

The Klondike Sun

September 27, 2006 Online Edition

Dawson City, Yukon

They're Off and Running

Our headline refers to the territorial election, of course, but we're happy to see RSS students dashing down the dyke to raise money for the annual Terry Fox Run. Mind you, on September 14 you had to move fast to keep ahead of the black flies.



Four Vying for Dawson's Legislative Seat

by Dan Davidson

One of the biggest questions surrounding the territorial election campaign in Dawson City was "what is Peter Jenkins going to do?"

Jenkins, a former mayor here, a former leader of the Yukon Party, and a former minister and deputy premier in the Fentie government, either resigned or was ousted from that party (depending on who is telling the story) last November and has been sitting as an independent Opposition member ever since.

He has been coy about his intentions ever since election speculation began. After receiving heaps of praise for his part in the financing of the School of Visual Arts project here a couple of weeks back, Jenkins spent part of his speech musing that he was looking forward to working with the Dawson City Arts Society in the future, a remark which could have been taken a number of ways.

But Jenkins has now announced that he is out of the race, retiring from active politics for the sake of his health, ending the months of will-he-or-won't-he speculations that had also included whether or not he would try to take back the mayor's chair in the June municipal elections that were held here.

In the end, he has done neither, and now, as some seasoned political watchers here have remarked over the last week, the real race can begin.

The first candidate out of the chute here was Jorn Meier, who ran Klondike Information Technologies and is currently employed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as their IT specialist. Jorn was selected by the local NDP organization and has been in campaign mode since early last spring.

The Yukon Party announced its candidate in a public meeting here on September 14. He is Steve Nordick, co-owner of Fifth Avenue Bread and Breakfast, and also employed at Mackenzie Petroleums, which is owned by Chief Isaac Inc., the business arm of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. A number of other names had been mentioned prior to Nordick's. He is also on the board of the Klondike Visitors Association and has worked extensively in the tourism industry.

Confirmed over the weekend is Liberal candidate. Steve Taylor, former chief of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, long time councillor and current deputy chief. The Liberals have been

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searching for a candidate here for some time, and most of the focus had been on people who were involved at the municipal level, but Taylor has been chosen in the end.

Last on the list is a candidate whose name is quite familiar around the territory. Glen Everitt has decided to run as an independent candidate, saying that he is disappointed with what party politics has accomplished for Dawson in the past. He is not affiliated with the independent group which was recently announced in Whitehorse, but says he is responding to a call to action from a wide spectrum of Dawsonites.

Everitt will be hauling a bit of baggage on the campaign trail, including the sacking of his last council during the last of his nine years as mayor and the criminal and civil litigations which may yet spill over from the Forensic Audit into Dawson's finances which followed the removal of the council in 2004.

Like everyone else in the race, Everitt is connected to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, working with youth in their education department, setting up their youth centre on 2nd Avenue and acting as a resource person when the first nation is dealing with senior levels of government where he has experience and contacts.

It is interesting, and perhaps indicative of the changing nature of the community, that all the candidates are connected to, or employed by, the first nation.

CBC Forum Draws Small Audience

by Dan Davidson

Perhaps two days after the closing of nominations was just a tad too early to have a media event. Or perhaps people just aren't wound up over the election yet. Whatever the case, there were only 16 to 20 people at the CBC's community forum in Dawson on September 20, and seven of those were candidates and their relatives.

The Yukon Party's Steve Nordick was there, along with the NDP's Jorn Meier and Independent candidate Glen Everitt. Liberal hopeful Steve Taylor was reportedly at a party briefing in Whitehorse.

CBC's Trisha Estabrooks did her level best to draw out the few members of the general public who were there, including three members of the current town council, Mayor John Steins, Adam Morrison and Ashley Doiron, but in the end had to give quite a bit of microphone time to the three candidates who were present.

Glen Everitt indicated that he was running as an Independent because he was tired of "made in Whitehorse" party platforms that did so little for the rural areas and allowed MLAs to escape their constituent responsibilities. He cited the last two MLAs, both Yukon Party members, for their lack of community consultation. There were only a few public meetings when David Millar held the position, and none during Peter Jenkins' term of office.

Everitt noted that other Yukon Party MLAs clearly did a better job than this, and cited in particular the many meetings that were announced for constituents in Brad Cathers' riding.

Steve Nordick, in his turn, indicated that it would be his practice to hold regular meetings if elected. Mostly, however, Nordick said he had come to this meeting to listen, and was disappointed that there weren't more members of the public there to speak.

Jorn Meier has been campaigning for months ahead of anyone else in the race, and said his campaign was about restoring a sense of community. As a former president of the



Steve Nordick wished there had been more people to listen to at the forum

Chamber of Commerce, a business owner, an executive member of the Klondike Visitors Association and now, an employee of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Meier indicated that he felt he had the range of community experience and contacts to allow him to help with that process.

"We all have to work together," he said. "It's the spirit

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of the north, but I think we lost it for a while.”

Retired Anglican minister Ken Snider spoke about seniors’ issues on behalf of that group, mentioning the need for better access to buildings, seniors’ housing, the replacement of MacDonald Lodge and perhaps the establishment of a regional facility here in Dawson.

Snider also noted that one way to spread the government prosperity around the territory would be to return to the former NDP practice (under Tony Penikett’s government) of decentralizing some parts of government departments to communities where it made sense to have them. For instance, he noted, Dawson used to have a permanent Tourism Department official here, which made sense given the importance of the place to the tourism industry. That job was clawed back to Whitehorse when its incumbent retired a few years ago.

Greg and Crystal Karais spoke on behalf of baby Oscar, when they wished that the town had more facilities for young people and that it might become less of a drinking town for young adults over the next 18 years or so. A more functional recreation centre and a swimming pool with a longer season would be high on their wish list.

Asked about the future of the contentious bridge across the Yukon River project, most of the room seemed to agree that it was a dead issue at this time. Everitt said that he had been told soon after the Yukon Party was elected that it would not be built and, in a surprising defense of Peter Jenkins, said he felt the Klondike’s combative MLA had been set up and betrayed by his own party on that issue.

Mayor Steins stated that the \$2 million or so spent on preparations for a bogus project was wasted money, some of which ought to have been spent instead on upgrading Front Street, which is in a sad state of disrepair and is a territorial highway. That, he said, would have been a more rational highway upgrade than the superhighway widening project which took place down the Klondike Highway.

While he remains grateful for the recovery package which has allowed the election of a new council and given the town enough capital to function, Steins felt that very little territorial money had been spent in Dawson other than that committed to the School of Visual Arts project run by the Dawson City Arts Society. Steins is a long time supporter and one of the godfathers of that program, but felt that there were other things the town also needed that it did not receive.

Uffish Thoughts: It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Autumn

By Dan Davidson

Fall may not arrive for another eight days, as I write this, but it really has hit Dawson City.

You can see it in the boarded up windows of the Westmark Dawson, and the similar cladding beginning to appear on portions of most of the other hotels.

One could wish, as people did at this evening’s public meeting to discuss the tourism season, that some of this plywood would be more tastefully applied. Perhaps it could be painted some colour to match the building. Perhaps it



could be cut so that it actually fits the doors and windows that are being covered.

These are aesthetic considerations which have no impact on our summerdough proprietors, but which we year round residents have to look at all winter, as do our off-season visitors.

We are also having to play dodge the manhole again, as the city crews get the storm drains ready for the winter shut down. It makes driving around town interesting for about two weeks in the early spring and again in the fall.

This year, as well, there is a crew in town doing what they call a video inspection of our water and sewer pipes. This is just what it sounds like; a special camera is run through all the pipes to look for dents and collapsed tubing. This is not a video that anyone would ever really want to see, I think; not good fodder for next spring’s Short Film Festival.

