

The Klondike Sun

June 21, 2006 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon

History and Heritage Dominate the Commissioner's Ball

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

The 32nd Commissioners' Ball took the theme "Klondike Snowflake", perhaps in anticipation of the many varieties of costume that would walk through the doors that night. Everything from modern formal to basic little black dress strolled off King Street on Saturday night while the male contingent ran the gamut from tuxedos to leisure suits.

Last of all came a quartet of ladies dressed up like movie cowboys.

Whatever the outfit, it wasn't long before the ladies were glowing and men sweating in the 30 degree heat. No real snowflake would have survived this night, which was truly a hot time in this old town.

The Ball is held annually to commemorate the Yukon's birthday, which is June 13. Master of Ceremonies Bill Holmes reminded the audience that it was on that day in 1898, 108 years ago, that the Yukon was carved out of the Northwest Territories as a separate entity.

Brenda Caley, chair of the Klondike Visitors Association, welcomed Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber, her husband, Pat, and her guests.

"This is an especially joyous occasion, partly because we are here in this beautiful theatre, but mostly because we consider Geraldine our own. So welcome home, Geraldine ..."

Commissioner Van Bibber recalled her own roots, including those on the stages of Dawson.

"I cannot tell you how pleased Pat and I are to be here with so many family and friends. As the Commissioner's Ball has been such a memorable tradition, I'm so glad to be back in this theatre are a brief departure. The ambiance and

the mood (are) just perfect for this.

'I thank former Commissioner Jim Smith for this innovative idea, many years ago.

"This building holds so many great memories for me, as I spent many a summer evening handing out programs or selling tickets for the Gaslight Follies. I knew every show by heart, and even danced in the first Follies for Fran Dowie, unaccompanied.



"Who knew your present Commissioner was a showgirl?"

That comment raised a flurry of laughter, hoots, cheers and applause.

Following thanks to the KVA, her staff and Parks Canada, the Commissioner raised several special toasts.

"My first toast is to the Queen, to her Royal Highness, Elizabeth II - to the Queen.

"Next I'd like to make a toast to the memory of all Yukoners we have lost this past year - to past Yukoners.

"Now I have special toasts to make to several Dawsonites whom I knew and I want to recognize personally. These strong pioneer women helped blaze the trail for us.

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“The first I would like to toast is Annie Henry. She was a beautiful G’wichin elder who kept her heritage and traditions alive throughout her life and always with a twinkle in her eye. To Annie.

“My second is for Fran Hakonson, a businesswoman par none, and one of the founders of the KVA, a lady who contributed so much to the community and to the Yukon. To Fran.

“And last, but not least, I’d like to recognize Pretoria, or “Pete”, Butterworth, who I always remember for her wonderful laugh, for her years working in the Butterworth Store, and for being a part of so many volunteer organizations. To Pretoria.”

Following the addresses, which were long of heritage and mercifully short on politics this year, the Wallstreet Band took over the stage and set the audience dancing.

Later in the evening the Triple J Hotel served up hot and cold Hors d’Oeuvres and deserts.

Finally, someone will have to find out from Chief Justice Ron Veale where his wife, Catherine, plans to take him on the Princess Cruise that she won at the evening’s draw. Her choices are the Mexican Riviera or the Caribbean.

Introducing Jacob J. Larsen, Klondike Sun Intern

By Jacob J. Larsen

Hello!

As your new summer intern here at the Klondike Sun, I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Jacob J. Larsen, and it is my pleasure to work at a

community newspaper in a town near and dear to me. Originally hailing from Toronto (don’t hold it against me!), I come to Dawson by way of Montreal, where I spend my winters immersed in university studies and more poutine than is good for me.



It is with great pleasure that I join the Sun’s small but dedicated team of journalists working hard to bring the unfolding events of this community to life. I look forward both to informing the Sun’s readers of important developments in Dawson, but also being informed by local residents who have had a finger on the pulse of the town for the past five, twenty or fifty years. To that end I hope that my photo above and my presence around town will prompt folks to grab me and give me an earful. Tell me what you’d like to see in your newspaper. But hard-working and mind-blowingly good looking as we may be here at the Klondike Sun, we can’t possibly write about everything that goes on during these busy months. So submit your articles, comics, photos, and random artwork! Where else can you get your name in print so easily?

I look forward to meeting more of you and hearing your ideas for this newspaper. And remember: if you see me out and about in town during office hours, I’m not slacking off, I’m on assignment... or getting Sarah a coffee.

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Record field of 76 teams set to race in 2006 Yukon River Quest

WHITEHORSE (June 5, 2006) – A record field of 76 teams with 168 paddlers representing six countries are registered to start the eighth annual Yukon River Quest Canoe and Kayak Race on Wednesday, June 28.

The 740-kilometer (460-mile) wilderness adventure paddling marathon is held on the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson City in Canada's Yukon Territory. It is the longest annual canoe and kayak race in the world.

The registration period closed on May 26, but most solo and tandem slots filled back in February. The race has a limit of 70 solo and tandem teams and allows voyageur team entries above that limit.

This year a record six voyageur teams are entered, along with 28 tandem canoes, 24 solo kayaks, and 18 tandem kayaks. Winning teams in various classes receive \$1,500 under a new prize structure adopted for this year. Total purse is over \$20,000.

Ninety-nine paddlers from Canada represent the largest national contingent, followed by the United States with 44, Great Britain with 21, two from Austria, and one each from Australia and Belize.

The Yukon leads the Canadian representation with 31 paddlers, followed by 26 from British Columbia, 14 from Ontario, 11 from Alberta, 10 from Saskatchewan, four from Northwest Territories, two from Newfoundland, and one from Manitoba.

Paddlers from the USA are represented by 16 from Alaska, six each from Washington and Texas, four from New York, two each from California, Michigan and Hawaii, and one each from Iowa, Georgia, Wisconsin, Florida, Maine, and Illinois.

The large contingent from the United Kingdom this year is largely due to a BBC broadcast of the 2004 event that aired a year ago. Included among the 12 all-UK teams are three tandem kayak teams from the British Army, which held its own competition among soldiers this spring to fill the spots.

Biographies of all teams and other race information is available online at the race website: www.yukonriverquest.com.

After a LeMans-style start in downtown Whitehorse, teams paddle round-the-clock under the midnight sun, stopping for just two mandatory rests at Carmacks/Coal Mine Campground (7 hours) and Kirkman Creek (3 hours). It is a grueling wilderness adventure race that tests the stamina of both professional and recreational paddlers from around the globe.

In 2005 a total of 66 teams from six different countries started the event, while 50 finished. Eight category records were broken, including the new course record of 42:51:55. With lower water levels anticipated this year, it will take a monumental effort to break that record, but there are some world-class paddlers in the field that will give it their best shot.

