

# The Klondike Sun

April 12, 2006 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon

## Dawson City International Short Film Festival 2006 AWARD WINNERS

MITY (Made in the Yukon) Professional  
Award:

Boar Attack by Jay White

The MITY (Made-in-the-Yukon) Award is  
designed to honour and enable Yukon artists.

It provides tangible benefits to Yukon  
filmmakers, allowing them to further their craft.

- \$1000 cash - provided by the Yukon  
Film and Sound Commission
- "Film Set on Wheels": \$1000 worth of  
grip gear from Northern Film & Video Industry  
Association (NFVIA) in a 1 ton cube van from  
Norcan.
- Screening of the winning film at the  
2007 Tromso International Film Festival, in  
Tromso Norway
- 1 ounce of raw Klondike gold - provided  
by KIAC
- Plus the world famous, handcrafted MITY  
statue!

MITY (Made in the Yukon) Emerging Talent  
Awards:

First Place: Physical Memories by John Overell

The MITY Emerging Talent Award is open to non-  
professional films in the festival. This includes first-time  
filmmakers, and productions made in various workshops and  
programs.

**FIRST PLACE**

- \$500 cash - provided by the Yukon Film and Sound  
Commission
- 4 days professional production package rental -  
provided by KIAC
- 40 hours editing suite rental - provided by KIAC
- Plus, the world famous, handcrafted MITY statue!

Runner-Up: The Legend of Bigfoot by Delany Alfred,  
Calvin Menzi, Keifer Johnnie, Jordan Isaac

**RUNNER-UP**

- \$500 cash - provided by Lonely Seal Releasing
- 3 days professional production package rental -  
provided by KIAC
- 30 hours editing suite rental - provided by KIAC

Honourable Mention (A Tie):

Iron Man of the Yukon by J. P. Hawkins

Dawson City Ogre by Matt Cook and Duncan Stephens



**HONOURABLE MENTION**

\$200 cash - provided by Northern Town Films  
2 days professional production package rental - provided  
by KIAC

20 hours editing suite rental - provided by KIAC  
ZED People's Choice Award

First Place: Big Girl by Renuka Jeypalan

Awarded to the best film in the festival, as chosen by  
audience ballot.

**FIRST PLACE**

- \$500 cash (provided by ZeD)
- Sterling silver Dawson City International Short  
Film Festival pin

Second Place: Boar Attack by Jay White

**SECOND PLACE**

- 1 ounce raw Klondike gold (provided by KIAC)

**This edition of the online Sun  
was prepared for posting on  
January 17/07.**

Honourable Mention: Beautiful and Deranged: The Song of the Yukon by Alan Black

#### HONOURABLE MENTION

- 1/2 ounce raw Klondike gold (provided by KIAC)

#### LODESTAR AWARD

Lodestar Award: Trygve With His Heart in the Mailbox by Mariken Halle

The Lodestar is awarded to the best Canadian or international film, which exemplifies the guiding principles of the art of independent short film/video making – freedom of expression, authenticity, exemplary artistry despite limitations, and clarity of vision.

- 1 ounce of raw Klondike gold - provided by KIAC

## DAWSON CITY FILM FESTIVAL SURPASSES ON ALL LEVELS

Press Release

photo by Paul Gowdie

The Dawson City International Short Film Festival wrapped up Sunday night in Dawson City, Yukon. Attendance was huge, far exceeding previous festivals. Audiences praised the excellence of the films showing this year!



Special guests from as far away as Norway joined filmgoers from the Yukon. The population of the village, usually about 1,800 this time of year, rose substantially as filmmakers from Vancouver, Regina, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax and Whitehorse arrived to attend the celebrated event.

The winner of the MITY (Made in the Yukon) Professional Award was Boar Attack, a new animation by Marsh Lake resident Jay White. Dawson veterinarian John Overell won the MITY Emerging Talent First Place for his experimental animation, Physical Memories. A team of youth from Pelly Crossing received the Emerging Talent Runner-Up Award for The Legend of Bigfoot. Two students from the film program of KIAC's Arts for won Honourable Mention.

