliness for those who are single or unable to participate in extravagant displays of affection. The romanticization of Valentine's Day sets unrealistic standards, leading many to believe that their worth is tied to their relationship status or their ability to lavish their

partner with lavish gifts.

In reality, true love transcends material possessions and grand gestures. It is found in the everyday moments of kindness, understanding, and compassion shared between individuals. Genuine love is not confined to a single day on the calendar but is nurtured through continuous effort and mutual respect. It is the quiet support offered during times of hardship, the laughter shared in moments of joy, and the unwavering commitment to each other's well-being.

The commercialization of Valentine's Day also perpetuates harmful gender stereotypes and reinforces heteronormative ideals of romance. Advertisements often depict men as the primary gift-givers, while women are portrayed as passive recipients of affection. This narrow portrayal of love overlooks the diversity of relationships and fails to acknowledge the complexities of modern-day romance.

By emphasizing romantic love, Valentine's Day also neglects other forms of love equally worthy of celebration. Platonic love, familial love, and self-love are often overshadowed by the romantic narrative propagated by consumer culture. Yet, these relationships play a crucial role in shaping our lives and deserve recognition and appreciation beyond the confines of a single holiday.

So, let's reclaim Valentine's Day from the clutches of consumerism and rediscover its true essence as a day to celebrate love in all its forms. The hell with societal pressures and extravagant displays of affection. Let's choose to commemorate the day with meaningful gestures that reflect our genuine feelings. Simple acts of kindness, heartfelt expressions of gratitude, and quality time spent together can far outweigh the fleeting thrill of material gifts.

Let's make Valentine's Day an opportunity to challenge societal norms and redefine what it means to love and be loved. By embracing inclusivity, diversity, and authenticity, we can create a more inclusive and equitable celebration that celebrates love in all its forms. Don't let commercial interests dictate the terms of our relationships but instead strive to cultivate deeper connections rooted in mutual respect and understanding.

*Love,
Kat Gupta*

STRAY THOUGHTS ON THE KLONDIKE HIGHWAY

BY JEFFREY MACKIE

1)
Where are all the people?
You asked:
Like a priest or a poet who thinks more people
Should show up, wants to wait
And forgets to honour those who have shown up

The words must still be spoken
The bread broken
And the wine drunk
Those who have come
Have come for what they need
Have come through some call
Through the night
Or through the dawn

The people are here
You can see them
Or perhaps hear them
Cries and tears
Even masked
They call out

2)
Even in this time
When we have
Sanctioned sadness
Mandated madness
Set guidelines
Changed guidelines

We have been assured
To the point of screaming at each other
We have
And we are
No further ahead
Many are still
Behind in fear

The anxiety of others
Became science
Paranoia
Became risk assessment
Nightmares
Put a hold on dreams

3)
A lot of stray thoughts
On sub-Arctic highways
Soothed by Britpop
‘The Last Canadian’ all alone
With a sing along chorus
“Sing along with the common people
Sing along and it might just get you through”

You must pay attention
But you talk to yourself
Time on the road
Is time in your head
Interrupted by a snow squall
From a passing truck

And you grow tired
Of the music selection
But there is no safe shoulder
To pull over on
No shoulder to lean on at all
So you hear the music
Repeated
Until the next rest stop

4)
There are very few exits
On this highway
No turn offs
That matter to you
Side roads that you will never know
And as the music reminds you
There is no going backwards
You must continue forward
Enjoy the memories
And embrace the unknown.

5)
Airport waiting area
Boarding calls
Interrupt any stray thoughts
There are none on Yukon highways
You just get in the car and go
Took extra precaution this time
To come through flood zone
Rivers over road, pavement unseen
In springtime landscape
Highway still necessary
The only link, north and south
There was late night sunlight
New music and conversation.
Though we stopped
The road continues on

Jeffrey Mackie is an internationally published and translated poet living in Dawson City, Yukon, located on the traditional territory of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation.



KLONDIKE POEMS, STORIES, AND ART

THE MOVING FINGER

BY LES CLOSE

Back in the day when I was thin and handsome (30 something), I was a power engineer / production operator for Amoco's Marten Hills and Nipisi field operations based out of Slave Lake. There were many of us involved in the operations and one person in particular shone as a bright light for his talents as a problem solver and someone who could fix just about anything. He was a nice guy too, despite the fact (or maybe because of it) that he came from Nova Scotia's Cape Breton ... A bluenoser and a herring choker as we westerners used to call him.

