

The Klondike Sun

March 29, 2006 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon

Hometown Boy, Peter Ledwidge, Takes the Percy

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

It's been a long time since a home town musher won the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Race, but Peter Ledwidge, who first ran the race and collected a Red Lantern for last place in 1997, broke that long drought on Friday, sliding into the finish line at the Visitor Information Centre in a respectable time of 21 hours and 16 minutes, just about half the time that it took him to finish the course the first time he ran it.

Ledwidge got his name on the big antler trophy and \$3,445 prize money for his efforts.

The pared down edition of this year's event, somewhat less of a show than the 30th anniversary run that committee members would have liked to host, was just a single race this year, instead of the three race event that has been in place for the past several years.

Initially, it appeared that the race would be run without a purse, as the committee's fund raising efforts have all gone into paying off last year's debts, but two businesses, Ross Mining and TSL Contracting, stepped up at the last minute to offer \$5,000 each for prize money, and the news of that enticed at least one additional musher to come forward, increasing the field to five teams.

The Percy usually pays out down to seventh place, so with only five teams in the race even the last place musher, Ed Obrecht, took home \$1150 in prize money. Obrecht ran with larger dogs and a freight sled. His dogs wanted to go to sleep when it got dark, so he was more than a full day and a half behind everyone else, and actually arrived at the Saturday night banquet, beard and mustache dripping icicles from the trail (dog dirty and loaded with ice, is how Robert Service might have put it), just as Ledwidge was posing with the trophy at the end of the evening.

Ed Hopkins, who had started out pacing Ledwidge, ended up having trouble with two of his dogs and took turns carrying them on the way back, so that he took 4th place, with a time of 25 hours and 27 minutes. He won the Sportsmanship Award as well as the Humane Society Award.

Mike Salvisberg took 3rd place, with a time of 24 hours and 48 minutes.

Second place went to Gerry Willomitzer, whose running time of 21 hours and 52 minutes earned him \$2300.

The banquet was a homegrown affair this year and committee president Jonathan Howe did much of the cooking. Victuals were donated by the Bonanza Market.

There were lots of other donations that kept this race alive



too. Howe noted that three vets donated their time to make the race a success and the two from out of town, one from the lower 48 States, travelled here at their own expense.

The two lead sponsors, Jon Rudolph of Ross Mining and Don Smith of TSL Contractors, were reportedly pleased with how things went and announced, via Klondike MLA Peter Jenkins, who spoke on their behalf, that they intend to continue an annual prize sponsorship as long as gold prices hold up.

Karen Jenkins stood later in the evening to pledge \$2500 on behalf of the Eldorado Hotel. She said that she and Peter would like to do more, but that finances were a little tight just now. That got a friendly laugh from the room.

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**Percy
DeWolfe
photos
courtesy
of Ed Vos**



Yukon Provides Funding For Accredited Visual Arts Program In Dawson

DAWSON CITY (March 22, 2006) - The Government of Yukon today has announced over \$500,000 dollars to support the development of a new visual arts foundation program in Dawson City. The program will be developed and managed collaboratively by Yukon College, Dawson City Arts Society and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

"The Government of Yukon is committed to providing the necessary education and training for Yukoners so that they can seize local economic opportunities as they arise," Education Minister John Edzerza said. "I'm confident that the partnership steering the development of the visual arts foundation program will tap into the resources and skills of each organization involved and will create a program that is both culturally valuable and culturally relevant."

Students undertaking the visual arts foundation program in Dawson City will earn Yukon College credits. The program will provide post-secondary students with a year of instruction in the fundamentals of visual arts and will be transferable to institutes outside of the territory.

"I join with the other partners in this exciting new program in thanking the minister of Education for his support. The Yukon will have its first university level fine arts program," Miranda Atwood, Yukon College director of Extension Services, said. "Dawson City is the perfect location for this initiative, with its vibrant arts culture, and long-standing community partnerships. Yukon College is proud to engage in programming that serves a whole new

student clientele and helps to build capacity for the cultural industry."

"Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is pleased with the establishment of its cooperative partnership with Yukon College and the Dawson City Arts Society. The establishment of a new arts school in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory and the City of Dawson is an example of the benefits our community can achieve through working together,"

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Deputy Chief Steve Taylor, Dean of Arts and Science Paul Priscoll, Premier Denis Fentie, Minister of Education John Edzerdza, MLA Peter Jenkins and DCAS president Greg Hakonson.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief Darren Taylor said. "These partnerships pave the way for the First Nations to have increasing input on how future educational dollars are spent in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory. We would like to thank the Government of Yukon for providing the financial support for the development of this important community initiative."