The Lodestar Award was handed to a Norwegian drama,

Trygve With His Heart in the Mailbox, by Mariken Halle. The audience voted Big Girl, by Renuka Jeypalan the Zed People's Choice winner. Second place in the Zed People's Choice went to Boar Attack by Jay White. Alan Black won third place for Beautiful and Deranged: The Song of the Yukon. Loyal sponsors enable the Festival to reward excellence with prizes of cash and services, including Yukon gold!

Distributed throughout the Festival were films from Scandinavia. This was a popular addition this year. An entire program, "The Other North", showcased work from Norway, Finland and Sweden. Egil Pedersen from Norway was in attendance with his films Awake at Night and Fourteen Fatale.

## Dawson City's Youngest Film Maker

Story & photo by Sarah Winton

When Sam Crocker, five, learned about the Dawson City International Short Film Festival he decided he wanted to be part of it. He created a short film called "Scrooge, Sandman, Lava Man and Icicle Man".

The film was shot in one take and there was no rehearsal. Scrooge, the main character, endures a number of misfortunes at the hands of the bad guys Lava Man and Icicle Man. He is helped out in his battles at one point by his friend Sandman. The images in the film were all



**The Klondike Sun** is produced in a newsstand edition biweekly by The Literary Society of the Klondike, a non-profit organization. The online edition is posted after the next newsstand edition appears.

Published by the Literary Society of the Klondike- President: Palma Berger, Vice-President: Dan Davidson, Board of Directors: Judith Blackburn-Johnson, Jen Nunan & Ren Causer.

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, Bag 6040, Dawson City, YT, Y0B 1G0, e-mailed to [uffish20@hotmail.com](mailto:uffish20@hotmail.com), directly to the paper at [klondikesun@northwestel.net](mailto:klondikesun@northwestel.net)

drawings created by Sam and the pages were flipped as the story progressed.

Crocker's favourite part of making the film was the drawing of the pictures. He was very excited about everyone seeing his film (it was shown twice over the course of the weekend). Sam thinks now that he may want to be a film maker when he grows up.

## Dawson's CAO Worried about Lagoon Progress

By Dan Davidson

Dawson's city manager is quite concerned about the apparent lack of progress on finding a location for the territorial government's proposed sewage lagoon project.

It has been established that the proposed aerated lagoon system will work, but there is, as yet, no place to put it.



Paul Moore reported to the Trustee's Advisory Committee on April 11 that he thinks there is some doubt that the territorial government will be able to meet the December 2008 court ordered deadline for having secondary sewage treatment facility in place.

While the government has placed project reserves on two parcels on land in the Klondike valley for the purpose of constructing a lagoon, it hasn't secured the lots as yet, and its first choice is on a mining claim that the stakeholders seem reluctant to sell.

Moore expressed a concern that the land may not be found in time to meet the construction deadline, or even to make a positive report to Judge Lilles in June.

As far as Moore is aware the government is not currently looking at any alternatives to an aerated lagoon system.

Dawson has been in this situation before. Years were spent investigating the feasibility of a sequencing batch reactor plant, only to find in the end that a) it would cost too much to build, b) it would cost too much to run and c) it wasn't really the best solution for Dawson's relatively weak effluent flows.

The lagoon plan has proven itself scientifically. Tests have shown it can do the job, but it needs a large space in

which to do it.

Committee member Corrine Gaudet agreed with Moore that there seemed to have been no real progress towards that requirement shown at the latest public meeting held on the project in March.

Indeed, she noted that one of the placer miners with a claim on Callison Site C, the preferred location, indicated at that meeting that he had not had any discussions with the government about the land he and his partners have rights to.

Committee members were generally concerned about the lack of tangible progress on this project, which has been in YTG hands since the time that the territorial government took over the running of the town's business two years ago this April.

## Arts for Employment Graduation Show 2006 Opening

Story by Sarah Winton

Photo by Evelyn Pollock

The Arts for Employment Graduation Exhibition opening on Thursday, April 20th was a great success. Over the course of the evening, the doors opened at 7:00 p.m., there were about fifty Dawsonites who took in the show.

Students, part-time as well as full-time, displayed their art; on display was everything from film photographs to acrylic paintings. The films made by the students in the film making portion of the program were being played on a television in the corner - a popular attraction.

