

# The Klondike Sun

August 30, 2006 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon

## Discovery Days Were Busy in Spite of the Rain

Story & Photos  
by Dan Davidson

If you hadn't been minding your garden all summer it was probably too late to qualify for the Klondike Visitors Association Yard Awards, which were judged on August 15, or the Dawson Agricultural Society's Horticultural Show on

August 19, but most of the other events crowding the Dawson calendar from this Tuesday to next Monday didn't require that level of advance planning.

Wednesday was the KVA's Family Day, with events inside and outside of Diamond Tooth Gerties, including shows and games.

Thursday was a literary day, with the Authors On Eighth processional presentations at the Jack London Centre, Robert Service's Cabin and Berton House. There were readings, talks and the announcement of the winners of this year's writing contest.

On Friday the Yukon Riverside Arts Festival began along Front Street, and ran from the 18th to the 20th with interactive art talks, workshops, street performers and an art auction. Artists at this even event not only show off their work, they also show how it's done.

Also on Friday was the beginning of the Discovery Days Fastball Tournament at Minto Park, which until August 20. In spite of intermittent showers and one total downpour late Saturday night, the tournament managed to play all its games without being rained out.

Both Saturday and Sunday began with Pancake breakfasts at the Dawson Curling Club and rapidly got much busier. On Saturday horse lovers ferried cross the Yukon and catch



the Klondike Classic Horse Show all day, participated in the Discovery Days Golf Tournament, or stayed in town and took in the Salmon Celebration along Front Street, including a smoked salmon contest, a visit to an operating fish wheel, children's games and a salmon barbecue.

All of this took place both before and after the annual parade, which wended its way through town at noon. This year's parade was unusually long, about 20 minutes at any given spot along the route. It concluded with more kids games, organized by the Yukon Order of Pioneers, and a bucket line contest held by the two local fire departments. The dance presentation "Luk Tag Näche" (or "Salmon Girl Dreaming") continued through the weekend at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.

Parks Canada had a couple of special tours over the weekend, including a Dredge Tour and the popular "Sin in the City" street theatre.

The big event on Sunday was the annual Klondike Valley Annual Mud Bog at the North End recreation area, including

**This edition of the online Sun  
was prepared for posting on  
August 9/08.**



yet another BBQ, this one hosted by the Dawson City Women's Shelter. Visitors to Dawson would have found themselves unable to take in all the events. They may have to come back next year and sample the things they missed.



**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)

## Drug charges laid in Dawson

Press release

Dawson City RCMP charged a young man with drug trafficking after executing two search warrants on two separate hotels in the historic town.

At about 1 p.m. last Thursday, police carried out the searches. They seized about 230 tablets of "a substance believed to be ecstasy," said a press release issued this morning.

The police also seized small amounts of cocaine, marijuana, some drug paraphernalia and close to \$1,000 in cash.

Michael Stephen Mackenzie, 24, of Dawson, was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance (ecstasy) for the purpose of trafficking and two counts of possession (cocaine and marijuana).

James Collin McClung, 25, of Vancouver, was charged with possession of a controlled substance – crack cocaine.

Both were released from custody. Mackenzie is scheduled to appear in court Sept. 26 while McClung is scheduled to appear Nov. 2.

Asked if any further arrests can be expected in connection to these arrests, Sgt. Dan Gaudet, the Dawson RCMP detachment commander, said, "It's still under investigation."

The seized drugs have been sent to police laboratories for analysis.

Gaudet also explained some of the dangers of ecstasy, which some users consider to be a "harmless" drug.

"The main thing about ecstasy is that you're not too sure what you're buying because it's a combination of various drugs in one pill ... there could be heroin, cocaine, crystal meth and all kinds of other drugs all rolled up into one."

Gaudet also said that while there are obviously drugs in Dawson, it is not a problem that's highly visible.