"This show of support from Government of Yukon for our accredited school of arts initiative is a huge step towards fulfilling Dawson City Arts Society's vision," Greg Hakonson, Dawson City Arts Society president, said. "I believe the unique, co-operative partnership between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon College and ourselves in this initiative will be viewed with envy by all organizations in Canada and will be the benchmark to achieve. My thanks to all those that worked hard to make this happen."

The Government of Yukon funding will cover the costs of curriculum development, facilities, as well as staff and student recruitment. The visual arts foundation program will be offered in fall 2007 and will be housed in the soon-to-be-renovated Old Liquor Store building in Dawson City.

Dawson City International Short Film Festival

Dawson City —Easter weekend — April 14, 15, 16, 2006.

Made in the Yukon:

It's been a prolific year for local filmmakers, so we've got two programs of Yukon films this year! This is what makes our Festival worth attending – you'll have an opportunity to see films that tell our stories. Andy Connors new film, *Artifacts*, will have its premiere screening. We'll screen the dynamic new documentary *Moosehide: Keeping the Songs Alive*. See an episode of the television series *Northern Town*, co-produced and co-written by Whitehorse's

Daniel Janke. Also premiering is a documentary about Yukon musicians, including Aylie Sparks, called *Beautiful and Deranged: the Song of the Yukon*.

One of the most popular shows is *Emerging Talent*, a showcase of work from film students and first time filmmakers. It's packed with videos from Dawson City, Pelly Crossing, and Whitehorse. *The Beast* is a compelling short from students in Puvirnituk, northern Quebec.

Films from Scandinavia:

Since the beginning of the Dawson City Festival there has been a link with the Tromso International Film Festival in Norway. Many filmmakers and festival organizers have traveled between the two festivals: Andrew Connors and Allan Code from Whitehorse, David Curtis from Dawson City and David Moen from Tromso. Several other Yukon films have shown there, most recently *Three Rivers* by Marten Berkman and *Mother's Day* by Richard Lawrence. We have invited excellent short films from Norway, Finland and Sweden to screen in the Dawson Festival.

Smierru, a documentary from Norway, tells the story of the annual migration of the reindeer from inland to the coast, and the relationship between the reindeer herders, the Sami people, and the villagers.

We are pleased to be hosting Egil Pedersen, a filmmaker from Norway, with his film *Awake at Night*. This short drama tells the story of a couple who have lived through their worst nightmare.

International Films

An overwhelming number of excellent entries this year necessitated adding a third program on Sunday. For the first time in our seven-year history, all three days will screen three programs: your Festival Pass will give you more bang for your buck! Don't miss dramas from Germany, Spain, Australia, a documentary from Poland, experimental film from England, a not-to-be-missed documentary called *Homage to a Catalan Christmas*, and eye-opening films from all over the world.

Guests, Workshops, Special Speakers

Our Special Guest this year, Cari Green, is a Producer and Distributor with over 25 years experience in documentary films, dramatic features and television series. She has produced over 20 award-winning productions, including *Scared Sacred*, winner of the 2006 Genie Award for Best Documentary. She also produced *The Corporation*, an international theatrical hit feature.

Renowned filmmaker John Walker will be in Dawson City to conduct a workshop. His extensive experience began as a cinematographer, then an editor. He has been making award-winning documentaries as an independent and with the National Film Board of Canada.

We're hoping to welcome filmmakers from the United States as well as Canada, and to see the return of several former Dawson Artists in Residence, whose films have been invited.

Because last year's two mini-workshops received rave

reviews, we'll have workshops during the Festival again. There'll also be a Sunday morning breakfast for those working in film to informally discuss issues of common interest.

Attend the Dawson City International Short Film Festival! What's your excuse?

Cancer Benefit a Success

On February 17th at St. Mary's Hall in Dawson City a successful lasagna dinner was held to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. There, six intrepid individuals were shorn and the usable hair donated for wigs, most specifically "Angel Hair for Kids".

Four women from McDonald Lodge – Adeline Griffin – Viney, Gail Watson-Read, Evelyn McDonald and Wendy Castles were joined by Lambert Curzon and Kate Tremell to help raise money for a Travel and Accommodation Fund available to Yukoners who must go outside for cancer treatment.

An astounding \$5,530.00 was raised.