Meanwhile a flock of travel writers is descending on the town, imported by the government to sing our praises to the international media. We have to hope that they will realize that we are in the midst of shutting a lot of things down at the end of the season, otherwise I shudder to think of the lead paragraphs we are going to read later on.

“Dawson must be a lovely place at the height of the tourist season. Even amid the barren, muddy streets, under a steel grey sky, with hastily boarded windows leering at passersby, one can sense the deep, underlying charm of the place ...”

Looking over the empty expanse of the Goldrush Campground, I can imagine them enthusing about the readily available RV parking, much better than any Wal-Mart.

The changes aren’t just visual of course. Walking past Maximilian’s Goldrush Emporium I suddenly realized that the omnipresent Yukon country styles which greet the summer folk had disappeared and that the strains of a Santana guitar solo were wafting out through the store’s exterior speakers.

Who says there's nothing nice about the end of summer?

(Ed. Note - It turned out that the truck with the video markings was only being used to flush out the system this year. The essay read better with that paragraph in it, so I left it, but the truth will out.)

Hello from Steve Nordick!

I am excited to have this opportunity to represent the citizens of the Klondike as the Yukon Party candidate in this territorial election. I will work to help our community to grow and prosper, with the programs and services we need to keep our families safe and healthy.

My wife Tracy and I own and operate the 5th Avenue Bed & Breakfast and we are deeply committed to Dawson and the Klondike region and its ability to remain vibrant.

As a small business owner, I look forward to working with the Yukon Party team. The Yukon Party has helped boost Yukon's economy and strengthened our social standards in order to keep our communities robust.

I first came to Dawson in the early 1990s to be the manager of the community swimming pool. Currently, I am the Operations Manager for MacKenzie Petroleums and Kluane Freight Lines.

I have had a long association with the tourism industry. I presently sit on the Board of Directors of the Klondike Visitors Association, and previously was a director of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce.

In 1999, my wife Tracy and I purchased the 5th Avenue Bed and Breakfast and this past spring we expanded. Previously, I have been involved in several tourism ventures and am deeply committed to supporting small businesses.

I believe we need to be enthusiastic about supporting the needs of our local businesses. We need to make the necessary reinvestments in local infrastructure so that our regional economy can flourish for the benefit of everyone.

Through my work with MacKenzie Petroleums, I am also keenly aware of the significance of placer mining operations in the Klondike. As a long-time supporter of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, I believe that our miners have always been a sustaining force to the health and well-being of the regional economy and they deserve our unwavering support.

I support the Yukon Party's commitment to balancing development, encouraging investment in mining and other sectors, while protecting the environment.

If elected, I will be a proactive member of a Yukon Party team. I will address the Yukon's social issues by advancing community-based initiatives under the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act and the Substance Abuse Action Plan to build safe, healthy youth, families and communities.

I am committed to providing the voice that the Klondike deserves in the Legislature. As MLA, I'll be ready to address constituent issues such as building partnerships with all stakeholders including First Nations and the City of Dawson and expanding and making health care and social programs

more accessible to Yukoners.

The Klondike is a dynamic riding with a great deal of diversity. I will work hard to get to know the people across the riding and to get things done on their behalf.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss something with myself please contact me at the Nordick campaign office: Located in the Legion Building or by Phone/Fax: 993-5244 or by email:

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Sincerely
Steve Nordick
Your Yukon Party Candidate

The 2006 Chamber Member of the Year is awarded to: Rhonda Taylor of Aurora Office

Rhonda is an exceptional example of community spirit and dedication. She has been attending Chamber meetings since she was 19 years old working for Allanah's Accounting which is now her business, Aurora Office. It is amazing that Rhonda has been taking minutes for the Chamber for almost all that time! She actually enjoys taking minutes and does a terrific job. She has held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for several years and has been a loyal board member through all the ups and downs of the Chamber.

Over the years Rhonda has rented tables and chairs, picked up mail, volunteered at the Gold Show Booth, headed several subcommittees such as the nomination committee, judged Christmas Light competitions and always, always been on the Chamber's parade float along with her boys. Not only does she run her own business, raise her kids, volunteer her time to the Chamber but she does it all with a smile and a good word.

Rhonda's enthusiasm and positive attitude are true assets to the organization. It is through her generosity and dedication that the Chamber has been able to survive and grow. She continues to have an active interest in the Chamber and continues to contribute to the overall good of the organization.

An Artistic Vision Comes to Life in Dawson: School of Visual Arts Building Ends Reconstruction Phase

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

The ribbon cutting and speech making associated with the ceremony to celebrate the completion of construction work on the new School of Visual Arts (SOVA) might have come closer to being on schedule if people had not been so reluctant to stop touring the beautifully appointed building on Thursday afternoon.

As MLA Peter Jenkins mentioned in his speech later, the Dawson City Arts Society (DCAS) has taken a condemned



former liquor store and territorial office building and turned it into a showcase of what can be done if the vision and political will can be brought together with finances to make a thing happen.

It's the second time that DCAS has pulled off a miracle renovation, the first having been at its own core building, the Oddfellows' Hall, in 1998-99.

As DCAS executive director Gary Parker told the crowd, "The completion of this major rebuilding project as a campus for Yukon made art education is an important step towards fulfilling DCAS's founding vision."

Courses for the foundation year program, which will be transferrable to a number of other institutions through the link to Yukon College, will begin here in September 2007.

"Today's celebration is about looking ahead. The building has a new life and we think that Dawson has an exciting new future."

Minister of Community Services Glenn Hart was full of praise for "this incredible new facility" and the people who helped plan this project. He said that the DCAS example had become a "model for many other small towns to show what they can do when they put their minds to it and put their support behind the project."

The Yukon government has committed over a million dollars to the SOVA building project over the last couple of years, which he called a "true northern product" involving, as it did, the work of many local trades people and the purchase of many local supplies.

Noting the unfinished look on the south side of the building the minister said he figured that "Greg (Hakonson) is already starting to hit me up for the addition."

It is part of the long range plan for SOVA that a permanent home for the Dawson campus of Yukon College be constructed next to the building, and potential access corridors are built right into the renovation plans for that purpose.

Gary Parker came in for particular praise for being a successful project manager. Parker, in his turn, was quick to spread that praise around to other people

connected with DCAS and its operational arm, the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture. MLA Peter Jenkins spent most of his time at the podium praising DCAS and its projects.

"This building ... was condemned a few short years ago by the government of Yukon. The vision that put it together was the vision of a few Dawsonites and they are the ones that should take credit."

He, too, noted that that the whole concept would only be complete when Yukon College was erected next door.

"It's going to take a lot more government funding, Minister Hart, to bring it through to the next stage." Jenkins noted that the pledge to fund this project was the one commitment that was put in writing here during the last election campaign.

"So don't trust those politicians. get it in writing. ladies and gentlemen. You can see the end result here."

Speaking a day before the election writ was dropped, Jenkins anticipated that event, and advised his audience of several dozen people that it was time to start lobbying for the rest of the funding.

"The arts community in Dawson is thriving and expanding. It's alive and well. It's the one area that has improved and improved a lot."

Acting mayor Ashley Doiron spoke on behalf of the City of Dawson, as Mayor John Steins was in Whitehorse, teaching a course there.

"This is one more feather in our cap in terms of beautifying our community, and it's just so appreciated. It's important to recognize the successes in our community, as success is what will keep pushing us forward, so let's focus on those."

The current project is a tripartite partnership including the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, DCAS, and Yukon College, with the support of both the territorial government and the town council.

Chief Darren Taylor of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in expressed pleasure at being part of the project.

"This is something that our community wanted, our community needed, and through a lot of hard work and



dedication by the parties we've managed to sit down, discuss the issues, align our forces and put together some joint proposals to the territorial government.