Past class winners in this year's race include Steve Mooney, Ingrid Wilcox and Tunde Fulop of Whitehorse,

Brandon and Heather Nelson of Washington, David Kelly of California, Steve Landick of Michigan, and the Paddlers Abreast and RCMP Scarlet Fever voyageur teams from the Yukon.

Veteran River Questers Larry Seethaler of Anchorage and Heinz Rodinger of Austria are back with many others for another shot. For most paddlers, the biggest prize is just finishing the event in world famous Dawson City, site of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98. The race officially ends at 8:30 a.m. on July 2, followed by an awards banquet at noon at the Dawson Rec. Centre.

Race results will be updated and posted on the race website throughout the event.

This year's race is drawing media attention from Canoe and Kayak magazine, whose editor is coming up for the event, as well as Adventure Kayak magazine, which will be following two KayakForCare teams that are raising money for hospices and early cancer detection awareness.

In addition, the Paddlers Abreast team of Yukon breast cancer survivors will be filmed for the upcoming National Film Board production, "The River of Life" by Whitehorse director Werner Walcher.

The event would not be possible without the assistance of nearly 100 volunteers and sponsors. Major sponsors are the Whitehorse Star, Canadian Rangers, and Whitehorse EMO. Other logo level sponsors are Air North, Kanoe People/Clipper Canoes, PR Services/yukoninfo.com, Northland Beverages/Aquafina, Integraphics, and Cranberry Bistro/Bold Rush.

Businesses may sponsor individual team bibs by downloading a bib form off the website or contacting the race email address: info@yukonriverquest.com

Volunteers are welcome for Whitehorse, Carmacks and Dawson City. To sign up, e-mail the address above.

The race is organized by the Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association, based in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

Dawson Elects New Council

By Dan Davidson

Ashley Doiron, Yukon College instructor and co-owner of Whitehouse Cabins, led the pack in the race to become one of Dawson's four new councillors during the June 15 election. Doiron polled 216 votes.

She was closely followed by helicopter pilot Adam Morrison, who captured 204.

Next in line were Diana Andrews, of the Dancing Moose gift shop, with 188 votes and Ed Kormendy, the Director of Land &





Resources for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, with 183. Returning officer Bonnie Barber reported that 398 people voted, that 2 ballots were spoiled and that 396 were counted. This is down 102 votes from the October 2003 election, but that just goes to show why early

summer elections are not a great idea in Dawson. Too many people are working out of town by early June and can't find the time to get back for either an election day or an advance poll.



The other candidates polled between 33 and 131 votes. They were Percy Henry, Cam Sinclair, James Roberts, Guy Chan, Gary Wilson, Torben Larson, Frank Narozny, Helmut Schoener and Byrun Shandler. Larson, Narozny, Sinclair and Wilson were in the locked recreation centre for the official count, along

with Mayor designate John Steins.

The winners took early leads in the counting and were the first four to pass the 115 mark on the first page of the tally sheets and move to the second page. By the time the box with the 20 advance poll ballots was opened it was already clear who had won the election.

Steins, Doiron, Morrison, Andrews and Kormendy will be sworn into office at a ceremony planned for June 26.

When the polls closed in Dawson tonight at 8 p.m., citizens had exercised their right to vote in a municipal



election for the first time since October 2003, when they elected a council which was removed from office by the territorial government on April 13, 2004.

At the time Minister of Community Services Glenn Hart told the media and the public that Dawson had fallen into bankruptcy, with a shortfall of over a million dollars in its

2003 budget. The removal of the council was effected on April 13, 26 months ago, on the recommendation of the government's appointed financial supervisor, André Carrel.

A trustee, former government civil servant Ray Hayes, was appointed for what was to have been a one year term. Hayes initially expected to be finished his job by the end of that year, but his term was extended twice and he eventually declined to accept a third extension, after which Leo Chasse was appointed for what turned out to be a short term in the same position.

Under mounting pressure from the Association of Yukon Communities, the two opposition parties in the legislature, former Yukon Party deputy premier Peter Jenkins and a grassroots group in Dawson which was threatening to hold mock elections and set up an alternative shadow council, YTG finally announced the restoration of democracy and a financial relief package for the dispirited community in March and April.

There was no race for mayor and John Steins, one of the leaders of the grassroots Dawson City Citizens' Action Committee, was acclaimed to that office.

Uffish Thoughts: Graduation: a time of Passages and Reflections

by Dan Davidson

As the graduation stories begin to pile up in the newspapers, I can't help but think that it's wonderful to see a batch of good news stories about what we do in schools.

So many of the tales that make the headlines have to do with fights, drug sniffing dogs, and the questionable statistical evaluations of the Fraser Institute.

Graduation stories have to do with a normal process of growth, a long range, real time process with no quick fixes or shortcuts.

For the last decade or so now, I've been picking up a new class of grade 9s each year and helping to shepherd them through the English hurdles that lie between them and the end of grade 12, a four year journey we take together.



After 30 years in this business of teaching I've had a fair number of students continue our association in one form or

another.

Two former students are on staff with me at Robert Service at the present time.

Five have now spent time working for me and the board that runs our local community newspaper.

Several have turned up as substitute teachers on days when I've had to be away from my classes.

Just this afternoon one of them borrowed from me some video productions of Macbeth to assist her with an independent study student she is tutoring.

I sent my senior students off this year with some best wishes and a little bit of Service-style verse, which I append to this column.

Aftergrad

Graduation - what a word;
it sets the head to spinning.
Thirteen years have reached an end,
and you've all come out winning.

You've done your homework, passed
your tests,
and given it your all,
And now you know you won't be
facing
RSS this fall.

These halls have chafed and nurtured
you,
have been both home and prison.
This paradox has shaped you;
to this challenge you have risen.

"The very best I dare to hope" -
those words from Robert Service,
remain a motto worth recalling,
lines to give you purpose.

He spoke of getting better, wiser,
as the years advance.
Our wish for you is just the same,
that you might have that chance.

With some relief and, yes, some fear,
you face your future, grinning,
for graduation's not an end,
it's really a beginning.

Sun Shines on Commissioner's Tea and Award Winners

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

Commissioner Van Bibber celebrated the annual Tea and the Yukon's 108th birthday on the lawn of the Commissioners' Residence not far from where she was born on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon in Dawson City.

"As we gather in our modern old time costumes to

celebrate our heritage and the birthday of the Yukon, I cannot help but feel immensely proud - proud to be a Yukoner and an ex-Dawsonite.

"I was born just down the street at St. Mary's Hospital and will always refer to Dawson as my home. Although I have not lived here for many years, the Midnight Sun Dome, the Moosehide Slide and the many rivers have a special meaning and a feel that I cannot quite explain is part of who I am."