Special thanks are due to:

Lambert Curzon for his enthusiasm and incredible fund-raising abilities,

Adeline for organizing, fund-raising and creating many beautiful hats for shorn heads,

Kate Tremell for bravely joining the cause,

Bob Hilliard and Willie Gordon for their wonderful music,

Marg VanDusen the dishwashing and head shaving specialist,

Luz Valez, Mike Viney, David McDonald, Carrie Powers, Cathy Wood, Glen and Darlene Parsons and Lynn Nimmo and Brendan White for their help,

The Percy DeWolfe Society,

Saint Mary's Catholic Church,

Continuing Care facilities employees and residents for their generous support.

Thank-you everyone who donated.

Relay for life is coming to Dawson on May 20 and 21 this year.

A Woman's Life in the Film Industry is Not Easy says Lulu Keating

By Dan Davidson

Lulu Keating has been busily creating and studying film since even before she made her first two minute short picture in 1980, working in documentary, dramatic and experimental pictures ever since. It seemed only fitting to have this accomplished film maker talk about her craft as part of the Dawson Community Library's celebration of International Women's Day on March 8.

Keating, who is producing the Dawson City Short Film Festival for the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture for her second year, came armed with video tapes, scripts, completed grant applications and project proposals to show her audience.

Creating a documentary, she said, is partly a matter of planning and partly a matter of what you can find to work

with. Showing excerpts from her History Channel piece "Madam Ada, More Class than Flash", she demonstrated how a combination of interviews, photographs, period film and dramatization enabled her to create this portrait of a well-known Halifax madam.

Keating used "Anne and Maddy", a drama for television, to demonstrate how the editing process can change the focus of a story from one character to another and rebalance a story that has shifted during the shooting.

"The Moody Brood" is Lulu's look at her own family, and she prepared it over a period of nearly a decade. Rather than a standard documentary, the film uses graphics and animation to portray the stories told by her family, with sound effects and music playing an important part in conveying the emotional tone.

"Warts and Wisdom" was a project binder for a proposal that has yet to find a home, but it did show how such a document might be assembled and preserved for future reference.

Keating is currently working on a piece with a working title of "Whatsoever Things Are True" which she hopes to produce in the Yukon within the next year.

Her experience, she told her audience, has been that it is harder for a woman to make a name for herself in the film business. Part of this is a lack of commitment to pushing a project on behalf of women; they have priorities other than the business. She has found herself working with men more frequently as they were more likely to see the project through to the end.

Keating talked about the difficulties that she has had working with various producers and actors over the years, indicating that the process is often more of a collaboration than in other types of creative work.



It can take several years to get a project ready to be filmed. In one case, a script of hers was out there for 12 years before someone wanted to come up with the capital to make it, and then stalled again when other people could not envision how to do the job, even though they liked it.

International Byron Shandler Day... and a Bunch of Women Showed Up

By Sarah Winton

On Saturday March 12th at 7 p.m. approximately fifty Dawsonites crowded into a downstairs room at St. Mary's Church for the International Women's Week celebration, hosted by the Dawson City Women's Shelter and the Dawson Regional Women's Committee. The room was creatively decorated with the artwork of local female artists and white Christmas lights.

The crowd was welcomed to the event by MC Lisa Hutton, chair of the Yukon Advisory Committee on Women's Issues. The evening opened with a slide show presentation by Melissa Flynn about her time spent in Kenya with the Masai people. The crowd was regaled with bright, colourful images of the life of the Masai, the vibrant Kenyan scenery and interesting fauna.

The second act was Dawn Mitchell's reading of her award winning poem "Waiting". The audience was instructed to close their eyes while she read because it was originally read on the radio. Dawn's animated reading had us all shivering with cold as she brought images of Dawson at forty below to life.

Marta Selassie sang three songs and accompanied herself on her guitar and Suzanne Gagnon read a poem appropriately titled "Irresistible Woman." Kim Beggs was also among the evening's performers, in her soft and breathy voice she sang songs about childhood, the separation of extended families and invited the audience to join in a song about springtime.

Leela Gilday, Dawson's first ever song writer in residence, gave a preview of her March 14th concert singing "Myself" in a throaty and rich voice. Gilday's hard stomping emphasized the strength of her impressive vocals.

Bonnie Nordling was accompanied by page-tuner Brenda Caley, who was delegated from her position as pianist when it was discovered that the electric piano would not work for unknown reasons, as she sang an old song; she explained her choice by saying that these old ditties should not be forgotten.