"Mr. Hart and the Yukon government have realized that this is a project that's beneficial not only to Dawson City and its citizens but to the Yukon as a whole.

"There are a lot of artistic people here and (a facility like this) enables us to educate ourselves and broaden our horizons without leaving our families and our community."

Taylor spoke of SOVA helping Dawson's tourism appeal to move beyond a reliance on just the Gold Rush story. Dawson has, he said, more to offer than just that.

Miranda Atwood, the Director of Community Services for Yukon College, represented the final part of the partnership.

"This building represents quite an amazing step ... the importance of communities believing in their right and their ability to dream a vision and to bring that vision into reality. It also represents the importance of communities being heard within our larger region, being allowed to be heard into effect their visions, plans and hopes.

Atwood confirmed that students who are successful at SOVA will be able to move on to art colleges with similar programs Outside.

"Part of what is attracting those colleges to work with the art program that's going to be happening in Dawson is that this program will have some very unique features that recognize and incorporate our unique northern cultural context.

"So it has all the makings of a fabulous program that would have not only national, but also international, attraction for arts students."

Last to the podium was DCAS president Greg Hakonson, who has provided much of the creative drive and done a lot of the lobbying for this project. A man of few words in public situations, Greg spoke briefly in praise of the projects "suppliers, contractors and fine craftsman."

Carpenters Gary Langevin and Ron Bramadat held what had to be the fanciest batch of coloured ribbons ever used for one of these ceremonies while Hart and Hakonson figured out how to share one pair of scissors for the cutting.

A reception was held at the Oddfellows' Hall immediately afterwards, and still more pieces were placed on the mammoth DCAS wall puzzle.

Raven's Nook Marks 25 Years

Story & Photos by Dan Davidson

After twenty-five years as the owner and manager of the Raven's Nook. Lenore Calnan thinks she's finally getting the hang of the job.

"I opened in May of 1981, across from the Eldorado Hotel in 396 square feet of space."

Calnan says she started the store to replace Dawson Arts & Crafts, which had been wiped out in the flood of 1979. There was nothing else like it surviving in town at that point.

"You could not find a gift for somebody in town, and I

thought, here we are, all living here, earning our money here, and being forced to go to Whitehorse to spend it."

Calnan hadn't had much experience in that kind of retail sales at that point. Her previous experience had been in her father's (Bill Hakonson) grocery store and in the Eldorado Hotel which replaced that business after Dawson City Wholesale blew up

in 1969. Then she had worked in book keeping for a number of businesses, including a stint at the Cyprus Anvil Mine in Faro in the 1970s.

In time she moved into the second floor of that little building as well, and called that space The Loft.

Later she was in rented space in the Dawson Plaza, next to what is now the CIBC office, but for the last six years she has had her own building again, located on the corner of Queen Street and Second Avenue.

This spot is one of the best in town in terms of traffic and location, and Calnan really likes working on a single floor. It makes responding to customer peaks and valleys easier on her as a manager, and, sadly, she reflects that it is also easier to catch people trying to get a five-finger discount.

Like many buildings in Dawson, this one has a history of its own, having been both the J & J Emporium and Trappers during the last two decades, before Calnan moved in.

"If I had been in here earlier I would have had the mortgage on this place paid off with what I paid in rent at the plaza."

The Raven's Nook has what Calnan calls an "eclectic mix" of goods for sale, everything from clothing to shoes, fancy gifts, CDs and electronic gear.

"I call it a mini-department store in my ads, for want of a better way to describe it," she says.

"The mix seems to have worked, because you have to get as much of the local population as you can, so you have to carry quite a variety of items to make it work."

Some things haven't worked over the years. She tried a line of higher fashion women's wear at one time, and found that she was constantly just ahead of or just behind the fashion curve. These days she sticks to more serviceable





Before that, however, she did books for mining companies, filled in for staff at the city office and worked for mining companies in both Clinton Creek and Faro.

“I started out in Faro as a switchboard operator, when I’d never seen one before. Then they had a telex machine which they found out I knew how to operate. When I left there I was office manager and had turned down a promotion to be in charge of the mill expansion bookkeeping.”

When Calnan began the Raven’s Nook she was a young mother who happened to own most of the shares in the Eldorado Hotel, had someone managing that business, and was looking for a little something to do with her spare time. Since then, she has sold the hotel to her former husband, Peter Jenkins, and moved her operations into her own building, and the business has grown.

everyday indoor and outdoor wear and finds that it is selling well.

Fashion changes make retail a tricky business. “Lady Di” blouses were a popular item early on, as they could be used without alteration in the period style costumes that are so popular here for special occasions. Calnan recalls a time when she sold a lot of nylon stockings and pantyhose, but they hardly move at all now except for waitresses and barmaids.

“No one is wearing skirts, and if they do, in the winter, they want the cotton tights, which are warmer and don’t run. You don’t wear pantyhose in the summer if you can help it.”

After 25 years in business, some people might be thinking about retiring, but that’s not a priority for the owner of the Raven’s Nook.

“I’m not bored. There’s so many different tasks, because I do them all, right down to doing my own books.

“There’s the buying,” she says, pointing to a stack of seasonal catalogs from her major clothing suppliers, “constantly ordering, always looking for something new that will work here.

“There is the freedom of being my own boss, though sometimes I’m wondering about how free that is.”

On the other hand, she knows herself well enough to suspect that she will always want to do something, and if it wasn’t this store, then it might be something else.

“That’s just the way I am. I had my first job when I was 13, and when I finished school I had thought of going to a university, but dorm life with all those people - when Dawson had about 700 people - was too hard to think of. UBC was just too big for me then.

“So I came back and worked for Dad in the grocery store. I pretty much learned how to run it and started to learn how to do books.”

That included reconstructing the books after the propane delivery accident which destroyed the store.

Over time she became more involved with the hotel, first as employee, then as 40% owner and finally as sole owner.

While she is looking towards a time when she might sell the business and have more time to travel, that hasn’t come yet.

Antoine’s Gold

a poem by Andy Crowther

(Ed. Note: based on a true story, Andy Crowther’s poem was the winner of the poetry competition in this year’s Authors on Eighth Writing Contest.)

The subject of this tall tale
Is a Quebecer, a male
Of 30 years and extremely tall.
He stands 6 feet 6
And his clothes are a mix
Of Voyageur and Coureur des bois.

Round his waist there was placed
A French Censures Fleches
And his pants were red and black checkered wool.
He wore big leather boots,
He was in touch with his roots
And great adventure in life was his goal.

Well, in the spring of ’95
Francois and his friend, they did drive
Across this vast and beautiful country.
From Quebec in a Lada,
They crossed Man., Sask., and Alta.
En route to the Yukon Territory.

Some letters made in bold
They painted glitter gold
On the side of that rusty sedan.
It was a statement of dread;
“Gold Fever” it said,
The obsession of many a man

To the North they did speed
To find some gold, indeed,
And to bring home a nugget or two.
For the Yukon is full
With Yellow dust, no bull! ,
A little digging is all you must do.

So they say it is easy
But soon you'll be queasy
From dirt, rocks, mud, gravel and sand.
For it's not a quick job
You're a miner, not a slob!
And all the work has to be done by hand.

Well Francois and his friend
Dug shafts to no end
But no nugget nor dust did they find.
Twenty feet deep sometime
Underground they did mine
And came up with no more than a dime.

Frustrated and sad
The two miners were glad
To hear good news coming around.
Picks and shovels they did drop
And rushed out to the crop.
Now mushrooms were being bought by the pound!

All summer they did sweat
In green forests, you bet.
And made so much money, it would make you blush.
"Stay the winter we will!"
Was the cry from the hill.
More mushrooms are the new Gold Rush!