The class was introduced by David Curtis and Eldo Enns. Curtis talked about the Arts for Employment Program which is now in its sixth year. Next year the program will be moving to the new SOVA building. There have been fifty graduates from the program since its start.

The crowd mingled and enjoyed the art, while sipping wine and munching pineapple, for about an hour and half before things started to die down. The only thing missing from the evening was the energetic antics of Lila Yuhasz-Bell.



## Dawson Daycare Expansion Celebrated

Story & photo by Dan Davidson

Haldenby House, the home of the Dawson City Care, has completed its renovation and expansion. Staff and board are very pleased with the results and showed them off to the public on April 9.



The renovations have been completed in such a way as to retain the homey ambiance that people like about the place.

‘People were anxious,’ said director Vera Holmes, “that it might turn into that ‘centre’ type of big place, but it hasn’t.”

The added space does allow for an additional ten daycare spaces, bringing the total up to twenty-four, but is also allows the age groups to be better separated and supervised.

More than just an expansion, the work reorganized the reallocated the space on the ground floor, making a circular traffic flow pattern that makes for better communication.

The kids now have a washroom with facilities at their height and size, and the staff has its own washroom/change room for the first time. They are sharing that space with stacking laundry facilities which had yet to be installed.

The new kitchen area serves both halves of the building well, and also ties into the space used to store craft supplies.

New furniture and equipment have been purchased with grant money from such sources as the Literacy Action Committee and Child Care Services.

The addition, which was funded by the Community Development Fund, cost \$67,696.00, and added 470 square feet to the building, which the daycare leases from St. Paul’s Anglican Parish.

As part of the afternoon, the board made two presentations, one to Vera Holmes for completing her Early Childhood Education Diploma, and another to Trina Bulher for her support of her professional expertise during the renovation.

Later the same week the daycare held its Preschool graduation ceremony.

## “Searching for Dragons”: Dan Gainsford is on a quest for ancient knowledge

By Sarah Winton

For filmmaker Dan Gainsford, dragons are a symbol of ancient wisdom. They protect what is sacred with their armor and fiery breath; he sees a connection between breathing fire and speaking out with wisdom. The dragon’s

breath is the vehicle through which people can make themselves heard.

Gainsford explained that “I had no idea what dragons meant when I first started the film [“Searching for Dragons”].” He was in Costa Rica when he saw a stone on a beach that had been weathered to look like one of the mythical beasts. He came across this stone at a time when his perspective on what is important was shifting; for him, because of this experience, dragons also represent the beginning of things. Dragons hold ancient knowledge and we must use this to learn about what is coming. We must look to the past to understand the future.

Gainsford and his assistant filmmaker, Forbes Campbell, are heading to Inuvik to begin filming “Searching for Dragons.” From Inuvik the pair will travel to Victoria Island and then down through the center of the continent ending in the Panama Canal, passing through a total of eight or nine countries.

Gainsford and Campbell are based out of Ottawa, where they met and began working together. Gainsford’s mother was a photographer; growing up around a darkroom lead to his interest in the medium. He has been making films since 1997 when he joined the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of Ottawa. Campbell’s primary interest in the project is the subject matter; however, “the bonus is that [he’ll] have to learn film in the process.”

The message that Gainsford hopes to convey through “Searching for Dragons” is one about reconnecting with the land. He believes that human beings are in trouble and he wants to add his voice to the movement that is pushing people to question the way they live. Gainsford knows that film is a medium that creates a lot of waste and, because of this, he believes it is important to use it with respect. He wants to create a film with a purpose. He explained that the crux of his thinking is “if you’re going to create visions, create visions that matter.”

When considering technology the partners believe that the key idea is thinking critically; technology can be dangerous because we never question whether or not it is actually always a good thing.

Another key theme of the film is language; specifically how media as a language currently shapes the world we live in and how it potentially could shape the world. Gainsford hopes to create a voice through “Searching for Dragons” that will help talk the world into a better place. He hopes his voice will help in making people think critically about what they are putting out into the world.

He says “I want my film to be a spiritual journey and an experience that changes the way people look at the world.”