"There are many stories that come from the Klondike, both old and new, and stories that are being lived and created as we speak. Our brief history is riddled with these tales of



challenges, characters and courage and, as any good sourdough knows, there are a few tall tales thrown in for good measure as well. Out long, dark winters make sure we keep our imaginations alive."

Van Bibber noted that many visitors would know of our famous writers, such as London, Service and Berton, but she went on to praise the "ordinary and extraordinary folk who live here live here, year in and year out, though fifty and sixty below, to raise their families and to keep the history alive so that you could enjoy Dawson City today."

Joyce Caley of the IODE presented the Commissioner with an honorary membership in the organization, which is a co-sponsor, along with Parks Canada, of these annual teas.

Among the people who have helped to keep Yukon lore alive were the two recipients of the Commissioner's Public Service Awards.

Brenda Caley is a Dawsonite and former operator of the Guggieville Campground, who is presently active as chair of the Klondike Visitors Association, a member of St. Paul's Church vestry, volunteer for the MacDonald Lodge's Meals on Wheels program. She was introduced by Peggy Amendola of the Visitors Information Centre.

Caley arrived as a teacher in the early 1960s, Amendola

said.

"She's says she's retired now, but I think she's busier than every with her volunteering."

Caley was presented with her award by Commissioner Van Bibber, who, she said, was one of the few people present who would remember her as Miss Wiggins.

"It's such an honour to receive this today, for many reasons.

Dawson City has so many volunteers that it's hardly fair, because their are a number of people who carry on with the activities in this community, without which we wouldn't be able to have such a quality of life here.

"It's also a great pleasure to receive this from Geraldine."

The second recipient was Sherron Jones, a former

Whitehorse resident who was introduced by Con Lattin. Sherron spent 15 years working for the City of Whitehorse and was secretary of the Yukon Amateur Radio Association as well as being a Justice of the Peace before heading Outside.

Once there she found herself in communication with many former Yukoners and these contacts evolved into an irregular publication called the Moccasin Telegraph. It is now a repository of stories that cross many generations.

"It's a great source of history for the Yukon, past and present," Lattin said. "It's written by ordinary people, not the academics, but its about you and me and how we talk."

Jones received her award with a great deal of glee and presented the Commissioner with a CD containing the last three years worth of the Moccasin Telegraph.

Other speakers included Joyce Caley, who once again reminded her presenters that the letters IODE no longer stand for what they once did, since both the Empire and its Imperial theme are gone.

"Nowadays it's known as Canadian Women Working Together for Canada. It's just the acronym that remains, but we have been active in Dawson since 1914."

Parks Canada Superintendent Rob Watts revealed that his

primary objective as he directs his career towards his retirement is to complete the process of getting Dawson City named as part of a World Heritage Site.

"To that end I'm going to work over the next three or four years to see if we can have Dawson and the whole series of sites from Skagway through to Dawson and part of the Goldfields to be commemorated."

For entertainment Parks Canada employees presented some of the material they serve up to our summer visitors. Kevin Hastings related the Amusing story of Cannibal Joe, a tale from the life of Robert Service, while Jay Armitage recited a poem which Robert Service wrote to his typewriter many years later. The machine Service used while he lived here can be seen at the Visitors Information Centre.

The Scott Brothers Trio provided some light jazz arrangements on sax, drums and bass at various points in the program.

Tours of the residence, restored by Parks Canada during the Gold Rush Centennial years, followed the tea.

Commissioner Van Bibber's guests this year included Art and Fay Deer, Mr. Ammon Mrs. Yukon; Insp. John Grant, her Aide de camp; Chief Justice Ron Veale and Mrs. Kip Veale; C.C. Twigg, Rendezvous Queen, Senator Ione Christiansen.

Parks Canada's Johnny Nunan made a point of introducing "His Worship" Mayor John Steins, although Steins is only Mayor-designate at this time and will not take office until the swearing in on June 26 after the election of the remainder of the council on June 15.

Thousands of Klondike Artifacts Revealed in new Display

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

It's not often that a new exhibit showcasing over 3,000 artifacts can be opened in one evening, but the unveiling of the Dawson City Museum's new Visible Storage exhibit on June 9 did just that.

Sally Shepherd, Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture, opened the ceremony with a brief speech.

Over a period of three years, which included both planning and implementation, the government has put \$17,000 into this project with the aim of making more of the thousands of artifacts stored at the museum open to





public view, Shepherd said.

While there are still many thousands of items in compact storage in the building behind the train shelter, display cabinets sampling those riches now fill a large second floor room at the museum across from the Library and Archives rooms.

“Visible storage exhibits,” said Shepherd, “are a new and exciting way to display collections. They allow visitors access to areas not generally open to the public.

“Congratulations to the staff and contractors at the Dawson City Museum for a job well done.”

Since this event was the kickoff for Tourism Week festivities here, Shepherd spoke of the link between heritage, tourism, and the territorial economy.

“It is estimated that \$164 million is directly attributable to nonresident tourism in the Yukon. Further, tourism is the largest private sector employer in the Yukon, with approximately 80% of all ... employees working for businesses which record at least some level of tourism revenue.

Museum Director Julia Pike, who will soon be departing for a new job in PEI, heaped praise upon the general contractor, Tim Gunter, as well as on museum staff and volunteers who helped to move cabinets and get the exhibit catalogued, photographed and read for display.

Exhibit planner Nancy McCarthy spoke of some of the trials involved in getting the room ready, moving in the 300 pound exhibit cases, getting them up the grand staircase, and into the room.

The exhibit, she noted, contained samples of every sort of artifact from silverware to typewriters and tobacco stained dentures.

After a brief ribbon cutting ceremony, conducted by

Shepherd and McCarthy, the audience of several dozen locals and tourists was set free to wander the room, which was tastefully but completely and impressively crammed with material.

In one alcove there were a couple of hard copy binders showing printouts from part of the computer data base which is the archive catalogue. Each item has a section letter and number and could be looked up individually. It would take far too many binders to cover all the items in the room in this fashion, so the plan is to have a computer catalogue in the room and allow the exhibit to be interpreted that way.

After the opening, the audience retired to the north lawn, where they were joined by dozens more people for a hotdog and hamburger barbecue put on by the museum, the Klondike Visitors' Association and YTG in celebration of Tourism Week.

Beads Enhance the Artist's Oils

By Palma Berger

The feet with the red shoes seem to fly out of the painting. This is because the painting is oil on masonite and the bright red shoes are covered in bright red beads. This adds to the exuberance of the dance in the painting. Even though the dancer has her back to the viewer, the energetic background and the red shoes draw one into the dance.

This is the work of Pam van Kampen whose work is on show at the Odd Gallery.