## After Fifty Years

By Palma Berger

Paul Cavanagh had to return to Dawson City this year as it is 50 years since he took up a position with Yukon Consolidated Gold Company where he rose to be General Manager.

He marched in the parade, and afterwards he dropped into the Y.O.O.P. hall where he connected with quite a few of those he knew from the time he was here.

He had come to the Yukon as a geologist years before Y.C.G.C., and had worked for the renowned geologist Bostock, in the days when you went out onto the land with horses, instead of helicopters.

Joe Hanulik recalled working with him when as a teenager he, and Jimmy Gaundroue and Gordie Caley accompanied him on a geology expedition. Joe recalls that they had a choice of going to Hart River where there were traces of copper or to Clinton Creek area. They chose the Hart River area, and of course that left Clinton Creek asbestos open to Art Anderson to find and to stake.

Still there are many other rewarding memories here.



*Bud Powell on the left and Paul Cavanagh on the right.*

He met up with Bud Powell. Easily recognized as Tom Powell's son, said Cavanagh. Tom Powell had come here about 1934, his wife a couple of years later, and Bud was born in 1940 in the old hospital under the slide. Tom Powell had managed North Fork power plant, so he too worked for Y.C.G.C. As a young man Bud Powell got a job with Socony Mobil who were exploring here at the time. He stayed with the company until he retired. He is now a City Councillor in Dawson Creek with an interest in Tourism.

Bud Powell is a proud member of the Pioneers. That is Paul Cavanagh's one regret, that he didn't manage to spend the required twenty years here to become a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers.

## Uffish Thoughts: Dawson's no Threat to Cellular Progress

by Dan Davidson

It must have been a slow news week in Toronto in early August. I can't think of any other reason why a researcher from CBC's Toronto Morning would be wanting to do a story about the lukewarm reception Dawson's new council just gave to Latitude Wireless's cellular telephone pitch.

Granted, the story did apparently make the national CBC radio news sometime that morning, so I suppose that might have been the trigger.

I got the call just after lunch here, which would have been three or four in the afternoon there. That was something the woman didn't seem to get right away. No one from here was likely to want to do a live interview with their show because it would mean getting up at 3 a.m. to be alert enough to be on the air at 7 their time.

Who would want to ruin their day to titillate the listening audience in Toronto, where cell phones are so common that people talk on them while they are riding their bicycles in downtown traffic?

So there's this little place in the Yukon that didn't fall on its knees with gratitude when the cellphone company came calling. Big news. I think the last time we got this kind of attention back east was for a story I filed about bar

patrons urinating in the streets after 2 a.m. when the bars close.

It's that kind of a story.

Apparently anything less than rapt acceptance of new technology is considered by some people to be either quirky or a threat to progress.

The Yukon Chamber of Commerce is so stunned that it has issued a press release extolling the virtues of the technology.

Chamber chair David Morrison was particularly effusive.

"Having this basic piece of infrastructure in place is more than a convenience; it is critical for companies doing business outside of the City of Whitehorse to be able to stay in touch with employees, suppliers and clients."

What have we been using outside of the capital to do this sort of thing? Smoke signals? Semaphore flags?

All we are discussing here is a different kind of telephone. There have been telephones in the Yukon for the last half century. We may have progressed from wall and desk bound models to portable phones with built in answering machines, and more extra services than Heinz has varieties, but we are still talking about telephones.

The phone company has a lot of nerve bragging about its commitment to service when it has spent so many years dragging its heels bringing places like Marsh Lake into the 20th century, let alone the 21st. What has the phone company really done to improve the wired lives of people whose homes are just off the grid, or in the bush? Not a great deal.

The phone company is not, after all, a public service agency, but a cleverly run private company which has profit as its goal and getting its fingers in the public purse as one of its main sources of revenue.

Without public money there would be no Latitude Wireless project. The NMI Mobility representative who spoke here made that quite clear. That makes this a government project, and there is absolutely no way that Dawson's mixed reaction to it will have any impact on whether it flies or not.