Now Francois had declared
He would live "en plein air"
And build a teepee, a cabin, or a shack.
He'd live the old ways
And pass all of his days
In the woods and never come back!

So he made a teepee
Out of plastic, you see
For it was easy to heat and to clean.
And he stayed there awhile
Out of town a few miles
Until one winter day he awoke to a scene.

His dear teepee was burning.
Billows of smoke they were churning
And Francois was stuck inside.
In his longjohns he jumped
And broke his leg on a stump.
But, thank heaven, he almost died!

The teepee was gone
A black mark on the lawn

And Francois was stuck in the cold.
So he walked into town
With not even a frown.
My God that man was bold!

Francois' next home would be
Made of wood got for free
From builders and the local garbage pile.
Built to withstand great force
And wrapped in plastic, of course,
Certainly this home would last quite awhile.

But as cruel fate would be
Just as with the teepee
The home was not to be long around,
For one night it caught fire
And made a huge pyre,
Again, his home had been burnt to the ground.

After this, Francois set
To make sure not to let
Any more homes go up in red flame.
A log cabin he'd rent.
It'd be money well spent
And a place to live it would be all the same.

Now with the mushrooms gone
And middle of winter full on
Francois wild thoughts turned to gold.
He still had the fever you see,
Though it'd been some time since he
Was down a 40 foot shaft in the cold.

He dreamt of gold every night.
It was this man's poor plight
To be obsessed by the precious yellow stone
In gold streams he bathed,
In gold sun he played,
In this pleasure he was not alone

For many friends had he
Who loved gold, you see,
Real treasure hunters in a state of bliss.
Digging shafts all day long
They would sing a sweet song
A miner's waltz and it went something like this:

"We are miners, for sure
We want not to be poor
So we work long in the dirt and the muck.
In soaked trousers we play
But we think it's OK,
Because someday we may have some luck!"

"We might find a gold flake
Or a jewel, for gosh sake;
It's all out there in the hills, my dear lad.
I've seen it more than one time

A pan filled with yellow fines,
And a prospector who's no longer sad."

"But till then we'll push on,
That's the point of the song,
To toil till the end of one's days.
To find sparkling hope
At the end of one's rope
Makes it all worth the struggle, I say!"

"We'll build palaces of gold
Just as in days of old;
We'll live in extreme luxury.
But, until then, my friend,
It's work with no end.
I'll strike it rich one day soon, wait and see!"

Francois dug in the ground
But no gold could be found
For 100 years of digging was unfortunately there.
The same ground had been mined
By countless others, you'll find.
There's no virgin soil to be found anywhere.

So Francois made a new plan.
He'd go where there'd been no man
Find a secret spot was the idea he had.
Only where will that be
Between here and the sea?
There's no land untouched and it makes me quite mad!

Then a friend of his said
"Hey, Francois, sleepy head
Look under water and there you will find
That gold's not just on land.
Here, I'll give you a hand
For the bottom of the river has never been mined!"

Francois' eyes opened wide
"Ah! It's moved with the tide
The gold came from the creeks and trickled down
Over thousands of years
Carried by water, it's clear,
To a spot right in front of the town."

"Underwater it lay
A treasure, I say
A pot of gold in a hole way down deep.
Seen only by fishes,
It can grant all your wishes.
A fortune awaits, and it's all for you to keep."

When Francois heard this tall tale
He vowed to be the first male
To go walking on the Yukon River floor.
He'd go there himself
And find that sweet shelf
Where the gold stayed and traveled no more.

Late nights he spent sitting
Making drawings quite fitting
For exploring the Yukon River deep.
By candlelight in his shack
He made a plan of attack
It seemed like never was he able to sleep.

An epiphany he had
You will think it quite mad
When I tell you how he planned to get down.
In winter he'd wear a wetsuit
And go down an ice chute
To the bottom to have a look round.

"Diving under the ice
I think this will suffice
To let me search for that sunken treasure spot."
Said he, "I'll breathe air from a tank
Now I'm being quite frank
I'll descend down a rope, that's my plot."

"I'll cut a hole in the ice
And clear the slush away nice.
I'll drop a barrel of rocks to make an ice shaft
An anchor from bottom to top
It will allow me to drop
Straight to the river floor, you may think it quite daft."

"30 below C it will be
On the surface", said he
But underwater it will be warmer than that
Around zero, I think,
To the bottom I'll sink
And take my first steps on the river bottom flat."

"Now the river runs clear
Near the bottom, I hear
Though there may be debris flying by.
An old tree trunk or two
A chunk of ice, clear blue
Whizzing down river in the current, oh my!"

"And from there I must walk
Out 40 feet to a rock
That sits on the edge of a submarine hole.
And in there I will find
Paydirt that's never been mined
I'll take from it a fortune in Gold."

With some friends he did slice
A large hole in the ice
And made a shaft in the slushy darkness.
A wetsuit he put on
Mask and tanks he did don
And jumped feet first into the abyss.

He went down the first time

Down the rope he did climb
And touched his boots on the silty river floor.
But a scary time had he
There was a waterlogged tree
That almost hit him and he would have been no more.

He climbed up in a fright
To get into clear sight
Of the land in the safe world above.
On an ice patch he did stand
His heart thumping, oh man,
And took a breath of the Northwind that he loved.

“Don’t do it again,”
Said his dearest friend
“It’s too dangerous, with death you shouldn’t flirt.
We can find another way
And get the gold some other day.
Let’s quit this scene before someone gets hurt!”

But Francois would not be swayed
There were debts waiting to be paid
Too much was riding on this golden venture
He’d go down another time
For the abyss is sublime
It’s a silent world of ice and its beauty is pure.

Francois leapt into the cold.
He plunged down, so bold
To the bottom and started to walk.
Out from the safe rope
He ventured with hope
And bravely sought out the pit and the rock

He looked up and did spy
An icy ceiling quite high
Billowy clouds as far as could be seen by the eye.
No opening could be found.
It was frozen quite sound,
Smooth and white like a bright winter sky

As he walked on the ground
All around him he found
Icicles in queer shapes as he roamed.
There were pointed ice cones
And spiral palindromes,
Amongst crystalline houses of stone

Blue snow gems floated in place
Right in front of his face
And a bright light shone from a distance ahead.
Glittery beams in the dark
Shot out in an arc
And flickered in white, yellow, and red.

Francois made his brave way
To the bright shining array,
But before he could get to the breach

His rope it did stop
A signal from the top.
The end of his long line had been reached.

Francois was filled with dismay.
For only a few steps away
Was the object of his one true desire.
But, no farther could he go
Unless he untied his rope.
The situation was looking rather dire

Francois decided to go
And cut the knot on the rope.
He was free, an underwater king right at home.
His great kingdom was found,
It was beauty all around,
And throughout it forever he’d roam.

He’ll live forever more
As a legend of lore
In a golden and watery place.
We’ll think of him now and then,
His Great quest at an end,
And remember his smiling face

In an icy home you will see
Francois sitting, happy,
With gold nuggets and gold dust in his hands.
On a throne of yellow hue
He rules the deep blue
From a great, glittering palace of sand.

Now is Dawson’s time to shine

Yukon’s northern jewel has faced more than its fair share of challenges over the past few years.

With municipal governance back under local control, Dawsonites are ready to move on and take charge of their own future.

The next MLA will need experience creating consensus among citizens and governments, experience balancing environmental and economic issues, and experience providing sound local leadership.

Yukon Liberal candidate Steve Taylor has all those qualities and he is excited about this opportunity to serve the entire community.

“The next MLA will have to work with the new mayor and council and the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in leadership to make sure Dawson area issues are addressed,” Taylor said.

“Our community cannot afford to waste any more time on divisive personal politics.”