Progress of Gainsford and Campbell’s journey can be followed at [www.windpathfilms.com](http://www.windpathfilms.com).

## Planning Board Receives Award

Story & photo by Dan Davidson

When the Dawson City Planning Board was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Yukon Historical and Museums Association back in February none of the members were able to attend the ceremony. All but one of the members were able to attend a small presentation ceremony at the beginning of the latest meeting of the Trustee's Advisory Committee, where a plaque and a letter from Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor were presented to the group.

The board has been in existence since the late 1970s and its mandate includes a number of traditional town zoning functions, such as making recommendations about setbacks from the street.

Where it is noticed most is probably in its role as the arbiter of the town's historic guidelines bylaw, by which means the community attempts to have the core area of the town remain sympathetic to the post-goldrush era, those early decades of the 20th century when Dawson was the territorial capital and was still a community of some size.

The board, which is volunteer based and appointed by the town council meets regularly to discuss and approve building plans. Currently the board operates under the authority of the latest government appointed trustee, Leo Chasse.

Using the historic guidelines for reference, the board reviews any project in the historic control area of downtown Dawson to ensure it's compatible with the guidelines. The board then makes recommendations to the council (or trustee) as to whether project proposals are acceptable.

Over the last year the board was very active in the discussions surrounding the proposal to build a bridge across the Yukon River. The board approved of the project in principle, but opposed the government's chosen location (near the ferry landing) on the grounds that it would have a negative impact on the historic streetscape. The project was placed on hold when construction cost estimates nearly doubled during the planning phase.

Most recently the board has faced questions about the types of windows it has approved for projects in town. Committee member Bill Bowie has been critical of board approval of window materials for both the School of Fine Arts and the Dawson Daycare.

Board member Shirley Pennell appeared before the committee in February to discuss window choices, particularly those at the daycare. In that case it appeared, she told the committee, that the contractor had substituted windows other than those which had been approved by the board.

Pennell advised the committee that the citizens of Dawson are actually very good about following the board's recommendation and that contractors often alter the plans without consulting or getting approval. The daycare board actually brought the matter to the attention of the planning board and Pennell was able to report that the proper windows has been installed.



The board has been working to improve its guidelines and produce an easy to use style guide for project planners to follow. This work was interrupted when the last elected town council was removed from office by the territorial government due to financial mismanagement two years ago, and the appointed advisory council has kept it on hold, feeling that the final form of any revision should be approved by an elected council.

Trustee Leo Chasse thanked the board for their work and presented Taylor's letter which said, in part,

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Dawson City Planning Board on receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award ...

"The Board's role in helping to preserve Yukon's heritage in Dawson City is truly appreciated by all Yukoners and visitors alike."

## Ice Bridge Officially Closed

Story & photo by Dan Davidson

The ice bridge across the Yukon River at Dawson was officially closed by April 13, marking the end of safe and easy winter travel to West Dawson and Sunnydale. The Dept. of Highways tends to close the bridge before some people are actually willing to stop using it, so vehicles could still be seen making a slow trek across the ice on April 17.



On warm days, however, the ice becomes more treacherous, and there are reliable reports of one rusty vehicle making the trip with water coming up through the floor.

By Monday there was already a collection of trucks, cars and vans on the Dawson side of the river, as people parked there and walked to other vehicles on the West Bank. There was also a number of snowmobiles left by people who had parked larger vehicles on the west bank and used the lighter machines to make the trip.

While the river has broken up in mid-April, it is not likely to do so before the end of the month, on the average.

## Public Speakers Tackle Travel Experiences

Travel was the subject of the first Skills Canada prepared speech competition held at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre on April 18. Three students and one staff member spoke about their experiences travelling.

Kevin Beets told of his trip to European battlefields. Mary Fraughton spoke of the “joys” of air travel. Scott Etienne told of a kayaking adventure in Australia. Miriam Moore reversed the trend by talking about being left at home while others travel.

The speeches were lively and entertaining and a good start for this public speaking program.



## RCMP probe missing money in Dawson

By STEPHANIE WADDELL

Whitehorse Star, April 20, 2006

It's unknown how long the latest RCMP investigation into Dawson City's finances could take, Cpl. Dan Gaudet, Dawson's detachment commander, said this morning.