I can't speak for the council, but I'm sure they know that, and that their reaction had more to do with annoyance over not having been consulted before the fact than anything else. We're touchy about consultation in Dawson just now. We weren't consulted about much of anything - bridges, hospitals, local government, sales of property owned by the town - for over two years, and it annoyed us.

It's not likely that any of them are entirely opposed to cellphones at, shall we say, a cellular level. One is a businesswoman well connected to the wired world. Another runs a hotel and works for Yukon College. A third is a pilot. A fourth is a lands manager. The mayor himself derives part of his income from designing websites and doing IT (information technology) work. This is not what you could call a group of luddites.

So what's the story? If you want to do something in Dawson - even banners for tourism promotions - come and talk to us about them. We're open to suggestions and

open for business, but it ticks us off to be taken for granted.

## Fire Damages Hän Fisheries Building

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

The R.C.M.P. and the Yukon Fire Marshall will be determining the cause of fire which damaged the Hän Fisheries Building on Discovery Day in Dawson.

Firefighters in Dawson spent the morning and early afternoon of the holiday Monday dealing with a that fire, which was reported around 9 a.m. according to Dawson Fire Chief Jim Regimbal. Action on the fire continued until about 2:30.

The fish plant which operated out of the building shut down in 1996, and it is currently being used for storage of materials. There was no electrical power in the building.

Regimbal said it was a tough building to fight a fire in. The exterior was clad in metal, with solid wood construction beneath that, and it was not easy to gain access.

Regimbal said there were definitely safety issues in fighting this fire. People familiar with the structure refer to it as a bit of a maze, with different levels inside. Breathing gear was needed.

The fire chief was happy with the turn out for this fire; some 15 or 16 members responded in spite of some people being away for the holiday weekend. In addition, some members of the Klondike Valley Fire Dept. lent their assistance.

Damage due to the fire was largely in the upper story, though there is smoke and water damage throughout.

Regimbal would not comment on the cause of the fire, save to say that the investigation had been handed to the R.C.M.P. Members of the force on the site were waiting for an assessment by the Yukon's Fire Marshall and had no comment at this time.

Regimbal indicated that it was almost a pleasant change to be fighting a fire during a late August drizzle with temperatures in the low teens rather than at -30 in the winter.



## Throw the Big Ones Back, Dawson Steward Suggests

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

Dawson City's Community Steward thinks he knows a trick which will help restore the vitality of the Yukon River salmon fishery: throw the bigger fish back.

This flies in the face of a lot of theories about fishing, which tends to have the angler or the fisherman keep the bigger fish and throw the small ones back, but Sebastian Jones believes that research has shown this to be the reason why the average size of the salmon being harvested has been shrinking over the last several decades.

The Community Steward program is an offshoot of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, and Jones is one of five community stewards in the territory.



Sebastian Jones is Dawson's Community Steward, charged with finding ways of encouraging people to live in harmony with the environment. Here he holding a model of a fish wheel, an old technology which might actually provide a cutting edge solution.

Stewards have these general goals, according to the YFWMB's website:

- Yukoners will live with greater involvement in stewardship of their living resources and natural environment.
- People and agencies that work on stewardship activities at a regional and local level will communicate and network effectively.
- Community people and agencies will be capable of getting involved in stewardship and conservation initiatives in their area.

Jones, who is also a fisher, has a special interest in salmon, and says that the annual runs in the Yukon River show all the signs of being a stressed population, which includes smaller sizes of fish and unpredictable fluctuations in the annual spawning runs.

Jones speculates that the increased use of fish wheels, equipped with live holding tanks, would allow fishers to be more discriminate about which fish they keep and which they don't, allowing the older, larger fish, which have a greater chance of spawning successfully and lay many, many times more eggs than smaller fish, to make it to the spawning grounds.