Taylor is a former THFN Chief and Negotiator, as well as a current member of the Yukon Water Board and the Peel River Watershed Land Use Planning Board.

He also has experience working as a placer miner in Mayo and he worked at Faro, when that mine was operating.

“I think my personal experience is lot like the history of this area,” Taylor said. “I know we need resource industries,

but I also know that we can do it responsibly so that our children can live in a community that is as beautiful for them as it is for us.”

Taylor joined the Liberal team because of its strong stance on balancing mining and environmental issues. He also believes that a Liberal government will focus on fixing problems, not creating them.

Liberals are also committed to funding First Nation curriculum in schools and creating a Minister for Land Claim Implementation. Creating a Minister for Implementation will ensure that First Nations issues are always heard at a minister-to-minister level in Cabinet and throughout government.

Liberals will invest an additional \$3 million annually in childcare, increase the substance abuse strategy funding by 25%, make a major investment in fostering and growing Yukon cultural industries and protect the environment by making responsible decisions on resource development.

“This election is important for the Dawson area,” Liberal leader Arthur Mitchell said. “And having Steve on our team is important to all Liberals.”

Mitchell also confirmed that he will live up to all of the commitments made regarding Dawson’s financial restructuring and the completion of the recreation facility and sewage treatment facility.

The Liberal party also made a strong commitment to bringing integrity and ethics back to government. They introduced an MLA Code of Conduct and have promised to bring forward new Ethics and Accountability legislation.

But for Taylor, the biggest issues are the local issues.

“We should all be proud to live in this part of the Yukon and we all have a responsibility to do what we can to make sure our home is as vibrant as it can be,” he said.

A letter home from Medical School

Hello everyone,

So here I am in Vancouver trying my hand at being a student. So far so good. I just finished my fourth week and I am feeling more and more like I can actually do this.

I have about seven or eight classes. Some are held three times a week, some are once a week and a couple are every so often scattered across the term. Three of them are quite heavy: basic physiology, histology (looking at slices of tissues under the microscope), and anatomy. The other courses are on how to interview patients, gaining an understanding of how society and patients see doctors and how we see ourselves as doctors (really touchy-feely with a big dollop of ethics), and then clinical skills such as taking blood pressures and pulses. Clinical Skills doesn’t raise my blood pressure too much; I’m pretty comfortable with taking blood pressures. My first real exam is in two weeks. Already. But I have been keeping up with my homework and constant reviewing. I should be okay. Besides, it is all pass or fail. If I get 65% or if I get 80%, it is all a “P”.

Tomorrow I am going to go sit in on a special session of an anatomy dissection. By fluke a cadaver in our anatomy lab was found to have “dextrocardia” which means that this

person has their heart flipped to sit in the right side of the chest rather than on the left side. The big question is whether or not all the rest of his innards are also switched. I have to say that anatomy is my favourite class. It is also the most daunting. We do our dissections on the preserved bodies of people who have specifically donated their bodies to the UBC medical class for this purpose. But besides the gravity of dissecting a human body there is the bulk of memory work to be done. I have heard it likened to memorizing the phone book and I would have to say this analogy is quite accurate. However, I will be forever grateful to this anonymous person who has donated their body for my education; he is my most memorable teacher and he hasn’t spoken a word.

There are about 260 people in my class. Most are in the medical program but there are also 40 dentistry students who will be in many of my classes for the first two years. There are also about 20 to 30 graduate students also in some of the classes. I am still seeing faces of students who I swear I have never seen before. Perhaps by Christmas I will have met everyone. I am not the oldest in the entire class (thank goodness!) but I am certainly in the minority. A group of us “old farts” get together for lunch a couple times a week and talk about real life and politics and investment plans and trade study tips. All of us are frequently mistaken as profs or staff, even by our fellow students, and we have quite a laugh when the other person realizes that we are just lowly first year students. There are only about three First Nation students in my class that I have met so far. There are however many many more First Nations people out on the streets. This sad fact has been difficult for me to take in and is possibly a point for examination with respect to the admissions policies of the medical school. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the efforts of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and our entire community to maintain pride and respect for our local First Nation.

Overall I have decided that I like Vancouver. It isn’t Dawson of course, but it has its own charm. Last night walking back to my rez room from the bus stop, I heard languages I have never heard before, saw new shoots of flowers poking up from the ground, and caught the tantalizing wafts from every manner of restaurant along the way. How great is that? Vancouver seems to be going through what I can only describe in terms of embryological development. Forgive me, these days everything relates to what I am studying. Some regions within the Vancouver complex of cities are almost completely populated with specific ethnic groups. Generalizing of course, Richmond is Chinese, Surrey is East Indian and so forth. It is like how I imagine it happens in the developing embryo: first you start out with a homogenous cluster of cells which spontaneously begin to differentiate into tissues and then organs and then the whole organism. But it doesn’t end there because that organism changes considerably as it moves through infant to adult stages. So where is Vancouver in this process I wonder? Maybe at the organ stage? At any rate I don’t think Vancouver is finished its development and we may never live long enough to see it in

old age. And none of this is bad or wrong or good but I have to say that it is very different for someone like me who is more accustomed to our Dawson mix.

Anyhow, I must get back to my homework. I have a swack of muscles, bones, blood vessels, and nerves to memorize. And I have to sort out how meiosis goes again – yep, if you are taking a biology course and learning this for the first time, take my advice and learn meiosis well because it will show up in every biology-type course for the rest of your academic life.

Take care, Dawson City. We'll see you at Christmas.
- Aedes

Chamber Honours David “Buffalo” Taylor & Gold City

David (Buffalo) Taylor was honoured in two categories, including Business of the Year for Gold City Tours and Cold City Travel, and Lifetime Achievement.

Gold City Tours has operated a bus tour company in Dawson City for many years. Gold City Travel has operated Air North's Dawson outlet. The two businesses in the one location has benefited everyone. Gold City Tours was the only tour bus company in Dawson to provide dredge, dome and town tours - the tours promoted Dawson's beauty and history. Gold City Travel maintained the Air North outlet - which ensured the Yukon's airline was available to Dawson. Both businesses are members of the local chamber and tourist associations and are respected members of Dawson's business community. The owner/operator, Dave (Buff) Taylor not only gave to our tourism industry but has also given years as a volunteer firefighter.

“You never appreciate something until it is gone.” That saying is true for Gold City Tours. The local town, Dome and Goldfield tours done by Dave and his crew at Gold City Tours were definitely missing from the list of things to do in Dawson for our visitors this year. This is an essential service offered to tourists during the summer season. Buff is a well known Dawson character that will not be replaced. Other tour companies may come and go but Dave in his role of tour guide is a Dawson tradition that will be missed.

Jorn Meier, the Klondike's NDP Candidate

By Wayne Potoroka

Jorn Meier stares at a white board on the north wall of his NDP office. His brow wrinkles as he considers each word. A long moment passes before he speaks.

“Decentralization, First Nation Issues, mining regulations, business climate, sewage, rec. centre, funding for daycares – it's a big list.” He punctuates each issue by raising a finger. “There's a lot on people's minds in the Klondike.”

Meier has all ten fingers in the air and could use more. Another pause before his baritone resumes.

“I want to be the one who takes our message to Whitehorse,” he says. “I want to tackle these issues for the folks in the Klondike riding and help keep this the best

place in the world to live.”

Meier has pursued this goal since arriving from Germany in 1993 and being gripped by the Yukon.

“I have a love for the land and for the country,” he says. “There are a lot of reasons. But in the end it's like loving chocolate. You can't always say why.” Dawson City's primary computer technician for the past decade, Meier recently took on a new challenge as network administrator with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

His true passion, however, is working for people.

“I've been involved in many groups,” says Meier. “Chamber of Commerce Board, KVA, Diamond Tooth Gertie's committee, Dawson City Music Festival, Klondike Centennial Society. A lot.”