While she has painted in oils, she has added many small colourful beads to different parts of the painting, thus bringing more life and texture and colour to the work.



She has long been interested in the human form. Her painting of sometimes nudes, sometimes partially clad human bodies shows a knowledge of muscle and skin tones that seem to add a delicacy to the work. This is true of the 'The Dancers'; nude figures on stage performing before a curtained backdrop. The curves of the body contrasting with the straight drop of the curtain. The beadwork on the face forms a mask, so there is no distraction of getting to know the person.

Van Kampen has chosen the female form for the most part, and all are barefooted.

She offers no information about each piece, preferring 'to give people a chance to respond with their own "heart, gut and mind" first'.

The use of beads started by happenstance and then she realized that beads are a feminine element. Bead work is usually women's work, and also show women's ability to make art. It also gives a sense of fun and play. One is so drawn to 'The Seamstress' which is a lovely piece of a woman seated before a very dark background. The light that comes through picks up the form of her body that is revealed by the sleeveless black top. Seemingly spare, as is her shaved head. The lower half of her body has a long, red beaded cloth across the lap and over the sea green skirt. This is further intensified by the light flooding the foreground.

In 'Bombay Princess' the dark skinned woman blends in well with the background of grayish tones. Her unruly hair sticks out as if to mimic the gnarled tree behind her.

In 'The Officer' the man's blue uniform is made up of beads of various blues and greens to give depth to the form. The officer sits there with his stern face of command. 'The Officer II' shows the same man in the same pose, but without the uniform, indeed without any clothes. The uniform is neatly folded on top of his beaded black shoes. He may be completely naked, but he retains the face of command which loses a little of its command when there are no clothes to enforce the image.

Beads are used to great effect to show the delicacy of the bridal dress. The sheer train is cleverly depicted by fewer beads. In 'Bombay Princess' the dress has a remarkable variety of colours.

In every painting there are sections done with beads. The man lying naked on a road, is left to the hard surface of the road, but the green trees on either side are loaded with beads.

Pam van Kampen is from Whitehorse and has been painting for twenty years. In her other life she is a physiotherapist.

This show runs until June 23rd.

"On the Heartbeat Trail"

Carrying the hopes of many, Buckwheat Donahue passed through Dawson on the trip of a lifetime

By Jacob Larsen

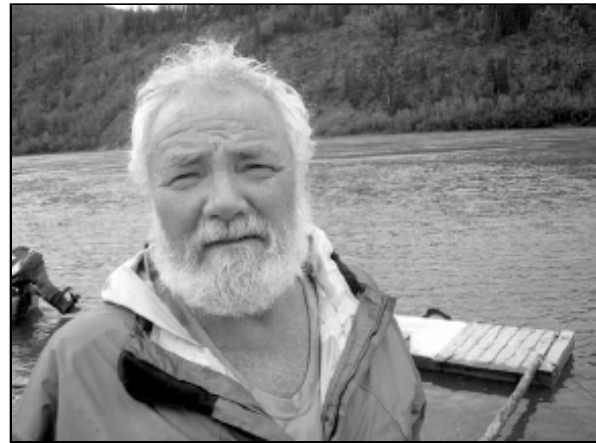
For some, the arrival of rain on June 15 was a relief. But for Buckwheat Donahue, who was still several miles

upstream from Dawson in his canoe, the lightning and windstorms could have meant the end of a journey and the dashed hopes of an entire community. But danger was averted and his epic trek — by foot, bicycle and canoe — will go on.

His journey brought him through Dawson as part of a 12,000 kilometer journey, beginning with a walk from Key West, Florida to Portage-la-Prairie, Manitoba, followed by a bike ride to Johnson's Crossing in the Yukon and finally a paddle down the Yukon River to Nome, Alaska. Upon his arrival in Nome, he will fly back to Whitehorse and hike the Chilkoot trail into his home in Skagway.

But why has the City of Skagway's director of tourism taken a year-long leave of absence and embarked on a project that can at best be described as wildly optimistic and at worst downright nutty? The reason for Buckwheat's travel is not sightseeing nor is it for bragging rights, although some will undoubtedly be earned. Buckwheat Donahue has committed to raising \$100,000 for Skagway's Dahl Memorial Clinic, so it may acquire equipment that can help residents and visitors to that community.

Buckwheat has personal reasons for choosing this particular cause. In October, 2003, he experienced three episodes of congestive heart failure while passing through Juneau, Alaska. He was medevaced to Seattle, but had he been home in Skagway, he may not have survived; hence, the journey was given its name, The Heartbeat Trail.



After his medical scare, he started walking. His recovery walks began at a few miles each day. As his strength returned, they grew longer. Then in March, 2004 he walked 115 miles from Skagway to Whitehorse. In November and December, he walked from Whitehorse to Dawson. Reclining on the red velvet of the Downtown Hotel's bar, he laughs, "I figured if I could handle the walk from Whitehorse, I could handle anything!"

Buckwheat reflects on the challenges he faced along the way. Intense heat, police harassment, and suspicion from the general public were particularly bad in Florida, he says.

As a Skagwegian, he freely admits his bias for the north, but confidently proclaims, "The farther north you go, the nicer people get. Northern hospitality, that's your ticket!"

As any man who travels the length and breadth of the

continent must be, Buckwheat is an optimist. He recounts one incident that occurred only a few miles across the Georgia State line. After buying his favourite brand of soda pop at a convenience store and getting back on the road, a state trooper pulled up alongside. Both the reputation of Georgia's law enforcement community and the look of this particular one gave Buckwheat cause for concern. The trooper rolled down his window.

"Are you the man who's walkin' from Florida to Alaska for charity?" he asked.

Buckwheat answered affirmatively.

"Damn!" replies the trooper "I'd like to welcome you to the state of Georgia!"

Before continuing on his way, he left Buckwheat with 20 dollars and another bottle of his favourite soda pop. As it turned out, the trooper heard his story from the woman at the convenience store.

"Trust me, there are pockets of benevolence everywhere," Buckwheat assures.

Buckwheat is a history buff with an insatiable curiosity for Canada's past. He is a barrel-chested man with a penchant for reciting Robert Service poems, a storyteller with a wicked laugh. A big man with a big heart, Buckwheat defies any simple description.

About his trip he jokes, "I've actually gained weight since I started!"

But the voyage must go on. At 1:35 PM on June 17, after only two nights in Dawson, Buckwheat bade farewell to friends and well-wishers as he pushed off and headed down the Yukon River toward Eagle, Circle City, Tanana and destinations beyond. If all goes well, he expects to arrive in Nome on Labour Day. Even after a year on the road and river, Buckwheat is on a tight schedule; if he is not back at the office in Skagway at 8:00 AM on October 1st, he may not have a job to go back to.