An experiment last summer appeared to validate the theory that a properly sited fish wheel could do as good a job of catching fish along the river as the more destructive gill nets that are the most common method of fishing used in the industry.

Yet to be solved are ways of encouraging fishermen to use the wheels, which might include financial support for building them, and survey support for finding the best places to place them. Such incentives, common to resource extraction industries such as mining, would be of great help to this smaller industry.

If something is not done to remedy the stress the fish population is under in the next few years, Jones fears that the salmon fishery may follow the current taken by the Newfoundland cod fishery, and cease to exist.

Jones presented his theories to an audience of locals and visitors in the AV room at the Dawson City Museum during a lecture in August.

## Animal Protection Legislation What is available in the Yukon?

Submitted by Aedes Scheer

Animal Protection in the Yukon is covered by different pieces of legislation at the Federal, Territorial, and Municipal levels of government. These are listed below:

- Territorial Animal Protection Act (APA)
- Territorial Dog Act
- Territorial Pounds Act
- Federal Criminal Code (Cruelty to Animals section)
- Various Municipal Animal Control Bylaws i.e. City of Dawson Bylaw 98-12

### Is the Legislation working?

For the most part, yes. So what is the problem? Why should any changes be made?

When a specific case is presented, it becomes a thorny issue to decide which Act or bylaw to use and it is not always so clear in whose jurisdiction the case falls. Should the RCMP be called or is it something that the Bylaw Officers can handle? Additionally, Special Officers (peace officers under the APA) may be called upon.

Each piece of legislation could be revised but it may be advisable to create an "Omnibus Animal Protection Act" that covers all the domestic animal concerns and streamlines the investigative process. Regardless, it is very important to the Humane Society Dawson that animal protection legislation be functional across the entire Yukon and not in just the larger communities.

## **Suggestions for Changes**

The following points are only suggestions and a partial list of possible changes. Your input can help identify further aspects of the legislation that could be changed.

### **Animal Protection Act**

**Definition of distress** – This currently reads: “in need of proper care, food, shelter, water, being injured, sick or in pain or suffering, and being abused or subject to undue or unnecessary hardship, privation, or neglect” which is surprisingly open to interpretation. Does this mean daily food/water or food/water on a regular rotational basis like every three days? Does an empty fuel barrel on its side qualify as shelter when it is -50C? Clear guidelines are needed so that this determination does not rest on the basis of an observer’s personal opinion. Fact-driven assessments need to be a part of the legislation. A possible resource when considering dog care could come from the organisation “Mush with PRIDE”. Another comprehensive resource for animal care is the guidelines established by the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

**Hoarding** - Very few animal protection acts adequately address the problem of animal hoarding although the acts may prohibit cruel treatment and/or require an owner to provide proper shelter, adequate nutrition and clean water, a sanitary safe environment, and necessary veterinary care. Thus, on a very simple level, it seems that hoarding would be an obvious violation of the most basic provisions. Unfortunately, when these cases reach the courts, intent is difficult to prove. The animal hoarder will profess great love for the animals even though they are often oblivious to serious illness, animals in desperate need of veterinary care, starvation, and even death of the animals. An additional problem is that much of the cruelty which arises in these situations is of a “quality of life” nature which is almost uniformly absent from existing legislation. A very thorough overview of animal hoarding can be found at: <http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/> (see link for the document titled “ANIMAL HOARDING: Structuring Interdisciplinary Responses to Help People, Animals, and Communities at Risk”).

We recommend that a section defining animal hoarding be added to the APA and that it be worded similarly to the sample legislation from Illinois (see attached, note that this legislation singles out companion animals but hoarding can occur for any species).

**Opinion of Veterinarian** – Currently the APA allows that, where a veterinarian is not available, the assessment of two reputable citizens may be accepted (page 4 of APA, 2002, b part). However the Court prefers that a veterinarian assess the situation. The problem is that not all communities have a vet and bringing a vet in can be expensive and cause delays. Additionally vets need legislated protection to make decisions/recommendations on a case without fearing a backlash to their business.