The evening was finished off with Melissa Flynn talking more about the position of women in Africa. She opened with a joke:

"What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?"

"I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand..."

Flynn continued on in a more serious vein explaining that ninety percent of Masai women are still circumcised in Kenya. Although the law forbids female circumcision, the Masai people receive no assistance from the government and therefore see no reasons to obey the laws. Melissa expressed the view that change needs to be pursued from a ground level - actually going in and talking to the people. She said that "[c]hange needs to come on a community level, on an individual level. Change won't come immediately; you have to accept their way of life and then slowly talk to them."

It was an appropriate thought on which to end the celebration.

Magic and Mystery from "Within this head, within these walls"

By Dan Davidson

"Within this head, within these walls" is the name of the latest exhibit at the ODD Gallery in Dawson City. The head belongs to Jude Griebel, and the walls are those of his imagination, which ranges pretty widely and plays all kinds of games with reality.

In his artist's talk on March 9, Griebel described his journey from early attempts to illustrate children's books in Japan to his current work, which is heavily influenced by that same oeuvre.

The Japanese, he noted (and showed in slides) would take his dark visions and Photoshop them into shiny bright images for their books. This drove him to find another medium for his work.



Jude Griebel poses between a portrait of himself turning into a pile of leaves and a girl transforming into a flock of birds.

Aquatint etching absorbed his interest for a time, and there are several of these in the ODD Gallery exhibit, but most of the work is from his more recent return to oil painting.

Griebel admits to being influenced by the work of children's book creator Maurice Sendak (Where the Wild Things Are) as well as the works of Beatrix Potter and Thornton W. Burgess. There seems also to be a hint of such legendary fantasy illustrators as Arthur Rackham.

Transformations play a large role in the works showing at the gallery. Indoor settings "become backdrops for imaginary and supernatural experiences."

The room may seem normal enough, but the person in it

is fragmenting into falling leaves or unraveling into a flock of birds. Jude himself appears as a marionette, while a friend becomes a wind-up girl.

“The use of domestic settings in my paintings has become a way for me to condense and animate thoughts and memories in intimate and familiar surroundings.”

The overall effect at the gallery is that one has walked into an oversized children’s book, albeit one inhabited by somewhat dark, strange images which are both real and surreal.

“The works,” Griebel says, “are influenced by children’s book illustrations in the way that they are dramatically charged narrative images, seeming to rely on the presence of an accompanying text.”

There are no texts, merely titles that suggest what the texts might have been.

There may actually be some texts in Griebel’s future, as he he is thinking seriously about making another attempt at children’s book illustration. In the meantime, this exhibit suggests some possibilities and will run until April 16.

School of Visual Arts Nears Completion

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

Looking at the two spacious classrooms that are nearly completed on the north side of the second floor of the School of Visual Arts (SOVA) in Dawson City, one is hard pressed to recall the cramped office spaces and crowded public library that used to occupy that part of the building.

Their history can be seen in the floorboards, though. Greg Hakonson, president of the the Dawson City Arts Society, which is spearheading the reconstruction of this former government office building and liquor store, through its program arm the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture, points out the outline of the wooden additions to the floor.

These patterns, he tells me, show where the walls used to be, and have been rendered this way deliberately in order to show that history.

There are lots more changes going on in the building. We got to the second floor by ascending a ladder, as the front and rear stairs are in the process of being replaced on this day. That will be good news for anyone who recalls coming up the old stairs, which were steep at the front and steeper at the rear, holdovers from the days before regulated standards.

The drywallers have been busy, along with the painters, and the rows of internal wiring that filled the spaces between many of the support beams are now hidden away.

Hakonson, who has done most for the design work on the building, can see in his mind the finished product: the faux molded tin ceiling in the front entrance; and the old fashioned radiators which will recall the basic design used in government type institutional buildings in Dawson’s heyday; the window framing which he hopes will lay to rest once and for all the complaint that the windows are made of vinyl rather than wood.

It’s how the finished product looks, he says emphatically, not that it’s made of exactly the right materials, that will count for a building like this one.



He acknowledges the need for historic accuracy in heritage structures, but this building, a reworking of a standard 1950s wood frame basic box structure, is being transformed into a homage from an earlier era, a working



building that needs to last.

Behind the facade will be classrooms for art instruction, workspaces for painting, sculpture, metalwork, all manner of plastic arts, a computer room for higher tech creativity, lecture rooms and office space.