The investigation began April 3 after town officials contacted RCMP about missing money, which Gaudet would only say isn't a large amount.

He would not go into further details about the case.

"It's in the hundreds of dollars. At this point, we're concerned about any money missing," said town manager Paul Moore.

As soon as the accounting staff became aware of the

missing funds, Moore said, he was informed of the situation and immediately brought it to the RCMP's attention.

It was one of the more recent controls brought in after a forensic audit of the town's finances that caught the fact the money was missing.

"We have very tight controls," said Moore.

The 2005 audit by Vancouver-based auditor Ian Doddington stated money was mismanaged by the town's former mayor, manager and treasurer.

The audit concluded ex-mayor Glenn Everitt owed \$107,609.69, former CAO Scott Coulson owed \$60,542.97 and ex-treasurer Dale Courtice owed \$33,520.77.

The audit was turned over to police, but criminal charges haven't been laid. The RCMP commercial crime unit continues to investigate it, Gaudet said.

Since that audit was done, additional accounting measures and controls have been taken and followed daily by staff, said Moore.

Bills paid for at the front desk of town offices are accounted for at the end of each day, for example.

As for an estimate to how long the investigation could take, Gaudet said: "It depends on how it goes."

The former mayor and council were fired by Community Services Minister Glenn Hart in April 2004 over growing concerns about the town's management of its money, several major projects and its \$4-million-plus debt.

Ray Hayes was then appointed as the town's trustee and remained in what he believed would be a six to eight month term which instead stretched out until the end of last month when he resigned.

Leo Chasse has replaced Hayes as trustee until a new council and mayor are in place. The Yukon government has set a deadline of June 15 to hold a municipal election in the community.

## “Ask me - I live here”

Submitted by Klondike Visitors Association & Dawson City Chamber of Commerce

The “Ask Me – I Live Here” Campaign is now underway. You will be starting to see these buttons on residents who are interested in becoming Tourism Ambassadors to Dawson City.

Signing up is quick and easy. Visit the KVA office, fill out a short registration form and receive your button along with a Dawson map ( you would be surprised at what you can learn from it ) and a welcome letter outlining the campaign. There is no cost involved because it is jointly sponsored by both organizations.

Come on – boast a little. Boast a lot!

Show your friendly side and be part of this promotion.

## Reflections from a visitor...

Dear Dawsonites,

It was fun talking on the phone with Diana Andrew about the article featuring her [“Dawsonite performs some heart surgery”] in the Yukon News on April 10, 2006 because we

were conversing about a place I love to visit, Dawson City, Yukon Territory.

Many years ago I was offered a position to work in Dawson City as a Parks Canada Interpreter in the Klondike but had to turn down the offer. Before that I had been asked to teach sessionally at Yukon College in Northern Studies after a Yukoner attended an Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies presentation I gave regarding my research on a trapline in northern Manitoba. I declined because a sessional job was too short term to leave my home for at the time. Amazingly two elders from the Yukon met me in Saskatoon at a Native Conservation Officers meeting and both individually asked me to move north to the Yukon. I already loved the north having worked on many kinds of samples of northern ecosystems as a biologist with Fisheries and Oceans and having chosen to learn about beaver habitat by living and learning on a trapline on Tramping Lake in northern Manitoba for several years.

It was a dream that convinced us to come north to the Yukon. A dream of mountains, lake and land that drew me north once more, farther than ever before.

The land of the midnight sun greeted us when we arrived as we unpacked boxes long into the late of night unaware of time as the midnight sun guided our hearts and hands. During our first summer we visited Dawson City because I knew of its stories, energy, spirit and sense of endurance for all whom lived under the midnight sun. First we drove to the Dome, viewing the top of the world around us as we were mesmerized by beauty in all directions.

There were so many places of interest to visit we didn't know where to begin. So we traipsed the towns wooden boardwalks entering each store that was open and enjoying the welcomes received. We bought gold pans at the hardware store, ice cream cones, T-shirts and more.

Off we went with gold pans in hand to Bonanza Creek where the Klondike Visitors Association allows visitors to pan for gold. Our children were very young then just 3 and 18 months of age as they learned to pan with us. Alas our luck was dented by our lack of shovel and skill. We had a blast swirling and twirling water and stone in our pans and found some shiny rocks instead. It was fun and we vowed to do it again.