Meier points to Black Wednesday, a protest in support of placer mining he helped organize as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

“I pitched it to my board and pushed until they gave me the green light,” he recalls. “It took a lot of work from a handful of people, but it proved everyday people could make their voice heard.”

Meier seems unfazed by his hectic schedule but he's clear on why he does it.

“This community has taken me in as one of its own. I'm just trying to pay back a little.”

Serving as MLA would be the ultimate repayment, he says.

“We've been stagnant for some time but I see the new town council making big strides. I see Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief and Council working to the same end,” Meier says.

“What we need here is a team of all political forces working together to make this a better community,” he says. “I believe we can do it. That's why I put my hat in the ring.”

Meier has a message for anyone wondering where he stands on specific issues.

“Just ask,” he says. “I'm approachable. I talk to people and I listen.”

Seeing the day's last visitor to the door, Meier continues.

“The Klondike is ripe for a positive change. We have to put people back together and I feel I'm the right person for the job,” he says.

“I can't be everything for everybody. But I'm involved and I care.”

As he locks his office, Meier offers his definitive reason for running.

“At the end of the day, people should be proud to live in the Klondike,” says Meier. “I want to help make that happen. I am going to make it happen.”

Dawson City Hill Billies in Vancouver

By Agata Franczak-Prauzinska

DEAR FRIENDS, it's been almost a month since I last wrote, and, oh boy, how much things have changed. First of all, my chemo treatment did not work. The cancer did not shrink. No; it grew bigger and stronger and moved to places

where it was not before. You can imagine how disappointed Cor and I were. The doctors have speedily ordered radiation treatment. Chemo was not so bad because the session was just once a month, but radiation.... it's everyday of the week (except weekends because the Cancer Clinic is closed on weekends and statutory vacations) for 10 minutes a day. And for that I have to stay in Vancouver for 2 months.

Thank God my honey is with me and my doggie Haywire, who loves laying on the carpeted floor all day and completely does not mind life in the big city. If it wasn't for the fact that I truly miss the fishing for dog salmon, hunting and cutting wood for the winter, which is so important in our Dawson Universe, Cor and I would enjoy our stay more in Vancouver. The city is beautiful: clean, full of trees and flowers, ponds, creeks, ducks, geese, seagulls and city bears.

Just yesterday we went for the walk with Haywire and stumbled (we never know where we are going and where we are going to end up) onto a pond with a beautiful grassy area nearby. We sat to take a rest (its me, I have to sit and take a rests and it drives me crazy to be so weak) and a flock of geese landed maybe 40, 50 yards from us. We looked at each other – and it was starting to get dark – looked around, nobody. Maybe we can catch ourselves a goose? You guys should see them. They are huge over there; fat and slow. Nobody bothers them, so they are trusty too. “Sling shot it is what we need to make” I said. Cor rolled his eyes, looked at me and commented “Dawson City Hill Billies in Vancouver.... but yes we do need a sling shot”.

We have rented beautiful penthouse apartment in the middle of Vancouver in False Creek area. It's a one bedroom apartment with a spacious living room, kitchen and bathroom. First the first time in years I can shower and bathe everyday for hours. Believe me, it is a treat. The entire apartment is covered with a thick light grey carpet which is our doggie Haywire's best friend. She has even stopped climbing on the bed and the couch. When I miss her I now have to take a pillow and a blanket and sleep with her on the floor. It's very comfortable, though... because of the carpet.

We have a big TV, and 60 channels to choose from. Well, we may as well have 1000 channels. Nothing on, anyhow. But its comforting that we can come home and start the TV without first checking if the generator has enough oil and gas and than fight with the monster to start it. I know, it might sound weird, but believe me, for people who for years did not have those simple luxuries, its fun to have them even if it is just for few weeks. cancer have its good sides...? Oh God, just kidding.

Our condominium building is very big. Everybody has a terrace or a balcony. We have a balcony (with the carpet) and a table and BBQ. We do not use BBQ because burned meat is not good for people, but the table and the balcony railing became very handy. Cor brought half of a smoked moose hide, eight tanned beavers and one tanned lynx down from Dawson. You know how smoked hide smells? Overwhelming. What to do? Cor hung the moose hide over

the balcony railing and beside it he hung the beavers and the lynx. Sometimes I really wonder what our neighbors think. I bet that half of them are vegetarians or vegans and here we are, the Hillie Billies, with the skin of the dead animals hanging out of the balcony for everybody to admire. Oh well, we do need those skins to kill time and make some money by making hats and mitts.

A few days ago we had a really great meeting with Aedes. She is here learning how to become a doctor. It will be great to have her in our little community, but we have to wait for 4 more years. So Aedes came and visited and invited us out for supper. We took the dog, crossed the Cambie Bridge and ended up on a street with nice, clean looking restaurants. One restaurant “Provance” looked especially appealing. It was a spacious place with lots of staff wearing snow white aprons; it had tables outside and in. Everybody was extremely polite and smiley. We should have sensed a trap, but we did not. We choose a table outside (because of our doggie), tied her up to the railing that separated the restaurant from the side walk and started to wait for the waiter. She came in a flash and brought us big, very nice looking menus. We should have made our escape right then and there; but we did not. We opened the menu and... I choked on the little biscuit that the waitress had brought. A soup was 10 bucks and any decent meal did not go for under 40 dollars. To boot, Haywire somehow squeezed in between the railings and was now laying under our table. What to do in this situation? When one is a poor Yukoner, who always bitches about the prices of hamburger in various restaurants because it cost 13 dollars and it does not have enough mayo for the price we paid. And the fries, of course should be free....

Cor acted as though all his life he had done nothing but dine in fancy restaurants. I pretended that everything was fine and dandy and Aedes, I really do not know. She invited us, so I bet she was in a panic, but she was a good sport and never lost her nerve. She even ordered some appetizers that were yummy despite the fact that I had never heard of or tasted most of them.; and mugs of beer with unknown names. I was sure that eventually somebody was going to complain about Haywire being on the restaurant premises and we would have to take her outside. But instead, the young waitress came with a real dog bowl full of water and put it in front of Haywire commenting how beautiful she was and asking what kind of dog she was. It felt good to be treated so civilized for a change.

Sounds like we having fun? W-e-l-l, we truly try. Especially I try; but to be honest I miss my cabin, fishing, hunting, my doggies and Dawson in general. Sometimes I just cry and cannot stop, but everybody is telling me that tears are good because they release tension and toxins. Too bad I did not know that before.

There are many things I did not know before. For instance that 1 in 47 women will have uterine cancer. And that there are tests to catch that cancer in its early stages. I want to write a little bit about that. So, men, you can stop reading now....but just before you do, please think about going to your doctor and asking for a simple blood test to

check the level of prostate tumor marker (known as PSA test) in your blood. It is a pretty good indicator that something is going on in your body and if the cancer is caught early its almost always beatable.

Going back to uterine cancer: first of all, what are the symptoms? Pains after sex (typical cramps) they do not have to last long, maybe just few minutes, but if after every time you have sex you have cramps, this may indicate a growing tumor. Other symptoms include cramps during the days without menstruation, discharge from the vagina, irregular bleeding, change in your stool (sometimes constipation, sometimes diarrhea), bloated stomach, incredible change of moods (bursting in tears and laughing almost in the same time) and sometimes an increased tendency to bruising, breaking in your skin (in my case I had a pimples around my mouth which I could not get rid of).

Any of these symptoms should be checked right away. You can ask for an internal vaginal ultrasound or a better test is the D&C which is a biopsy from your uterus. It's a simple procedure of collecting samples from inside of your uterus.