His name was Omer Macdonald and he was always up for a bit of fun. We got along famously and teased each other whenever we met. Our standard greeting was the one-finger salute and a smile. If it was a special occasion, often a two-handed one-finger salute was our preferred greeting.

People watching us sometimes commented on our rudeness towards each other and we let them think we were adversaries. It was all good fun for us.

One afternoon, I was waiting at the stoplight in downtown Slave Lake, waiting for traffic to clear so I could make a left turn. Omer was parked at the same intersection to my right and I did not notice him there (he had just bought a new truck). I guess he was trying to get my attention but since I was focused on the oncoming traffic, I did not notice his frantic hand gestures. (Guess which gestures?) He was entirely focused on me, trying to get my awareness and finally, he honked his horn and holding his hands up with both middle fingers raised in greeting, he failed to notice the elderly lady crossing in front of his truck just as he honked. It startled her and it also got my attention! She had a very upset look on her face as she banged her hand hard on the hood of Omer's truck! It was priceless! When Omer figured out what he'd done, he slunk down across his seat and pretended to be looking for something on the floor of his truck!

I laughed so hard that I missed my left turn and had the pleasure of grinning and pointing my finger at Omer as he crossed through the intersection with a sheepish look on his face!

Henjik hädätr'ënidhän.  We love our languages.
An A to Z Hän primer by Giulia Cecchi



Chä chu'.
Rain water.

YOUNG JIM



YOUNG JIM
GONNA
FIGHT
HIS
SCURVY
today

[BOOKENDS]

THE STORY OF DUNE CONTINUES 12 YEARS LATER

by Dan Davidson

DUNE MESSIAH

BY FRANK HERBERT

READ BY SCOTT BRICK, KATHERINE KELLGREN, EUAN MORTON, AND SIMON VANCE

AUDIBLE AUDIOBOOK

MacMillan Audio, 8 hours and 57 minutes, \$26.84, Ace Books, 352 pages, \$12.99

Set 12 years after the original novel, *Dune*, this book skips past all the unpleasant things that had to happen in order for the oracular vision with which Paul “Muad’Dib” Atreides was blessed or cursed, by a combination of his genetic heritage, and an overdose of the spice called melange, to come to fruition.

Paul was able to see many future paths and had tried hard to avoid the one he seemed to be trapped on. Originally the heir to one of the great houses of the empire, bred to psychic abilities by the secret genetic manipulations of the female sect called the Bene Gesserit, Paul was pushed into becoming a tool of vengeance for his murdered and hunted family and the culmination of the prophecies they had seeded among the Fremen natives of the planet Arrakis.

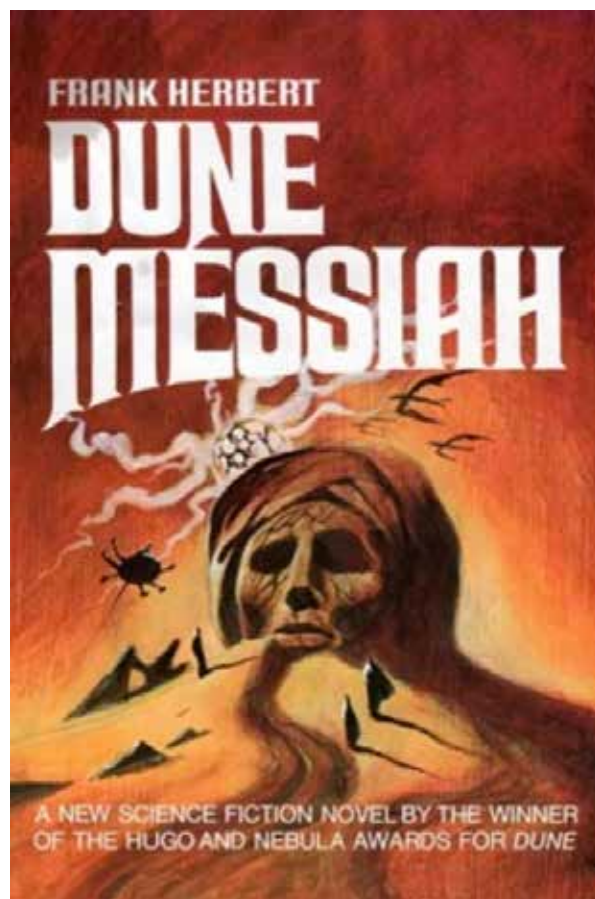
That planet, also known as Dune, is the habitat of the enormous sandworms, and the source of the spice, which allows for the enhancement of mental abilities, increased longevity, and interstellar space travel.