Of his return to his 9-to-5, Buckwheat suspects a successful transition will take time.

"I won't know how much I've changed until after I've been home for six months," he says.

In his fundraising efforts, Buckwheat is already over \$50,000 towards his \$100,000 goal.

Buckwheat's website prominently features a line from the quintessential northern writer, Jack London: "The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time." On the Heartbeat Trial, Buckwheat Donahue is doing just that.

Forty Mile Agreement Sets out Joint Management and Development Framework for Two Governments

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

Representatives of the government of the Yukon, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Dawson citizens, and tourists - about 70 people all told - gathered at Forty Mile on Sunday, June 11, to witness the signing of the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, and Fort Constantine Historic Site Management Plan by the two



levels of government.

The creation of the management plan was mandated by Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (Section 3.4 of Schedule A) and has been in the works since the signing of that document in 1999.

Events began a bit off schedule as participants trickled in after a two hour drive from Dawson and a 10 minute boat ride (or slightly longer walk) from the nearest access road, but it was a beautiful day and no one minded the wait, during which a couple of groups were given guided tours of the property by historic sites technician Bruce Barrett and archaeologist Chris Thomas.

Emcees Wayne Potoroka and Doug Olynyk shared the host duties of behalf of their employers, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon government. Potoroka said it was symbolic of the way the site would be co-managed by the two levels of government.

The Hän Singers opened the ceremony with the Welcome Song, followed by prayers by TH elder Percy Henry and the Reverend Susan Titterington.

Henry spoke of his pride in the younger generation and how they were fulfilling the dreams he had had years earlier as chief, when land claims were just beginning.

Titterington observed that learning about history can uncover both good things and bad, but that occasions such as this "offer a new beginning ... to take care of the land, the history and stories ... to respect those that lived here and all that they have to teach us."

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief Darren Taylor spoke of how different motives - hunting for one and resource extraction for the other - had caused both aboriginal and non-aboriginal people to settle in this area.

"But like the Yukon, the Forty Mile is a place where first nations and non-first nations have learned to come together, to recognize, respect and honour one another by working to preserve this wonderful site.

"The management plan solidifies our relationship and acts as a road map that leads to strong bonds between our cultures and our governments.

"For the past several years both the Yukon government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have worked shoulder to shoulder in protecting the site and unearthing its potential. In doing

so we realized the promise of our governments in working together for a common good. It has not been all smooth sailing, but the fact that we are here today celebrating the signing of the Forty Mile Management Plan tells me that we have done some good these past few years.”

Taylor went on to thank all those involved in the development of the plan and preservation work done over the years, including elders, youth, former chiefs and the territorial government. Most of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in council was in attendance for this event, as was Dawson’s mayor-designate, John Steins.

Taylor noted that much of the digging and sifting at Forty Mile has been done by TH youth, which helps to put them in touch with their past and culture. He also hoped that this work would add to the appreciation of first nation culture along side the historic event of the Gold Rush, which has received the lion’s share of the attention here up to now.

Speaking on behalf of the Yukon government, Minister of Health Brad Cathers spoke of the history of the Forty Mile site and its importance as the first town in the Yukon, the first site of competition between major trading companies, the beginning of the larger scale grubstaking that led to the rush in Dawson, the first permanent presence of the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, the arrival of the first Northwest Mounted Police detachment and the establishment of the Yukon Order of Pioneers, as well as one of the first farms in the Yukon, and one of the first places where the Hän people met non-natives for an

extended period.

“The human history of this place goes back more than 2,000 years and it is not just old buildings that need preservation and protection.”

“I know that the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, and Fort Constantine historic site will flourish as we continue to work together to honour, protect and strengthen our heritage.”

After a presentation of gifts honouring members of the management plan steering committee, the two top officials signed the twin documents at the podium. The Hän Singers and Drummers signed off with the Flag Song and the assembly turned to for a fine feast.

RSS Grad Class is Largest in Decades

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

Robert Service School is graduating the largest grade 12 class to leave its halls in the last 20 years this year, and the occasion was marked by a commencement ceremony held at a packed Palace Grand Theatre on June 3.

Vice-principal Maggie Mann was emcee for the event, which was opened and closed by singer Ecka Janus.

There was a lineup of people waiting to address this year’s group of eighteen students, beginning with Miss Mann, who advised them to seek out their own paths in life rather than treading already worn byways.

Principal Denis Gauthier, who is ending his seven year



administration of the school this year, spoke of the pleasure he had had in dealing with this group of students and wished them well.

“Grads, may there be peace within you today. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be, for you are seated amongst friends and life is just about to open up into a whole new world.”

Speaking on behalf of the school council, Jack Vogt summarized the many activities he was aware the grads had been involved in, from studying to sports, Skills Canada clubs and competitions, fund raising and assisting at school events.

“You guys are that kind of a class that if I was out in the bush some place and I got stuck, I’d want you guys with me because I believe you would push - it wouldn’t matter if you’d fall down - you’d push until we were out.”

Vogt counselled them to gain the character traits of wisdom, compassion, understanding, and to develop a philosophy which will help them to question and understand why they do the things they do.

“What kind of difference will you make to the rest of the world?”

Chief Darren Taylor of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in spoke of the need for nations and communities to “build capacity” in their populations, education being one of the ways that this may be accomplished.

“You’ve realized that an education is the key to unlocking the mysteries of the world around you.”

Proud parent Michael Mason presented his daughter and each of the other seventeen graduates with hand carved rings inlaid with gold.

MLA Peter Jenkins was on hand to present a \$500 bursary from his office to Katie Fraser and bring greetings from the Yukon government.

“There are two things,” Jenkins told the grads, “that no one can ever take away from you: your heritage and your education. (Education) unlocks doors (and) gives you the skills to fit into life.”

Living is not, he cautioned, all about the good times and fun. “It’s about getting a meaningful role in this world and going forward.”

Yukon, he said, is one of the best places to offer that opportunity, with its financial incentives to further one’s education.

MP Larry Bagnell challenged the grads to carry forward the traditions of Dawson City and the Yukon. Their extra burden of responsibility comes, he said, from being from a town that is known to millions of people all over the world.

“You’re very, very lucky to have grown up in this unique and magical place of the Klondike and Dawson City. I know you’ll be very successful in preserving this community and its heritage which is so special to all of us.”

Acting Director of Learning Ken Nash was on hand from the Department of Education to offer a bit of his own advice.

Nash counselled the grads to believe in themselves and never be influenced by negative things other might say about them. Everyone, he said, is good at something, and it is the sum total of all those things which helps make up the

world.

“One of my great joys as a Yukon educator is to meet former students who have believed in themselves.” He cited one who is now a first nation chief and another who has become a successful teacher.