**Peace Officers** - Right now the APA permits Humane Societies to appoint Special Officers to enforce the Act and investigate but Humane Societies typically do not have the

resources to train or equip the Officers. Special Officers should be appointed under the APA, employed and trained by YTG, and positioned in communities outside of and in addition to Whitehorse. These Officers would specialise in animal protection and relieve the reliance on the RCMP who are not as familiar with Territorial Legislation. Special Officers could act as “First Responders” to an animal neglect or abuse case and be trained to assess, document, and provide initial care as well as assess the need for other resources, such as veterinary care or the RCMP.

**Repair Loopholes** – The APA obliges investigating officers to inform the owner, allow them to make repairs, and become educated (Section 2(2)). The APA is not clear on how many times this can happen and due to a lack of familiarity with the Act, inconsistency in investigating officers and documentation, some cases are caught in this perpetual cycle. We propose that there be a limit imposed on the number of times a particular owner is permitted to remedy the situation. Having dedicated Special Officers to track these cases in a standardized fashion will also help.

**Dog Act, Pounds Act, and other Territorial Legislation**

Definitions should be standardized across all pieces of legislation that refer to animals. We recommend that the definition be harmonized with that proposed for the Federal Criminal Code (see below). Effective legislation would apply to all non-wildlife vertebrates equally whether they are under someone’s care or stray, large animal or small.

Some duplication of animal protection-like language appears in the Dog Act (Section 3, 4) and also the Pounds Act (Sections 22, 23). These Acts should either refer to the APA or be revised to use the same language as in the APA.

Section 6 of the Dog Act requires that dogs in harness be muzzled when around people. This is a now antiquated concern that sled dogs are dangerous unsocialized animals which simply is not the case for most dog teams in the Yukon.

**Federal Criminal Code (Cruelty to Animals section)**

The Cruelty to Animals section of the Criminal Code has had the same definitions and policies since 1892. Our relationships with animals have changed since that time.

**Definition of Animal** – Currently there is no definition of an animal. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association suggest that animal be defined as “a vertebrate, other than a human being.”

**Property Section** – Crimes against animals are considered crimes against property. Animal Cruelty should be moved out of the property section to better reflect modern Canadian values.

**Willful Neglect** – The wording of the current offence requires proof of a person’s intent which makes it very difficult to lay charges. The term “negligence” should be introduced and defined as “departing markedly from the standard of care that a reasonable person would use”.

**Killing an Animal** – An animal may be killed without a lawful excuse. This should be changed to make it an offence to kill an animal without a lawful excuse which would include: hunting, fishing, farming, euthanasia, and

protection of life and property.

**Brutal and Vicious Treatment** – The current legislation does not address brutal or vicious actions against an animal as a form of violence. Again this should be revised to reflect modern Canadian values.

**Different Protection for Different Animals**- At present there are separate sections and offences for cattle and for dogs, birds and other animals. Effective legislation would apply to all vertebrates equally.

**Fighting and Training** – It should be made an offence to train animals to fight other animals or to receive money from this activity.

**Penalties** – The penalties do not appropriately punish perpetrators nor act as a deterrent. There are different penalties for crimes against cattle. Plus there is currently no provision for cost recovery for those providing care and treatment (i.e. SPCAs, humane societies, veterinarians) for animals that have been abused.

What can you do to help?

You can contact your Town Council, your MLA, and MP and let them know that changes to animal protection legislation are very important to you. Improving the welfare of animals who live and work with us benefits the entire community.

If you are aware of animal abuse or neglect situations, please notify the Humane Society, the RCMP, and Municipal Bylaw Officer. We can't do anything unless you tell us!

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## Riverside Arts Festival Moments

## **Uffish Thoughts: We're Suffering from Déjà Vu Here**

By Dan Davidson

We are about to enter into a territorial election. That means that all sorts of YTG projects which have not been completed will suddenly fall into legislative limbo, and that promises made orally, but never committed to paper, may vanish like the lady in the magician's closet.