In the name of Muad’Dib, a jihad was proclaimed throughout the known universe, and Paul became the new emperor, all powerful and yet powerless to control the lethal juggernaut that has been triggered by his actions, resulting in the deaths of 61 billion people before things stabilized.

Because of his prescient visions Paul knew that this was actually the least awful of the paths the future might have taken, and he is striving to improve the situation, but there are many forces working to achieve their own ends.

The Bene Gesserit, the spice altered minions of the Spacing Guild, and the genetic manipulators known as the Tleilaxu, as well as more radical elements among the Fremen, all have their own goals, and seek to push Muad’Dib according to their desires.

The Bene Gesserit have enlisted Paul’s official



wife, Princess Irulan, daughter of the deposed former Emperor, to assure that Paul’s actual spouse, the Fremen woman Chani, does not conceive again, having already lost their firstborn son in the events which concluded the first novel.

Paul’s prescience means he is aware of the contraceptive plot, but he has also seen that having another child will mean Chani’s death, so he does nothing.

The Tleilaxu have produced a cloned version, a gholia, of Paul’s late advisor and martial arts trainer, Duncan Idaho, now called Hayt (said as hate). The gholia has its original’s memories and personality encoded within it, and is preprogrammed to kill Paul when triggered by certain phrases and sounds. Will this plot succeed. or will Hayt actually overcome this tinkering?

The Fremen radicals, the hyper-religious, believe their Muad’Dib has not gone far enough, and some of them conceive a plot to push him the way they

want him to act. What they don’t know is that they are victims of a second Tleilaxu plot, one that has them setting off an atomic weapon, called a stone burner, in one of the villages near to the capital on Arrakis.

This kills many people and leaves Paul physically blind. By tradition, all blind Fremen exile themselves in the desert, but Paul shocks the Fremen and entrenches his godhood by proving he can still see, even without eyes. His oracular powers have become so developed that he can foresee in his mind everything that happens, so by moving through his life in lockstep with his visions, he can see even the slightest details of the world around him.

Oddly, this is the part of the book which has stayed strongest in my memory ever since I first read it when I was in grade 12.

The story drags a bit during the first half, due to the lengthy conversations and debates amongst the various players, but the pace picks up as the various plots and counterplots interact and action increases. Most of the threads are tied off satisfactorily, but when you remember that Herbert completed four more books in this sequence before his passing, you have to expect some loose ends. The next book deals with Paul’s children, who have only just been born as this book ends.

Like the first audio version, this book benefits from having four different readers, who use a variety of voices to bring the story to life. It’s a reading, not a dramatization, but it is very effective.

We will shortly see the release of the second part of Denis Villeneuve’s film adaptation of the original novel, delayed by both COVID and the Hollywood strikes, but the director has said that this book will be adapted as well, though he may do some other projects first.

25 YEARS AGO IN THE SUN

THE Klondike SUN

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 1999

VOL. 10 NO. 17

NOW \$1.00



Museum Director Mac Swackhammer led the musical portion of the "Double Bob" celebrations held at Saint Mary's in mid-January. PHOTO BY KIM ADAMS

Winter Tourist Enjoys Her Stay

BY DAN DAVIDSON

While some members of Dawson's business community are wondering how best to market the winter and spread our tourism industry a little further across the months, one visitor, Mary Lee Daniels, is quite certain that the job could be done and that the town really doesn't need to look that hard for things to attract people.

Daniels spent most of the month of December living at White Ram Manor on 7th Avenue, and she found that she was able to enjoy Dawson in a way that she hadn't managed on three previous visits during the summer.

"I'd been here in 1968, then in '92 and '96, and I always thought I'd like to come back here in the winter. I wanted to see the Northern Lights and I wanted to go dog sledding."

It took nearly three weeks to set those things up. The weather only cooperated a few days before she left, and dog mushers Christine and Brent McDonald took her on a ride the same week.

"It was excellent," she said. "You could do it back home, but it wouldn't be the same."

Daniels hails from Birks Falls, a community of 1,000 people about 45 minutes south of North Bay, or three hours north of Toronto. She works for the local branch of the Royal Bank. She attributes her northern fascination to a season her family spent trapping on Steamboat Mountain in northern B.C., even though she was only about a year old at the time.