“These two, like many others that I meet in the Yukon, believed in themselves. My greatest wish is that each of you use the talents you have and the skills that you’ve learned to reach your success.”

Nash also presented the Valedictorian’s Award to Nicolaas Jansen, who offered a thoughtful and amusing speech which had the audience clapping, laughing and cheering at his deadpan, self-deprecating delivery.

After all, he reminded his fellow graduates, they could all be excited that “we have up to eight years of university and 40 years of work to look forward to.”

That line nearly brought the house down.

In spite of the good-natured kidding of students and staff that filled much of his speech, he ended on a serious note.

“School has been a learning experience. All of the classes that we’ve taken and all the teachers that we’ve spent so much time with have imparted unto us a vast amount of knowledge and understanding that will facilitate the reaching of our goals in the future.”

“On behalf of the 2006 graduating class I’d like to thank all of the teachers and parents that have put so much work into preparing us for what life holds.

“I hope we make you proud.”



“I Hope We Make You Proud”

By Nicolaas Jansen , Valedictorian, Class of 2006
(with an assist from Katie Fraser.)

Hello, my name is Nicolaas Jansen and I’ll be your valedictorian for about the next ten minutes. When Mr. Gauthier called me the other day and told me that I had received the honor of being valedictorian, I got all excited about how special I was and how down the road I could brag about how I, Nicolaas Jansen, held this prestigious position within my class. Then he told me that I had to write a speech and recite it in front of all of you folks, and that kind of knocked the wind out my sails, but in any case, I’ll try to keep this as memorable and cliché free as possible.

My first day of school was awful. I had to go to bed early, wake up early, comb my hair, and do something other than watch cartoons. I was scared of my teacher, and besides two or three of my classmates, I wasn’t really friends with anyone. After 13 years, I’m still scared of my teachers, but I leave here with a group of people who, whether I associate with them or not, have become my friends.

School has been a different experience for each one of

us. I myself am an academic; I showed up in the morning, read my books and did the work. In between were memorable moments, but the majority of my time was spent on my studies. For some, not only was the subject content important, but some emphasis was put on being social.

From our time spent being institutionalized here at Robert Service, we all developed different skills, and different memories, and these memories are special because of the people in them.

Math 12 was a hard trek that for the most part felt like a 9 to 5 job in itself, but it was the people in it that made the first 80 minutes of every day a little more bearable. Charmaine and Kyle usually didn't say much, but when they did math usually became the last thing on our minds. Between Charmaine's aspirations of winning the Quest and Kyle's numerous achievements at Skills, there were always enough stories to keep us focused on everything but binomial theorem.

Katie and Victoria were quite the dynamic duo, and I really enjoyed being in class with either one of them. I'll never forget "helping" Victoria with her geography tests, or giving Katie tips on her math work. I just hope that Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Silver don't hold it against me.

No matter what class we were in, Allison always seemed to be bubbly and happy to be there, and her smile always made everyone around her more upbeat.

Kyrie, although we were never the best of friends when we were younger, was always there for everyone, like she almost treated the class like it was an extension of her own family.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to apologize to Nicole, whose infinite patience and persistence proved itself time and time again when I kept on forgetting my grad pictures. Sorry about that.

Then there's the Touchie twins, who, even though they joined our class in grade 5, still managed to become more popular than me. Heather and I had our differences back in the day, but Law class really brought us together. Her other half, Robyn, impresses everyone, including myself, with her amazing art skills and enthusiasm for life. And I'm pleased to say, that after all of these years, I can finally tell you two a part.

Gemma and Caitlin repeatedly managed to find ways to make English class amusing. Their antics perpetually kept Mr. Davidson on his feet, and them on their feet, all the way down to the office. But really, they did us all a favor by taking our minds off Hamlet or some other random Shakespearean play.

Casey and Laurie were likewise engaging, especially during those 10 minutes after Law every morning.

I can't say that we have a lot in common, but we sure enjoyed making fun of Mr. Sullivan after he turned off the TV.

And then there's the guys of the class, who are far and few between. You'd think we'd have good odds with the girl to guy ratio, but not surprisingly we're all still bachelors. I could always count on either Noel or Cyle to peer pressure me into doing something mischievous, but it's only built

up my character, and that's not to say that I didn't have a lot of fun doing it. Noel constantly manages to entertain us, while CB keeps the rest of us in line, most of the time. And Misha, you really need to get some sleep at night, for your geography marks sake. Although, it was much more fun laughing at your semi consciousness during class rather than watching those boring 1970's movies about cloud formations.

Ever since I can remember, the hours spent in chem, math, and other tedious subjects have passed a little easier thanks to Kevin Beets. Even though we're always competing for top mark, we always take it lightly and remember to laugh it off. You still owe me a cigar by the way...

It is sad that we have spent all of this time getting to know one another and building these friendships, just to go our separate ways and leave this all behind. It's true, a lot of us will depart Dawson and all of our friends here, but we'll always have the memories that we've made together.

We're all happy that we have high school behind us, and we're all going to miss seeing our friends every day, but we're also excited that we have up to 8 years of university and 40 years of work to look forward to. The current grade 11's get to look forward to their last year in high school, preparing for their grad, getting a suit and worrying about a date.

School has been a learning experience; all of the classes that we have taken and all of the teachers that we have spent so much time with impart unto us a vast amount of knowledge and understanding that will facilitate the reaching of our goals in the future. On behalf of the 2006 graduating class, I'd like to thank all of the teachers and parents that have put so much work into preparing us for all that life holds, I hope we make you proud.

FROM THE FRENCH CORNER...

Un nouveau Maire élu a Dawson

De Marielle Veilleux a Dawson

C'est sans opposition que M. John Steins fut élu nouveau maire de Dawson.

On sait que Dawson a été sous la tutelle du gouvernement territorial depuis deux ans. Le Parti yukon ayant dissolu le gouvernement municipal sous la gouvernance de l'ancien maire Everitt qui avait laissé la ville avec une dette de 5 millions de dollars.

Les gens de Dawson avaient hâte d'avoir la chance de retourner à la démocratie et d'élire eux-mêmes un maire et son conseil.

John Steins artiste populaire de la place, devenu maire sans opposition, la semaine dernière déclare : « C'est extraordinaire! Jamais je n'aurais pensé devenir maire surtout lorsque je suis arrivé au territoire il y a de cela 30 ans déjà ». Originaire de Toronto, armé d'un esprit aventurier John décida d'aller vers l'ouest, faisant du pouce sur les trains de marchandise, finalement pour arriver à Dawson en 1976. Lui et son copain de voyage ont même construit un radeau afin de pouvoir flotter sur le fleuve Yukon

jusqu'à Circle, Alaska.