Dawson's council, and its citizens, could view this prospect with some alarm, and perhaps with a better understanding of its potential consequences than any other community in the territory.

Before the writ is dropped I'm sure that Dawson's new and somewhat nervous council would like to see serious correspondence confirming and detailing all the promises which were made here by the Premier on April 28, and alluded to in considerably less detail in the press releases which followed his visit here on that date.

To be sure, the government did make good on its pledge to forgive \$3.43 million of Dawson's massive debt, and did organize and hold elections to allow the town's citizens to govern themselves again after 26 months in municipal purgatory.

There were, however, two other promises made, and I quote from my Klondike Sun story of May 10, 2006.

"Secondly, the government committed to provide an immediate capital injection of \$1 million, to assist in catching up on repairs and replacement of infrastructure the town hasn't been able to spend money on since 2004.

"Our government," Fentie said, "believes that we should sit down with the mayor and council and quickly, collectively, determine where those immediate needs and targets are."

That sit-down has been held, and the town has drawn up a list of priorities for the spending of that money, but the councillor who met with YTG officials came away with the impression that the reality of that million dollar cheque was not carved in stone, and that it might just vanish.

This was a concern of the Trustee's Advisory Committee from the time of the announcement, and it attempted, without success, to pry a letter of commitment from the government, to make the promise mean more than a press release, a speech in Dawson, and some words in the legislature.

The new council has raised the same issue at each meeting I have been able to attend since it took office, and the minutes of those meetings reflect a similar lack of progress in the reassurance department.

The capital funding list of projects has grown to a total of \$238,000 at this point, including street work, replacement of pumps within the water and sewer system, a study of the needs of that system, and work which must be done in order to maintain and correct deficiencies in the poorly constructed recreation centre.

The request has yet to receive a reply.

More to the point however, the Premier committed to take over all responsibility for costs related to the

stabilization of the recreation centre, and nothing has been done along those lines so far. Indeed the town is being pressured to come up with \$100,000 to meet one-third of the costs needed to apply for Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funding under the new federal program in order to begin the steps needed to rectify problems here.

In his words, referring to the secondary sewage treatment project and the recreation centre on April 28.

"These will be excluded from Dawson's financial affairs. The Yukon government will maintain them."

Why then would Dawson need to apply for money from YTG to make up its portion of a MRIF application? The government ought to be picking up that tab in Dawson's name?

But wait. There's more.

Fentie suggested strongly, both in his announcement and in response to later questions, that the current arena "will probably never be an arena" and that a new facility might be built in town at an as yet unspecified location.

Nothing has been heard here about that suggestion here either.

Two governments back, promises were made here which lapsed when an election was called. The events which followed led directly to Dawson's bankruptcy and the removal of its elected council.

Is it any wonder that there's just a nervous hint of déjà vu in the air?

## **Dawson Women's Shelter and MADD Canada Car Wash and BBQ: Once Again a Success!**

Submitted by Nicole Scotney

It was a busy weekend for Dawson Women's Shelter; with the second annual Triathlon on Saturday August 5th followed by the fifth annual MADD Car Wash on Sunday August 6th.

The community of Dawson City was busy supporting MADD Canada's campaign to lower the "acceptable" blood alcohol level. The event was held at the Dominion Shell Station to raise funds for M.A.D.D. Canada and The Dawson Women's Shelter. This year the car wash was offered for \$8 and an additional \$5 for the BBQ. Those in attendance were informed about the existing campaign to reduce the current legal blood alcohol level from 0.8 to 0.5 for all drivers.