Next we drove further down the creek and back again after the adults visited the dredge. What an enormous machine and how it changed the landscape for all time as the mounds of rocks remain as testament to the toil of man and machine. We got lucky at Guggieville where our pans were laced with gold dust and we came away as tourists do with vials of gold glistening in clean water. We'll be back again.

On the ferry we plied the Yukon River as seconds passed and we made it to the other side and on up into the Top of the World Highway. We went only a short distance that trip as our time was short but it too drew us back again until one year we crossed the Top of World and visited Alaska.

Dawson has drawn us many times to Bonanza Creek and the wooden sidewalks over the past few years.

There is so much to see, to touch, to feel, to hear and to

taste in the City of many stories young and old.

In retrospect I feel drawn to the untouched land surrounding the City of Dawson because in ways I have yet to understand; the land draws me near perhaps to teach of ancient times when people lived along the river ways and traveled by water routes. I feel in Dawson the energy of life lived well, of people helping one another in times of need, of joyous sounds of laughter as the music plays in Gerties and Kates. And then there is a different beat of heart within the land, one that speaks on times long past when few lived in this valley enriched by the river and midnight sun. It draws me always northern till the land and ocean meet. We are keepers of the land and waters so if we close our eyes and listen well we can feel the beat and in our lives we will create the means and ways to meet in harmony once again.

As Dawson's lights glow through the winter shade of snow people are said to gather and share the stories of the many yesterdays they have shared and to create the tomorrows for their future generations. In the moment that is now I need to feel eyes closed, breathing deep, the dancing winds of Dawson streets. Perhaps one day I will see Dawson in the winter as I saw it for a moment in my mind just now, a jewel of warmth and friendliness known by those who dwell in a place of peace.

Thank you  
Dawson City for calling to me.  
cindy birdwise-lecocq

## **Preschool Grad at Dawson Daycare**

Submitted by Megan Waterman, president  
Photo by Jake Duncan

April 13th was the day for the Dawson Daycare's Preschool graduation ceremony. There was a 'cap and gown' ceremony for those in attendance.

Brayden Fellers, Jolie Holmes, Billy Holmes, Rory Duncan, Lochlan Hnetka, Caden Langcaster, Isaak Dube, Kale Michon, Kacie Hastings, Gabriel Lamarche, Arianna Rachel (not shown)



## Dawson City Career Fair - "Thinking Outside the Box"

Story & photo by Sarah Winton

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall was the venue for the Dawson City 2006 Career Fair this past Wednesday, April 19th. The event was a joint effort on the part of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Klondike Outreach, Robert Service School and Yukon College.



The theme for the fair this year was "Thinking Outside the Box"; introducing youth and adults to alternate career paths and opportunities. Recognizing that not everyone is suited to conventional, or more well known, career paths this year's event was geared towards industries that people may not have otherwise been introduced to.

"The idea this year is to introduce Dawson City youth and adults to volunteer opportunities and possible career paths that will lead to growth as a person," explained Cathie Findlay-Brook.

The idea behind the fair was about more than simply recruiting for summer jobs; it was about offering ways to learn about who you are as a person.

Schools from the small communities, Pelly Crossing, Carmacks, Mayo, Ross River and Old Crow, were invited to attend the Career Fair because, as explained by Findlay-Brook, this kind of event in Whitehorse can be somewhat overwhelming for them.

The incentive program this year was a passport book. People collected their pass book at the door and, after answering a skill-testing question, had it stamped at each booth they visited. Completed books were entered into a draw for a chance at prizes donated by the businesses and organizations exhibiting in the fair.

The fair opened for people from the communities at 11:00 a.m. and at 12:00 p.m. for Dawsonites and the doors closed at 5:00 p.m..

## Robert Service School French Carnivale

Photos by Dan Davidson

After a pre-March Break postponement due to cold weather, the school finally managed to pull off its Elementary French Carnivale on March 29. Events included hockey, tug-o-war, an obstacle course, and other fun stuff. High school students assisted in putting this on for the elementary school.