Il faut dire que l'expérience de M. Steins depuis son arrivée a été très variée :

Comme citoyen, il s'est impliqué avec la société d'arts du Yukon; plusieurs projets qu'il aida à monter comme celui du populaire festival de musique ainsi que celui du festival des arts plus récemment. Au fil des ans il a participé à maints conseils d'administration. Une de ses passions est d'enseigner l'Art sur ordinateur par l'entremise du Collège Yukon et la Politique a tous les niveaux qui lui tiennent à cœur aussi :

« Je crois très fortement à la démocratie qui est la voix des gens. » Surtout au niveau municipal où il pense que les citoyens peuvent vraiment avoir une influence.

En mettant sur pied un site web : 'Le forum des citoyens' dont ils ont déjà 250 membres, M. Steins et son équipe voulaient mettre de la pression sur le gouvernement Fentie : Pour déclarer des élections municipales, le gouvernement Territorial devait agir sinon la ville de Dawson n'avait aucune chance de sortir de son pétrin financier.

Ce qui l'a emmené à poser sa candidature; « j'ai été très impliqué à vouloir restaurer le système démocratique de Dawson et je voulais faire partie des solutions » explique-t-il.

Il pense que la raison pour laquelle aucune autre personne n'a posé sa candidature comme maire est du au fait que: « de un, nous avons hérité de problèmes non résolus comme les égouts et le centre communautaire et de 2, dorénavant ce poste est sans rémunération. »

M. Steins admet qu'il est un peu déçu de ne pouvoir participer à un débat contradictoire par contre il est très enchanté qu'il y ait autant de candidats pour les postes de conseillers dont le discours sera entendu mardi le 6 juin. En effet, il y a treize personnes qui vont se présenter comme conseiller pour les prochaines élections municipales qui auront lieu le 15 juin prochain.

Quant à ses priorités en tant que maire, M. Steins indique qu'ils ont beaucoup de pain sur la planche : « Nous devons faire du ménage », ils doivent régler beaucoup de projets mis à l'écart depuis deux ans lorsqu'ils étaient sous tutelle. « Ça été un temps très dur et difficile sur le moral des gens, ce que cette communauté a besoin aujourd'hui c'est d'un bon leadership » fait remarquer M. Steins. « C'est l'année 2008 qui sera la plus déterminante pour nous, car c'est la date limite pour trouver une solution aux problèmes d'égouts

et c'est l'année où le Patrimoine Mondial viendra à Dawson pour déterminer si notre municipalité peut faire partie de leurs sites, ce qui nous donne un grand défi à relever pour les



trois prochaines années» me fait-il part.

« Éventuellement j'aimerais aussi voir plus des positions gouvernementales à Dawson même, car le tout est centralisé à Whitehorse. » Il continue en disant : « Il faut aussi trouver une formule, un système pour impliquer les citoyens d'avantage, peut-être en formant des comités car ça sera la clef du succès du futur de notre ville. »

D'autres de ses

priorités est la communication c'est à dire développer un moyen pour mettre les citoyens au courant de ce qui se passe sur la scène municipale et d'inclure les communautés satellites du Klondike pour qu'elles fassent partie de Dawson : « C'est certain qu'étant un gouvernement élu, nous devons prendre des décisions mais les gens doivent être informés surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de projets de construction tel celui du pont et/ou du centre médical, ils doivent s'impliquer davantage car ça les concerne tous. »

En terminant, M. Steins ajoute : « C'est une nouvelle ère pour Dawson et je suis heureux de pouvoir faire partie d'une équipe qui sera engagée à faire face aux différents défis afin d'avoir un impact positif pour un avenir prometteur pour notre belle ville. »

RSS Awards Day Ceremony – 2006 for Grades 8-12

Robert Service School held its awards day ceremonies on May 31 this year.

After the singing of "O Canada", led by Mrs. Davidson and the choir, there was an Introduction of Grads, in caps and gowns: Kevin Beets, Cyle Brandon, Nicole Cook, Charmaine Christiansen, Katie Fraser, Caitlin Gammie, Gemma Gould, Kyley Henderson, Misha Hempl, Nicolaas Jansen, Allison Kormendy, Casey Maguire, McLeod, Kyrie Nagano, Noel Roberts, Heather Touchie, Robyn Touchie, Laurie Van Bibber

The Choir presented the anthem "Child of Tomorrow" Community Awards were a big item on this year's agenda.

The Helen Winton Creative Writing Contest Award sponsored by Robert Service Council and presented by Helen Winton went to Gr. 9-10: Samson Brisbois and Gr.

11-12: Mary Fraughton

The Order of the Eastern Star Award was presented by Angie Richardson. This is given to a student who has good attendance, shows dedication to their studies, maintains a good academic standing, has completed High School and is going on to a Post Secondary institution. This year's winner was Kevin Beets.

The Masonic Bursary of \$250.00 was presented by Brandon White. This is given annually to a student who shows dedication to their studies, is a hard worker and demonstrates a commitment to attendance and involvement in the life of the school. This year's winner was Katie Fraser.

The Pioneer Women of the Yukon was presented by Bonnie Barber. This is given to a student who is hardworking and shows dedication to his or her studies, has good attendance and contributes to the life of the classroom and the school. There were two winners: Gr. 8 & 9 - Ted Hunter, and Gr. 10 to 12 - Kylene Perry.

The Chamber of Commerce Award is given to a student with the top CAPP (Career and Personal Planning) mark. This year that was Kyley Henderson.

The RCMP Award is given to the student who displays the most outstanding cooperation and assistance during the school year. This year's winner was Bradley Gauthier.

The Klondike Gymnastics Club Award for 8-12 went to Brian Naef.

Skills Canada Awards were presented by Miss O'Rourke to members of the skills clubs: Heather and Robyn Touchie, Katie Fraser and Kyley Henderson.

The Yukon College Scholarship: presented by Vice Principal Maggie Mann to Kyley Henderson.

The program continued with the School Awards.

The Robert Service School Citizenship Award is given to a student who has made a contribution to the school above and beyond the average expectations. (E.g. volunteer work with children, assistance at school functions, readily volunteers when help is needed, sets a standard for helping & encouraging others) This year's winning team was Kylene Perry and Kevin Mendelsohn.

Subject Awards – Student must maintain a minimum average of 75%

Grade 8 to 10 subject awards included; English – Daniel Naef; Social Studies – Ryan Dragoman; Science – Ted Hunter; Math – Ryan Dragoman; French – Daniel Naef; P.E. – Sonny Parker; Band – Lindsay Cahoon; Ind. Ed. – Greg Fischer; CAPP – Ted Hunter, Home Ec. – Pascal Causer-McBurney, Infor. Technology - Samson Brisbois

Grades 10 to 12 subject award included: English – Mindy Anderson and Nicolaas Jansen; Social Studies, Math, and French – Nicolaas Jansen; P.E. - Kevin Mendelsohn and Victoria McLeod, Art - Echo Hearty, Kylene Perry, Kyley Henderson, Robyn Touchie and Caitlin Gammie; Industrial Ed. And CAPP - Kyley Henderson ; Home Ec. And Infor. Technology - Caitlin Gammie.