It probably also helps that she knows some people in Dawson (Al Rudis and Cheryl Laing) who once lived near Birks Falls. She didn't tell them she was coming and sprung a surprise on them.

One of the nurses in town grew up near Daniels' home and they figure that they probably went to the same school at about the same time, but they don't remember each other. They had time to sort that out at one of the many community events which Daniels attended while she was here.

She hit the height of the open house season and estimates she attended some function or other almost every other night while she was here. What with open houses, the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, church events and two school concerts, she was getting to be a familiar face to a number of people by the time she left.

continued on p. 12

Yukon archaeologist named Northerner of the Year

Evidence of ancient peoples, prehistoric big-game hunters, animals now extinct and homes long abandoned are archaeologist Dr. Ruth Gotthardt's life's work. But it's the living communities, First Nations people, young and old, who are her passion.

For over 25 years, Gotthardt, the Yukon Government's chief archaeologist, has been respected and admired for moving archaeology from the scientific realm to the daily life of the people. To honor her commitment and hard work, Gotthardt has been named

Northerner of the Year for 1998 in Up Here magazine's upcoming December issue.

"In the Yukon, when you're researching the past, the First Nations have to be involved. It's their past," says Gotthardt. She often asks high school students from Whitehorse or other communities to assist on digs. And she invites elders to explain the oral tradition as items emerge from the earth.

"The kind of archaeology that's evolving in the Yukon...is quite distinct in the country," says Sheila Greer, an archaeologist consultant

from Edmonton. "It's very much recognized in the Yukon that archaeology is First Nations history. The rest of the country is starting to realize this."

Bringing archaeology to the community means teaching people to understand, manage and respect their own heritage sites. Yukoners certainly appreciate the blending of science with their society. Several years ago, a move by the Yukon government to cut off its staff archaeologist positions was met by protest from the communities. The decision was reversed.

What's Inside

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- 3. "Deaf ears"
- 4, 5. Letters to the editor
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Mayo-Mass every second and fourth Sunday of each month at 4:00pm
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DAWSON COMMUNITY CHAPEL: Located on 5th Ave across from Gold Rush Campground. Sunday School at 10 a.m. Sunday worship at 11 a.m. All welcome. 993-5507.

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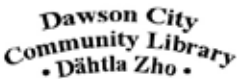


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 Accounting Clerk Supervisor
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 Operation Team Leader
 Admitting & Discharge Medical Records Clerk
 Bookkeeper
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Vet Assistant

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 Salmon Stewardship Coordinator
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 Plumber, Oil Burner Mechanic, Pipefitter

STUDENT & YOUTH

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

Positions with Closing Dates

Policy Officer: Feb 14
 Executive Assistant: Feb 19 @ 9am
 Board of Directors: Feb 20 @ 8:59pm
 Implementation Manager:
 Feb 20 @ 4pm
 Regional Social Worker: Feb 27
 Employment Support Worker: Mar 1
 Administrative Assistant: Mar 29
 Carpenter: Mar 31
 Maintenance Worker III: Mar 31
 Heavy Equipment Mechanic: Apr 4
 Fire Crew Member: Apr 15

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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

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CITY OF DAWSON | MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONTACT INFO

Council Meetings and COW Meetings are open to the public, aired on CFYT-FM 106.9 or tune into Channel 12.



Contact Mayor and Councillors

Mayor Kendrick
bill.kendrick@cityofdawson.ca

Councillor Somerville
alexander.somerville@cityofdawson.ca

Councillor Pikálek
patrik.pikalek@cityofdawson.ca

Councillor Lister
brennan.lister@cityofdawson.ca

Councillor Spriggs
julia.spriggs@cityofdawson.ca

CITY OF DAWSON PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF DAWSON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Asks that community members (Business and Private) remove snow from around their Garbage Bin areas so that the Waste Collection Crew can get to it.

Thank You!

For more information, please contact City of Dawson Public Works Dept. at

pwadmin@cityofdawson.ca or 867-993-7400 Ext. 306

CITY OF DAWSON PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF DAWSON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Asks that community members do 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.

For more information, please contact City of Dawson Public Works Dept. at

pwadmin@cityofdawson.ca or 867-993-7400 Ext. 306



Petite Pâis Ballet

SUNDAYS FEB 18-MARCH 10

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB 9

\$60

3-5 YRS 3-4 PM

6-9 YRS 4-5 PM

MINTO CONCESSION



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.