Hakonson beams as he shows me his dream coming to life, stops to chat with the workers, warms to the theme of the continued support the project is receiving from the territorial government, in spite of the departure of Klondike’s MLA, Peter Jenkins, from the government ranks.

Construction will soon be complete here, and the next phase of funding will be the seed money to begin putting the fine arts program in place.

FROM THE FRENCH CORNER... Quel Dégel! La fonte du pergélisol a Dawson City

By Marielle Veilleux

Le terme pergélisol selon Environnement Canada désigne des sols gelés en permanence.

Entre le cinquième et le quart des terres du globe reposent sur du pergélisol. Dont la Ville de Dawson presque en totalité. La formation saisonnière d'une "couche active" dégelée au-dessus du pergélisol peut favoriser la création de chemins perméables autorisant un mouvement souterrain de l'eau.

"Ce problème ne date pas d'hier" a dit M. Norm Carlson manager des travaux publics de la ville, depuis vingt cinq ans. Dawson City est construit sur du pergélisol.

Des 1901, la ville possédant de l'électricité, avait aussi un système d'aqueduc et d'égouts. Ce qui est différent aujourd'hui, selon ceux qui croient aux changements climatiques, est que la fonte du pergélisol serait accélérée grandement. Conséquemment, la profondeur du mollisol (partie qui surmonte le pergélisol qui est très mobile lors du dégel) serait donc a son tour affectée.

"Cela dépend du volume d'eau qui a vrai dire est de la glace lorsque la glace est fondue donc a l'état liquide. Autrement dit tout va s'effondrer aux endroits souterrains ou se trouve du pergélisol" ajoute M. Carlson. Ou il n'y pas d'eau, donc pas de pergélisol, il n'y aura donc pas de mouvement souterrain. Une bonne partie de la ville, partie sud de la 5ieme Ave et à l'ouest de la rue Church ne sera pas affectée directement. Sauf, s'il y a bris dans le système d'aqueduc comme ce qui s'est produit le mois dernier, lors de la rupture d'un joint dans la ligne sur la 5ieme Ave, du cote nord de la ville. Un écroulement souterrain de vingt cinq centimètres en a été la cause.

C'est une raison comme celle-ci que M. Carlson veut investir conjointement avec M. Sébastien Jones, Stewart du mouvement vert. Avec l'expertise de M. Chris Burn, professeur en géologie a l'université de Carleton d'Ottawa, qui a fait études du

Pergélisol du Delta du Mackenzie dans les territoires du Nord-Ouest pendant des années et qui a travaillé à Mayo l'an dernier. Il est aussi connaissant des conditions de la ville de Dawson.

"On veut comprendre d'avantage s'il y a vraiment des réchauffements globaux qui affecteraient l'accroissement du taux de fonte du pergélisol" explique M. Carlson.

Pour ce, on devra investir dans un système de détection de changements de température souterraine. A l'été, on installera une série de "thermisteurs"; thermomètres enfuis dans le sol a différents endroits de la ville, permettant de collecter des données sur une période d'au moins trois ans, on pourra par conséquent "prendre des décisions basées sur des faits. Ce qui pourra aider à la planification de la ville, a savoir la longévité des tuyaux d'aqueduc" par exemple ou quelle sorte de solage utiliser ou plus important pour planifier le déménagement et construction d'un édifice public afin d'éviter de faire la même erreur qu'avec le centre

de récréation qui s'est avéré un choix d'endroit désastreux sur la 5ieme Ave au nord. M. Carlson précise "je ne suis pas un expert sur le sujet, mais c'est certain que le centre de récréation a été affecté par des mouvements souterrains."

On dirait que ceci fut un exemple parfait d'effets de mollisol qui est devenu une base trop instable pour toute structure, surtout si on parle que le changement climatique affecte la profondeur.

On m'explique qu'on peut tous faire une expérience à la maison, en remplissant une chaudière d'eau et la laisser dehors toute la nuit, le lendemain, vérifiez l'expansion de l'eau qui est devenue à l'état solide, (de la glace) qui peut parfois même briser la chaudière. On peut observer le processus a l'inverse lors au dégel.

Au moins, les citoyens n'ont pas à s'inquiéter de leur eau potable qui provient d'un puits de la vallée du Klondike qui n'est pas affectée par effets de pergélisol a assuré M. Carlson. Par contre, on sait que le système d'égouts de la ville de Dawson est à moderniser, projet mis sur glace par le gouvernement Fentie. Malgré ce fait, des délégués de la ville ont déjà fait des études pour l'installation possible de lagunes, d'après le modèle de Fairbanks en Alaska dont ils ont visité l'an dernier. C'est certain que la ville va se servir des données enregistrées par les thermisteurs avant de décider l'endroit des lagunes. Mais tout ça va coûter cher a la ville de Dawson qui est déjà dans une situation financière précaire, troublante. Le gouvernement territorial devra tôt ou tard intervenir.