This annual event was organized by the Midnight Sun and the Dawson Women's Shelter. Along with the Midnight Sun there was also support from many of the other bars in town including; Mama Cita's, Diamond Tooth Gerties, The Triple J, The Drunk n' Goat, Klondike Kate's, The Westmark, and The Downtown. It was inspiring to see such support for MADD Canada from the local bars. Various Dawson businesses donated their time and made cash donations. Two RCMP officers came to the Car Wash and were busy washing cars and promoting driving safely throughout the town. With all of the support from the volunteers and patrons that came to get their vehicles washed, we were able to raise over \$1100 from the carwash alone. The donation jar from The

Midnight Sun Hotel contained another \$145 bringing the total to just shy of \$1300. This yearly event could not have been made possible if it were not for such a supportive community. We would like to thank everyone who came out to our event and look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

## La cinquième édition du festival des Arts de Dawson!

De Marielle Veilleux

Deja la fin de l'été, les enfants se préparent à retourner à l'école. Cependant a Dawson, nous voulons profiter de ces journées ensoleillées au maximum, Et c'est en célébrant que nous voulons marquer cette fin de saison estivale, tout en s'amusant une toute dernière fois en plein air sur les rives du fleuve Yukon.

En effet, depuis l'an 2000, il existe un festival des Arts a Dawson Cet évènement se déroule durant la fin de semaine de «Discovery days» et accueille des artistes et artisans de partout au Yukon. De Whitehorse, Carcross, Lac Laberge, Mayo, Dawson et même du Territoire du Nord Ouest; d'Inuvik et de Tsiigehtchich. Il y a en tout une trentaine d'artistes, on y dresse des tentes ou l'on peut soit observer les maîtres a l'œuvre et/ou même participer à des ateliers que ceux-ci donnent pratiquement gratuitement, (dans certains cas on peut charger un peu pour aider à payer au matériel utilisé).

Aux festivals des arts précédents, on a pu y observer de l'art et artisanat varié tel que de la photographie, de la peinture a l'huile, de l'aquarelle, de la céramique, la sculpture sur bois et sur pierre, de la poterie, du vitrail, de fabrication de bijoux, bref un peu de tout. La liste de participants est toujours impressionnante.

Et comme dans tous les autres festivals, le succès de celui-ci est grandement du a la participation de nombreux bénévoles. Dont plusieurs que vous avez trouvé dans la tente de marchandises, ils s'occupaient en autre de vendre les produits des artisans et d'artistes pour que ceux-ci puissent se concentrer sur leur médium et de répondre aux questions du public les observant.

Ce qui a été remarquable cette année, fut la première journée du festival soit jeudi. On a marqué l'ouverture avec la nouvelle exposition d'arts d'Hanuko Okano a la galerie d'arts ODD, ce fut suivi d'un spectacle de danse au centre culturel Danuja Zho. Ensuite on a tous été prendre une marche en ville, car cette année, divers commerces de Dawson avaient choisi de participer à exposer les œuvres de talents locaux et régionaux. En fait, c'est au centre de photographie «Peabody» qu'on a pu voir les expositions photographiques d'artistes locaux. Si on ressentait la faim on pouvait continuer vers le restaurant «Klondike Kate» ou l'on y retrouva les œuvres de 3 artistes francophones de Whitehorse; soit de Marie-Hélène Comeau, d'Yvette Bourque et de Josée Carbonneau. Juste au coin c'est au magasin «40 mile gold» qu'on a pu admirer une exposition de Ken Anderson, artiste Tlinglit. Enfin a l'auberge Bombay Peggy, on a pu lever notre verre au talent d'Halin de Repentigny, artiste renommé de la place.



3 artistes francophones de Whitehorse: Yvette Bourque, Marie-Helene Comeau et Josee Carbonneau

Mais c'est samedi le moment attendu pour plusieurs. Historiquement, on marque le début de «discovery days» par la fameuse parade. Dans l'après-midi on peut participer à des ateliers dans les tentes sur le bord du fleuve ou pour ceux qui veulent se mettre à l'abri du soleil, on peut aller faire la visite du nouveau bâtiment de l'école des arts.