The Scholastic Honor Roll for Grades 8-12, 86% average of the 5 academic subjects (English, Math, Socials, Science, and second language): Grade 8 - Pascal Causer-McBurney,

Greg Fischer, Steven Kormendy, Daniel Naef; Grade 9 - Marlen Brunner, Alix Causer-McBurney, Ryan Dragoman, Ted Hunter; Grade 12 - Kevin Beets, Nicolaas Jansen.

Top Academic – Highest average overall for each grade: Grade 8 - Daniel Naef; Grade 9 - Ted Hunter; Grade 10 - Laura Audet; Grade 11 – Jessica Burian.

The Mary Gartside Award is given to the top Grade 12 male/female student who has a minimum overall average of 70% in 5 core academic subjects (Math, Science, English, Socials, and second language). This year's winner was Nicolaas Jansen.

The Top Athlete award went to Brian Naef.

The Nations First Award went to Kyrie Nagano.

Yukon Chamber of Mines Poster and Model Contest Winners:

Poster - Luke Hunter (MP3 Player); Poster - Tyrell Hearty (MP3 Player); Poster - Echo Hearty (GPS device); Model - Caitlin Gammie (Metal detector).

At the end of the ceremony Cathy Findlay-Brook presented gifts to Principal Gauthier and Vice Principal Mann, who are leaving us this year.

Young Women Exploring Careers (YWEC)

Submitted by Ashley Bower-Bramadat

Young Women Exploring Career (YWEC) is a program that gives the opportunity for all interested young women from Robert Service School to explore new careers and get better prepared for university or college life, culminating in a trip to visit universities and colleges in the Yukon and British Columbia. A very big thank you goes out to Ms Woods for starting this program years ago and spending countless hours to give our group the opportunity this year. Thanks also to Ms McCullough and Melissa Flynn for their help while on the trip.

The YWEC group comprised of eleven girls and three chaperones drove to Whitehorse on Wednesday, February 22 and visited Yukon College the next day. A tour of the facility was provided and we also arranged to sit in on lectures. The small classes were enjoyable and the visit prepared the group for the large universities that were ahead in Vancouver and Victoria. Later that day the group headed for the airport to fly to Vancouver, BC.

When we arrived in Vancouver, we were picked up by limousines for the drive to the YWCA where we would stay for the next six nights. On Friday, February 24 the group split up for the day to visit University College of the Fraser Valley, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, or BC Recreation and Parks Association, Fitness World, and Gold's Gym. Each small group was given a tour of the institute or facility that they visited and attended various lectures as well. Later that evening we went to the Queen Elizabeth Theatre to see a performance of the world famous Lord of the Dance.

Over the weekend the universities and colleges were not open for tours, so we spent the next two days exploring Vancouver. The first day the group toured the city on a double decker bus, jumping off at attractions like the

Vancouver Art Gallery and the Aquarium where we saw a dolphin and beluga whale show. On Sunday we took the aquabus over the water to Granville Island and then on to BC Science World. We had great meals all weekend.

On Monday, the group was split up once again this time to visit Simon Fraser University, Capilano College, or the Vancouver Film School. At each school a tour was given and classes were arranged for each of us to attend. The experience of sitting in the classes was a great way to get a feel of university or college life with about 200 people in the class at the university and smaller classes at Capilano.

After visiting the schools, the group was excited to go shopping for the evening at Metrotowne Mall.

The next day was spent visiting University of British Columbia, BC Institute of Technology, or Marvel Beauty School. Once again tours were given and classes or sessions attended. The population of students at UBC was larger than the whole of the Yukon! Later that evening we attended a Vancouver Giants Junior A Hockey Game.



On March 1, the group packed up and took the ferry over to Victoria where we were lucky enough to stay at the Empress Hotel for four nights. The weather was really nice when we arrived. We walked to the BC Legislature for a tour, followed by a great dinner at Rebar.

The following day the group split up and visited the University of Victoria, The Western Academy of Photography, or Fitness Works and Odyssey Fitness. The classes were great and very enjoyable. UVic was beautiful with many bunnies running all over the place. Later that evening the group went to the Langham Court Theatre for a Dylan Thomas play, Under Milkwood.

On March 3, a small group of us drove to Nanaimo to visit Malaspina University-College for the day while the other two groups stayed in Victoria to visit Camosun College or the Paul da Costa Aveda Institute. At Malaspina and Camosun the group took a tour and sat in on classes. At Aveda the girls spent the day learning about esthetics and hair design.

Saturday was spent visiting the Royal London Wax Museum, the Royal BC Museum, having High Tea at the Empress and going swimming in the hotel pool. High Tea

was very elegant and fun to attend. On Sunday we packed up all our things and headed for the airport. We flew to Vancouver where some of the girls left the group for spring break vacations with their families and the rest of us headed back to Whitehorse.

We arrived in Whitehorse and stayed at the Westmark Hotel. That night was spent resting from the long trip. The next morning we piled into the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in van and headed back to Dawson.

The YWEC trip was a really great experience for all of us! It helped us get a better sense of what university or college

life will be like and might have influenced some of us to consider applying to the schools that we visited. The trip made us think of what we wanted to do and to be in the future and also brought everyone closer together. YWEC would like to thank the following organizations for their generous financial contributions to our program: Youth Investment Fund; United Way Society of the Yukon; The Yukon Foundation; Director of Learning Ms Carol McCauley; Yukon Department of

Education; Holland America Line Inc; IODE Dawson City; Pioneer Women of the Yukon; and the Rotary Club.

Thanks as well to the following for their generous in-kind donations: High Country Inn; Westmark Whitehorse Hotel; and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation.

Last but not least, thank you very much to those family, friends and community members who assisted with our trip preparation and/or our fundraising efforts: YTG Property Management; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation; John Flynn; Mike Fraser; Debbie Nagano; Jayne Fraser; Jennifer Flynn; Val Anderson; Harmony Hunter; Marjie Kormendy; Elaine Henderson; Judith McIntrye; Helen Dewell; Bob Sutherland; Leslie McLeod; Lynn Bower; Ivan Burian; Brandy Maude; Sonja Stephenson; Gigi Bigras; Karen Larsen; Joanne Anderson; Glen Everitt; Cathie Findlay-Brook; Maggie Mann; Kathryn Johnson; Laurie Berglund; Gwen McIntrye; Clair Dragoman; and Mike Smith.