"Il n'y a pas vraiment de solution immédiate, sauf de commencer par du monitoring" a déclaré M. Carlson.

Dawson city's Permafrost, a thing of the past?

By Marielle Veilleux

Permafrost, by definition is permanently frozen soil or subsoil or other deposit. A characteristic of Arctic and some sub arctic regions.

So what's happening to the Dawson city permafrost? Further more what does it have to do with global warming? And why are they talking about the town sinking on the Weather Channel?

Mr. C. Burn, professor of Geology at Carleton University, who did studies on permafrost in the Mackenzie Delta clarifies that: Permafrost is "ground soil that remains at or below 0 degree Celsius for 2 or more years. It comprises a seasonally thawed active layer, underlain by perennially frozen ground."

Can we conclude that Dawson city that's built on permafrost has a problem with its "seasonally thawed active layer", not being so seasonally active anymore but perhaps permanently thawed?

Mr. Norm Carlson, the city's public works manager indicates that, the city that has had a sewer and water system as early as 1901 therefore we've been aware of the active layer for a long time.

"The difference today, is that people who believe in climate change say that the rate of thawing of the

permafrost is being accelerated by global warming". He then clarifies that they want to get an understanding on the reality of the permafrost versus the warming or not of air temperature in the winter. "Not the entire city is built on permafrost," says he "it really depends on the water content in the ground, which is thawed ice, when ice melts it will sink where there's permafrost. Areas where there's no water, there won't be a problem."

Or so in theory. Once they get an understanding on the reality of the permafrost, they will be able to make decisions based on facts rather than some theories.

For that Mr. Carlson would like to partner up with people such as Mr. Sebastian Jones, Stewart for the Green movement and invest in a monitoring system and buy some "thermistors": temperature recording device that would be put in the soil at different depths and location throughout the city. The monitoring system would confirm if there really is warmer air temperature in the winter. Consequently the city could plan better for the life of the water pipes as an example. Last month there was a rupture in one of the water line on 5th Ave at the North end. "That pipe should have last 30 years" but obviously the ground shifted enough to cause such a rupture after 20 years. The recorded data could also help people to choose what kind of foundation to use under their house, explains Mr. Carlson. For the city, it would enable them to carefully study the location of where to put up or move a public building, in order to avoid a disaster such as the location of the Recreational Center. "I'm not an expert, Carlson says "but the rec center was obviously affected by movement in the ground".

There are different views and opinions in town. For instance some people who've been around a long time, the likes of Harry Campbell states: "this problem is not from yesterday, and the city isn't going to sink" he adds "we're all aware of unstable ground especially that area where the recreational center is. The water comes from a melting glacier from up the hill, the soil has always been unstable there."

So is an investment into monitoring devices warranted? Will it really make a difference?

Or is the whole thing just a new trend about climate changes?

Time will tell. "In the meantime there is not much we can do about it," (global warming) indicates Carlson "let's start with monitoring".

Yukon Launches Klondike/Kluane Loop Scenic Drive Website

WHITEHORSE (March 13, 2006) - The second of seven Yukon scenic drives is now online and available for the traveling public to view and enjoy, according to Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor.

By logging onto www.driveyukon.com visitors can now choose between the Alaska Highway and the Klondike/Kluane Loop scenic drives.

"This initiative is designed to attract new touring visitors to the Yukon and to encourage them to plan to stay

longer and to explore all Yukon communities when they visit," Taylor said, adding that the website highlights attractions, events, cultural experiences, First Nations history in all regions, and provides direct links to accommodation, RV parks and campgrounds.

The Scenic Drives initiative was first announced in October 2004 with an investment of \$350,000 toward the development of interpretive pullouts along the Alaska Highway and a marketing campaign that highlighted the Alaska Highway through the website.

A further investment of \$350,000 in 2005 has supported interpretive signage for the Alaska Highway pullouts, the continued development of the Scenic Drives website, and an e-mail marketing campaign that highlights the Klondike/Kluane Loop.

"The new Klondike/Kluane Loop scenic drive is a great tool to promote Haines Junction and the Kluane region," said Haines Junction mayor John Farynowski. "We were pleased that Tourism Yukon worked with all tourism stakeholders in the Kluane region to build the content on the website."