In fact every woman after age 50 should have an internal vaginal ultrasound a least once a year. In little Poland, where I came from, every woman over 50 has a right to book the appointment for that particular type of ultra sound twice a year! I know about that from my girlfriend from Poland who has been doing just that for the past 5 years. I wish I knew that when I started to have my symptoms in February this year. I would not have allowed myself to be diagnosed with beaver fever and then with irritated bowl syndrome by the doctors. I would have been more assertive and I would have demanded the proper tests. But as usual, we are smart after the damage is done.

Another thing to remember is your family history. If your mama or sister had cancer (especially cancer of female parts, inc. breast cancer) you are in a higher risk group than women who do not have a family history of cancer.. Remind your doctor at your next appointment.

Simple blood tests can be done to. Blood tests showing the level of hormones in your body and blood tests for the so called tumor markers (which are usually are particles of protein which our body and cancer cells produce). Tumor markers are not a very efficient way of discovering cancer (except in the case of prostate tumor marker), but they are quite good indicators that something is not right. Ask your doctor to provide you with the referral for the blood test. Generally speaking, if you were a healthy individual, who rarely went to doctors before, and all of a sudden you have persistent pains and have to visit doctor every week or two, and use a pain killers regularly, you had better get yourself checked out for cancer. And hiding your head in the sand and living in denial does not help a lot. Please do remember: cancer caught early is easy to fight; cancer caught late might be deadly. Love you all.

“Dawson Revival” runs from Skagway to Whitehorse

By Suzanne Crocker

Ten Dawson women ran a total of 175 km from Skagway to Whitehorse in the 2006 Klondike Road Relay held on September 8th and 9th.

The ten intrepid runners were Georgette McLeod, Krystal Karais, Janice Rose (Rosie), Melissa Flynn, Jan Campbell, Suzanne Crocker, Shelly Anderson, Marni Bramadat, Tracy Nordick, and Colleen Latham. Our essential driver and support person extraordinaire was Shelley Brown.

“Dawson Revival” is the name of the all-women team, so named because it has been 4 years since Dawson has entered a team in the Klondike Road Relay. [Once upon a time, Dawson’s running community was large enough to put three teams in the relay every year.] But look out! Running in Dawson is on a comeback!

Our race began at 8 pm on Friday Sept 8th in downtown Skagway. Each runner ran one of 10 legs that ranged in distance from 9.3 km (straight up to the summit!) to 25.6 km. For many, it was their first time running such distances. We ran through the night, battling hilly terrain, sleep deprivation and stomach illnesses. A new adventure seemed to await us at every turn. When not running we were cheering and supporting our other runners and catching an occasional catnap. We crossed the finish line 18 hours 10 minutes and 56 seconds later at Rotary Peace Park in Whitehorse. This placed “Dawson Revival” a respectable 14th out of 26 all-women teams.

Congratulations to every one of the ten team members who successfully challenged themselves and kept themselves fit enough to complete their legs under demanding conditions.

139 teams entered this year’s Klondike Road Relay, hailing from the Yukon and Alaska and as far away as Arizona.

Congratulations also to Dawson runner Ian Nyland who ran on the Whitehorse team “Ahtrii Kit Aagal” (“Run Like The Wind”) which placed 14th in the mixed category and Dawson runner John Lodder who ran on the Whitehorse team “Still Chuggin” which placed 9th in the open category.

Many, many thanks to our “Dawson Revival” sponsors: Schmidt Mining, Hawk Mining, The Fashion Nugget, Harper Street Publishing, Bedside Manner B&B, 5th Avenue B&B and the Dawson Medical Clinic. Many thanks to our driver, Shelley Brown who volunteered her time and sacrificed her sleep to spend 24 hours in an RV with 10 sweaty and crazy women! Many thanks also to our families, friends and employers who allowed us the time to train and run the race.

Stay active - the Klondike Road Relay awaits the return of Dawson runners in 2007!

Classical Music with a Cup of Joe

Story & Photo by Dan Davidson

The Joe Trio capered through Dawson City last week, with concerts at both the Oddfellows Hall (courtesy of the Dawson City Arts Society) and the Robert Service School.

Formed in 1989, this piano trio is not your average classical consort. This might be expected from a group whose members also play in symphony orchestras, hot jazz bands, and in session work on pop music CDs. Indeed, violinist Cameron Wilson has been here before, as part of the jazz group Van Jango.

As might be suggested by its name, the Joe Trio makes a serious attempt to be average Joes, and take some of the stuffing out of classical music, partly by presentation, and partly by putting that music into a context with other material.

Sure, they can present a beautiful rendition of “Danse Macabre” by Camille Saint-Saëns, but in the next breath (so to speak) they can take the theme music from “The Simpsons” and decorate it with additions from the entire classical catalogue in their “D’eau Simpsymphony”.

Before you know it they’re jamming away on “Sweet Georgia Brown”, warning the audience not to try to dance along as they offer a medley of bluegrass fiddle tunes and hamming up the Latin beat with Cam Wilson’s “Hiccup Tango”.

Sure they may present a beautiful 25 minute rendition of Smetana’s “G minor Piano Trio”, but they do it with liner notes by pianist Allen Stiles that has the audience in stitches before they play a note.

The pièce de résistance for the evening was probably the hilarious “Brief History of Western Music with apologies to Henry Mancini, Op.1”, in which the familiar strains of the “Pink Panther Theme” were mutated through half a dozen musical genres, from the original jazzy version through Mozart-like variations, a touch of Beethoven, early rock ‘n’ roll, country-style and a bombastic heavy metal variation a la Deep Purple.

The Joe Trio has two CDs available through their website. Both were recorded before cellist Charles Inkman replaced Laura McPheeters in the group. A Cupful of Joe (1997) and Set ‘em Up Joe (2001) are delightful listening, though it’s clear that the best way to hear the Joe Trio is live, where the jokes and antics make the performance even more of a delight.

The trio performed in most of the schools between Dawson and Whitehorse during the week, including a number of performances and an evening concert in Whitehorse.



Hit the Road, Jack

by Dan Davidson

The owners of the SUV and mid-sized travel trailer were pretty clear about what they wanted as I stood behind them in the line at the corner garage and convenience store the evening of the last Sun layout weekend.

Could they park overnight in the hotel lot across the street?

No, that was for buses owned by the hotel chain, the clerk told them.

Were there places where they could park overnight?

Something in his tone seemed to indicate there was a message the clerk and I weren’t picking up.

Well, yes, said the clerk. There was one RV campground just down the street from where we were talking, and several others just out of town across the bridge.

They didn’t need any services, he said. They just wanted a place to park.

No problem, we told them. There were quite a few vacancies and they’d be glad of the business.

Oh, said the man, we don’t want to spend any money.

Whoops, I thought to myself, no Wal-Mart here folks.

But all I said was that there really weren’t any places like that around here. After all, the folks who offered such services made their living that way.

Well, said the man to his wife, I guess we can move on and cross this town off our list.

With that, they headed out the door, looking for all the world as if they had been insulted or done a great personal injury.

I looked out the window at their rig. Their SUV was a newer model than the one we drive, but their trailer was about the same vintage and size as the one sitting in my back yard. If they can afford the rig and can afford the gas, they can afford the prize of an unserved RV stall.

Move on? I thought.

Yes, please do.

The Case for Independence

By Glen Everitt

Good Day, Bonjour, Drin Hozo Everyone,

My name is Glen Everitt, I do not intend to focus a lot of time on me personally; I have lived in Dawson for 20 years, am married with six children and seven grand children. I served 14 years on Municipal Council and for the past two years have been on the Robert Service School Council.

I am the only candidate that has built a network both within the bureaucracy of the different orders of Government as well a network within all Political systems; this is the key to proper representation of the constituents of Klondike.