En début de soirée c'est au tour de l'encan annuel d'œuvres d'arts, dons d'artistes locaux et régionaux. En effet, cet encan d'arts qui est de plus en plus populaire a eu lieu a la salle de «l'ODD fellow hall» a 1900 heures. Les portes se sont ouvertes à 15:00 heures pour que les gens puissent voir les items a vendre. 50% des ventes iront à la galerie d'arts ODD. On anticipe toujours un grand nombre de personnes qui assiste à cet encan depuis son tout début. Peut-être, étiez-vous la personne chanceuse de pouvoir vous procurer un objet d'arts tel le corset «pink lady» fabriqué par Kirsten avec les anciens rideaux du fameux «Pit» qui fut l'item le plus populaire de la soirée. Sinon juste pour venir observer le tout, vous avez eu la chance d'avoir du plaisir tout en participant au tirage de prix.

## Dawson Writers Gather at the Gazebo

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

Dawson is well known for its writers, beginning with Jack London,, continuing through Robert Service and on to the late Pierre Berton, but these internationally known names are not the only scribes recording the life and times of the Klondike.

Since that is the case, and since Maximilian's Goldrush Emporium sells all of their books, manager Tammi Wallace decided to hold a special recognition ceremony over the Discovery Day weekend.

The Front Street Gazebo, right across from the store, proved its worth on an intermittently hot and chilly Saturday afternoon as tourists and locals paid their respects to Dawson's current generation of scribes.

Dick North has been celebrating this area for decades now, and has had a busy year and a half, with a reissued, expanded version of his *Mad Trapper of Rat River*, as well as his novel, *The Man Who Didn't Fit In* and his memoir/history, *Sailor on Snowshoes*.



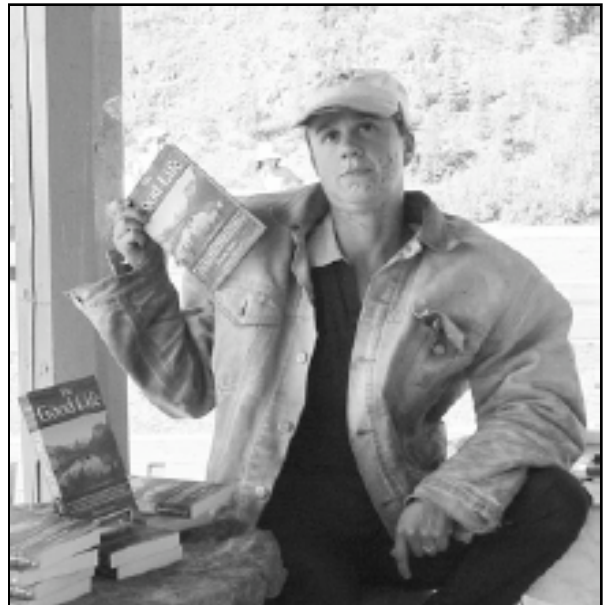
John Gould has been an historic resource for decades as well, and his one book project so far has been *Frozen Gold*, a treatise on early Klondike mining technology, methods and history.



Joanne Bell, who has lived in the bush, used her experiences to write *Breaking Trail*, the story of a young girl's struggle to deal with family problems and train a dog team. This book will soon be reaching a larger audience in a German translation.



Dorian Amos, a transplanted Brit, has written about his life homesteading in West Dawson. The author of *The Good Life* couldn't actually be there, as he was busy building a new home even farther from town, but his wife, Bridget, dressed the part and spoofed her man.



Deiter Reinmuth, the owner of the Dawson City River Hostel, has also penned two books, one a Yukon travel guide and the other a updated version of the history of the Sourtoe Cocktail, but he was busy looking after his patrons on this day.

Books were signed, goodies were munched, coffee and lemonade were quaffed and a good time was had by all. Oh, and a few books were sold as well.