Farynowski added that the website provides an opportunity to promote the region in a manner that reflects local priorities and pride of place. "We are thrilled that Haines Junction is now featured in the Alaska Highway and Klondike/Kluane Loop scenic drives, and will be a key anchor in the Golden Circle Route scenic drive to be launched in the upcoming months."

"Tourism is integral to the economic well-being of all Yukon communities," Klondike Visitors Association (KVA) chair person, Brenda Caley, said. "The KVA is pleased to have worked with Tourism Yukon on the content creation for the new website. We support the Scenic Drives initiative which is sure to attract thousands of visitors to Yukon in the upcoming years."

The Golden Circle Route, Silver Trail and Dempster Highway websites will be up and running in 2006, giving potential travelers new and exciting virtual Yukon highways to discover.

Consultations with Yukon communities and First Nations will continue to be an integral component of the initiative as more scenic drives are rolled out in the coming year. Upon completion of the scenic drives initiative, seven Yukon highways will be showcased on the driveyukon.com website.

Hockey Player 80 Years Young

Submitted by Rod Dewell

Dick North participated in this year's Oldtimer Hockey Tournament held in February. The 80 year (young) player, suited up for the Dawson Moose in two of their three games. Dick stated that he had always wanted to play the tournament and that he had a great time. A team from Haines Junction went on to win the tournament defeating local team, Klondike Kates in the Gold medal game. Dick also won the oldest player award, for which he was pretty well a shoe-in.



Jorn Meier Announces Bid for NDP Nomination In Klondike

A Dawson City businessman and former Chamber of Commerce president, Jorn Meier, is seeking the NDP nomination for the Klondike riding in the upcoming territorial election. Meier has been an active volunteer with several community organizations since moving to Dawson from his native Germany in 1993.

“Volunteering is my small way of paying back all that the people of Dawson have given me over the years,” Meier said. “Now I would like to take it a step further and represent Klondike interests in the legislative assembly.”

Meier is the founder of Klondike InfoTech, an information technology firm that has worked with a variety of local organizations, including the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation and the Dawson campus of Yukon College. As a small business owner and supporter of the placer mining industry, he believes the NDP best represents his views.

“NDP governments have set many positive directions for the Yukon,” he said. “Neither the Liberals nor the Yukon Party seem to have grasped the importance of reconciling the two big “E”s – Economy and Environment – for the Yukon to prosper in the long term.”

Meier considers personal integrity and MLA conduct to be more important than ever.

“The biggest challenge to democracy is the growing mistrust of the political system,” he said. “Politicians must lead by example and be accountable for their actions. As a member of an NDP caucus under Todd Hardy’s leadership, I would work hard to earn the trust of people in the Klondike.”

Meier says Liberal and Yukon Party governments have done more to aggravate Dawson’s problems than to solve them, leaving the community almost torn apart at the seams.

“Dawson faces issues that need immediate attention, such as restoration of our municipal government, debt relief, sewage treatment, fixing of our recreation centre, and new

multilevel care facility,” he said. “Yet if you listen to debates in the legislature, you could easily assume that the NDP’s Steve Cardiff was the true representative of the Klondike.”

Meier said “Dawsonites want to move forward, with a fresh start, a fresh government and fresh politicians.”

“If elected to the legislature, part of my job would be to help restore the relationship between the Yukon government and the First Nations, and to ensure that Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in concerns are heard loud and clear,” he said.

Meier promises regular constituency meetings, a close working relationship with other levels of government and a fair representation of all interests in the Klondike community.

Leela Gilday in Concert

Story and photos by Sarah Winton

On Tuesday, March 14th the doors of the KIAC ballroom opened at 7:30pm for song writer in residence Leela Gilday’s concert. The show started at 8pm for a full house of approximately eighty Dawsonites.

Glenda Bolt, on behalf of the Dawson City Music Festival, gave the introduction and welcomed the crowd. Gilday is Dawson’s first song writer in residence and she was brought here through a joint effort of KIAC and DCMF.

For the first half of the evening Gilday performed solo in a style that is hard to define but is very much her own. She opened with an a capella song of thanks entitled “Mahsi Cho”. She sang only one song from the album that was on sale that evening because “it speaks to where [she’s] from”; she dedicated it to “her” hockey team, Bombay Peggy’s.