There are many reasons why I have chosen to run as an independent in the Territorial Election, the main reason is to introduce the Klondike to a representation that they have not experienced in over 20 years.

Don’t get me wrong, each Party has points within its platform that many would support. The point I make is that

every Party has held a majority government - two of the parties twice - but in their platforms the changes that were so important were not implemented. This leaves people feeling that we live in a region of continued broken promises.

My commitment to you if elected is to ensure that your input is sought regularly on matters important to you as an individual, organization, industry or NGO. If you are provided the opportunity to have meetings, and provided the opportunity to have a say in how your MLA would vote on important legislation, you will see the work that can be done and the influence you can have on future generations.

As an independent MLA you are not bound by party platforms or party loyalties; your loyalties are to the people you represent.

The work of an independent MLA is not restricted to the four walls of the legislator; it really is about networking, engaging your constituents and opening the right doors for them. It is about working with all MLAs to build support for your needs and ideas.

Everyone is predicting a minority government in Yukon; this provides an even more important role for an independent to work, even without a minority the job is 24/7 not a photo op.

I have listened to the other candidates talk about their experience or support for Education, Mining, Tourism, Small Business etc. I can honestly say that in my different capacities I am sure I met with and supported every organization within Klondike. I have never refused to meet with people and do what I could to help them; many times the task was working within the authorities of the other three orders of Government.

One principal I stand firm on is: Society should judge itself on how we treat/assist our Seniors/Elders and our children and youth. Our Elders/Seniors have broken the trail of our future for us, our Youth and Children will inherit the trail we break for them.

Remember the saying: "where there's a will there is a way"? It should be "where there's a way there is a will."

On October 10th, make your vote really count. Vote Glen Everitt-Independent

Thank you, Māshi Cho, Merci Beaucoup

Les Dawsonniens se préparent aux prochaines élections territoriales

De Marielle Veilleux de Dawson

La région du Klondike se verra avec deux nouveaux candidats lors des élections qui auront lieu le 10 octobre prochain; soit un du parti du Yukon et l'autre qui représentera le parti NPD.

C'est au centre culturel Gwenchin de Dawson, jeudi dernier que le Premier Ministre Fentie est venu présenter à une foule d'une quarantaine de personnes, son nouveau candidat pour la région du Klondike. Lors de cette rencontre, M. Fentie en a profité pour annoncer ses 18 candidats qui représenteront le Yukon, dont cinq femmes et trois autochtones.

Représentant le parti Yukon a Dawson, ce sera M. Steve Nordick.

Steve est un tout nouveau jeune candidat qui croit être capable de faire sa marque pour la région du Klondike. C'est un défi à relever après le long terme de son prédécesseur M. Peter Jenkins. Mais lorsque je lui ai demandé s'il était prêt à relever ce défi, c'est d'enthousiasme qu'il me dit que c'est le temps d'aller de l'avant et qu'il est prêt d'écouter ce que les citoyens du Klondike veulent et de les représenter adéquatement. La raison pour laquelle il a décidé de s'embarquer en politique est qu'il

veut que la démocratie continue, et qu'il soit temps que la relève prenne la charge.

Son agenda portera sur l'amélioration des problèmes de drogues afin d'avoir une communauté plus saine et sécuritaire. Malgré son jeune âge, Steve qui est propriétaire d'un B&B avec son épouse Tracy a siégé sur plusieurs comités locaux tel le KVA (Klondike visitor's association) et la chambre des commerces ainsi que de s'être impliqué dans les industries du tourisme et des mines. Le Premier Ministre Fentie est enchanté d'avoir Steve à ses côtés car il croit aussi que les jeunes comme lui sont la clef

D'un meilleur avenir pour le Yukon.

Tant au parti NPD on retrouvera M. Jorn Meier. Jorn né en Allemagne, est venu s'installer à Dawson en 1993 après avoir séjourné brièvement à Montréal où il est tombé en amour avec les Canadiens et leurs cultures diverses. Il est confiant qu'il pourra représenter les gens du Klondike fidèlement car il a des liens assez serrés avec la communauté de Dawson et de ses environs étant impliqué sur plusieurs comités tel le

KVA et Diamond Tooth Gertie et la Chambre de Commerce. Jorn s'est aussi très impliqué lors du forum des citoyens, fondé il y a deux ans déjà pour restaurer la démocratie à Dawson. Il veut faire appel à tous, afin d'améliorer les communications avec les groupes divers de Dawson. Il espère re-ouvrir les items promis aux communautés aux alentours du Klondike par le gouvernement Fentie : Tel d'acquiescer un nouveau centre de Santé pour assister mieux l'âge d'Or et les mères enceintes,



ensuite peut-être re-discuter la possibilité d'avoir un pont qui reliera West Dawson et l'Alaska a Dawson, ainsi que de restaurer le centre récréatif pour que les citoyens puissent s'en servir en sûreté.

Pour l'instant il n'y a aucun candidat pour représenter le parti Libéral.

Quand a M. Peter Jenkins lui, siégant maintenant comme député indépendant,

On pense qu'il se retira, mais comme il est hors du territoire cette rumeur reste à confirmer. C'est donc dommage pour les citoyens du Klondike qui aimeraient avoir plus que deux choix mais c'est ainsi!

Lorsque j'ai demandée au maire John Steins quel était l'enjeu de ses prochaines élections pour la ville, il m'a répondu diplomatiquement que toutes les élections sont importantes pour Dawson, puisqu'on est dans système démocratique.

Cell Service means improved EMR Communications

by Dan Davidson

When it comes to extending cellular telephone service to Dawson City, the Yukon government has more in mind than just a cell phone in every pocket.

Glen Nicol, speaking on behalf of YTG's Telecom Services, appeared before council on August 22 to explain the importance of this communications upgrade to the provision of emergency services throughout the territory.

Nicol pointed out the the communications equipment currently in use by the emergency response system, the RCMP, the Department of Highways and other such services, is based on 20 year old technology.

"The manufacture of this equipment has been discontinued," he said, "and the service will be shut down by the vendor in June 2007 because it cannot be supported beyond that date."

The replacement plan, he told council, has been in the works for about four years as the department looked for a system to take its place. The system chosen, after some searching, is based on cell phone technology, and will be used to upgrade the provision of emergency signals throughout the territory.

To some extent, the public cell phone service that will be in place around the territory by the end of 2007 is a spinoff, an added bonus, attached to the EMR upgrade.

As a result of the changes, RCMP vehicles will be able to be equipped with the type of on-board computer data base links that are a common feature among police forces Outside, but are familiar to Yukoners only through episodes of CSI or Law and Order.

"The least expensive way to provide for that capability happens to be most happily provided by today's current standard of cellular technology."

Nicol explained that Latitude Wireless is the consortium hired by the territorial government to provide that ability.

Nicol said that he hadn't come to council to pitch the commercial public system, but simply to explain what

apparently had not been made clear about the additional features of the service.

Nicol did explain that Latitude Wireless, a partnership between Northwestel and Dakwakada Corporation, was not really responsible for the decision to extend cellular service to seventeen Yukon communities.

"It is responsible for delivering on the build of the cellular network ... which it was charged to to under the RFP (request for proposals). Dawson City happens to be one of the seventeen communities, and hence the application that Latitude has for the land zoning."

The company had appeared before council on August 1 to request the use of land on the Dome hillside where other broadcast and reception towers already, While the council did not refuse the request, and has subsequently approved the use of the land, its initial request for more public consultation was widely read as a rejection of cell phone service in general and the story was picked up as far away as Toronto.

A public meeting did take place subsequent to Mr. Nicol's appearance before council, but the issue of cellular service coming to Dawson City was never really in doubt, nor did the council weigh in against it, though each councillor was able to relate tales of constituents who had asked them to.

Raven's Nooks of the Past