Her third song was called “Can’t Leave” and it was dedicated to Kyla, who attempted to collect Leela at the airport three times but Gilday arrived in Dawson a day late. The fourth song was an interesting one; Gilday had heard an older woman singing it about four years ago in her Native language and had it translated. After sixty years of marriage the woman’s husband had gone to another shore; the song is about how they will laugh together again when he returns.

The fifth song was dedicated to Charles Eshelman from whom Gilday had been taking kick boxing lessons. For this number she accompanied herself with only a hand drum.

Gilday was interrupted during her sixth song by Dylan Griffith’s laughter and had to start again. The song was made even more amusing by her comic facial expressions. The audience had a part in the song “One Drum” and we were made to practice it three times before Gilday was satisfied with us.

At the end of the first part of the performance Gilday performed an encore, a “little ditty” by Oh Susanna, to thunderous applause.

After the intermission gilday was joined on stage by our own beloved video store clerk, Freddy Olsen, on his sax for three songs. One of these, “Shine On”, is a song that is very close to Gilday’s heart. It’s an expression of the loss of two of her friends and thoughts that give her comfort. Gilday

believes that the spirits of the dead are shown through the northern lights, hence the title of the song.



Once Freddy had taken his bows Leela was joined on stage by Kim Beggs and Nathalie Edelson. Kim's "axe was having growing pains" and she had to borrow Leela's. They played one of Kim's songs called "Lay it all Down"; a song about how the world does not understand the way she thinks... a feeling we can all relate to I'm sure. Beggs' sweet voice complemented Leela's deep and throaty singing perfectly.

After a few of Kim's songs Nathalie took over on the guitar. She was very excited because she finally had an "ooooo" section for her song.

The evening ended with a song about death... not as dark an ending as it sounds though.

Leela gilday left Dawson on Monday March 20th and I'm sure we'll be feeling her loss. An excellent beginning for the song writer in residence program; we can expect to see many more unique talents through the efforts of the DCMF and KIAC.

Percy Winner Hopes to Repeat Pattern on Yukon Quest

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

When Peter Ledwidge collected the Red Lantern for his first attempt at the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Race in 1997, it didn't occur to him that it would take him nine years to work his way up through the ranks to the number one spot.

"It did, you know, and I'm still learning all the time," he said after enjoying his moment in the spotlight at the banquet.

"This year I sat out the Quest and I volunteered with the vet crew here in Dawson. Partly to help out the Quest and partly to gain more knowledge myself by working round the vets. I learned lots from that and listening to what some of the other mushers had to say about dog care."

He feels lucky to have kept to shorter races this year.

"Y'know," he said with a chuckle, "if I'd run the Quest this year I probably would have sold my dog team by now. But I just knew I didn't have a team that could win that."

Fortune smiled in other ways. Peter and his wife, Anne, have been taking turns running the Percy. He was so worn down and "bummed out" (his words) after his eleventh place finish in the the 2005 Quest that he didn't feel up to the Percy that year, so they switched years and he got this one.

His first finish in this race was over 43 hours. This year's effort, at 21 hours and 16 minutes, while not a course record, is well within the cluster of average winning times, so he doesn't even have to feel bad about not beating a bigger field of mushers.

He says that a musher's perspective on what a good race is changes as you get further into the sport. Thinking about last year's Quest he almost laughs when he recalls his depression.

"Four or five years ago I would have been thrilled about that, but just finishing isn't enough now."

This year he and Anne have been running mid-distance races, taking turns handling for each other and seeing a lot of different approaches to the sport.

"I feel that next year I can put a competitive team into the Quest.

"Finishing off this season by winning the Percy is definitely gravy. This is my first win, so it's pretty exciting."

He's the first red lantern winner to move up to the winner's circle in the Percy, and he's hoping the same may eventually hold true for the Yukon Quest, where he also has a red lantern.

"I believe I'm probably the first red lantern to win this race, and I have every intention of doing the same thing on the Quest."

In some ways, though, nothing has beaten the feeling he got from his first two finishes, the Percy in '97 and the Quest in '99.

"The high I felt when I knew I was going to finish that Quest - knowing that I could do that distance by dog team - was the same as what I felt the first time I finished the Percy."

At that time he was new to the community, having moved here four or five years earlier. He was known then by his profession as a geologist.

“Nobody knew me as a dog musher and now that’s my identity in this town.”

This year’s Percy was a really good trail, he said, but he also felt that his familiarity with the area where he’s been training and the good training weather that he has had this winter compared to mushers from farther south gave him a slight advantage.

