

Walk Softly

Newsletter of the
Yukon Conservation Society
Spring 2014



Inside: • Battle for the Peel • Whitehorse Environment • Fracking

Is your yard WildWise?

Spring is in the air! Or is it? It might not quite feel like spring yet, but eventually it will arrive, and Yukoners will start to emerge from their homes to enjoy the long warm daylight hours in the great outdoors! We are not the only wildlife to emerge after a long winter hibernation - bears will start to come out as early as April. This means it is time to make our homes, businesses and yards as UNattractive to bears as possible.

Bears have an extremely keen sense of smell and a human-like curiosity. It is much easier to keep bears from accessing food, garbage and other attractants than to convince them to stop returning once they do. Bears are opportunistic, and things like unsecured garbage and compost provide them with an easy meal. Once a bear becomes habituated its behavior changes, and it loses fear of humans and associates residential areas with food. The result is a progression from a wild bear, to fed a bear, to a dead bear. As Yukoners we need to take responsibility and do our part to reduce negative interactions with wildlife for our own safety and for the wildlife we live amongst.

Keeping wildlife, people and our property safe is something that can be achieved by becoming 'wildwise'. By removing and properly storing wildlife attractants and altering simple habits we can each do our part. Obvious attractants such as garbage, compost, human food, livestock and gardens are often what attracts bears to an area. Other common attractants we don't readily think about include bird feeders, oil & gas products, paint, pet food, pet droppings, antlers, and even citronella candles. Unsecured freezers, coolers, dirty BBQs and meat sheds are also common attractants in negative human-bear encounters.

Bears are omnivores and rely heavily on obtaining berries and natural vegetation which could also bring them to your yard. If you are uncomfortable with bears being on your property, you can remove these natural food sources to avoid future visits.

One of the great things about living in the Yukon is viewing wildlife both in and around our communities. We are fortunate to live in some of the last expanses of wilderness that are home to these iconic species, and wildlife is always nearby. Just because you have never had a bear in your yard before, doesn't mean it can't happen in the future. On occasion, wildlife will come into our communities and backyards. If a bear does not get a meal, it will likely move on and not cause a safety concern to residents. Seeing wildlife passing through a neighborhood without getting a food reward should be our goal. Nobody wants to see a bear destroyed this year because it ate your garbage! Let's all do our part to be "WildWise" in our communities.

For more information about becoming 'wildwise' contact us at info@wildlifewise.ca, visit our website at wildwise.ca or follow us on Facebook @ [facebook/wildwiseyukon](https://www.facebook.com/wildwiseyukon)



photo: Phil Timpany

Garbage Store garbage securely indoors. Put bins out the morning of pickup with lids tightly closed (same for compost); or take it to the dump before it becomes smelly.

Outdoor Compost Add only fruits and vegetables, turn it regularly, and add firewood ash/dead leaves to keep odours down.

Freezers and Food Storage Keep freezers and all food in your house or in a secure locked shed.

Meat or Fish Dryers/Smokers Use them in a secure locked shed, and clean the shed right after you're done.

Barbeque Burn the grill clean after each use. Remove the grease can. Keep covered and preferably concealed.

Birdfeeders Feed birds only in winter — this keeps bears away from feeders and cats away from birds.

Gas and Oil Products Store gas, diesel, waste oil, fertilizer, etc in well-sealed containers and in a secure locked shed.



LNG update

Thank you to all the people who participated in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) review of Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC)'s new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility by attending YESAB's public meeting and by submitting excellent comments.

The meeting was packed with people who spoke eloquently, and well over one hundred people composed thoughtful comments to YESAB about their opposition to allowing our public utility to invest nearly \$40million on expanding the use of fossil fuels in the Yukon.

Because the proposed LNG facility could not operate without fuel, YCS asked YESAB to broaden the scope of the project and the assessment to include upstream activities and impacts of LNG – from fracking to the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of extraction, processing, liquefaction, and transportation of natural gas.

We argued that the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act supported this position.

However, YESAB decided it would not include upstream activities or effects in its assessment because it did not have the ability to make recommendations to regulatory bodies outside of the Yukon. YESAB also stated that if YESAB were to be interpreted as we suggested, it would set an unrealistic precedent that the lifecycle of all products used in projects would have to be assessed.

We accepted YESAB's decision, but countered that building materials and outfitters' canoes were one-time product purchases, where fuel for an energy project is an ongoing required feedstock.

Further, climate change knows no boundaries. Our consumption of a product that is exacerbating global climate change or having unacceptable environmental impacts at the source of extraction or processing, should be our concern and considered during an environmental and socioeconomic assessment.

YESAB sought more information from Yukon Energy based on the comments that were submitted to YESAB and has now determined that it has enough information to proceed with its Draft Screening Report. YESAB has 120 days to produce the Draft Screening Report starting from February 7, with the option to extend for an additional 270 days.

We look forward to reading YESAB's report.

LNG next steps

Despite the groundswell of public opposition and some serious questions as to the intention and justification for this project during the YESAB process, YEC is still pushing forward its LNG agenda. The Yukon Utilities Board (YUB) will examine the project from a ratepayer perspective and recommend to Yukon Government whether or not to issue Energy Project and Energy Operations Certificates to YEC to proceed.

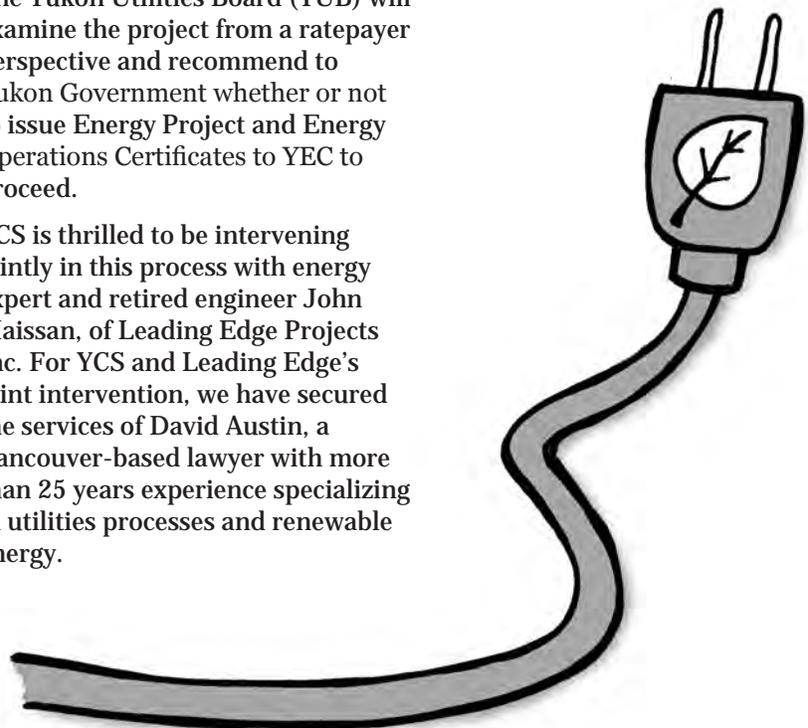
YCS is thrilled to be intervening jointly in this process with energy expert and retired engineer John Maissan, of Leading Edge Projects Inc. For YCS and Leading Edge's joint intervention, we have secured the services of David Austin, a Vancouver-based lawyer with more than 25 years experience specializing in utilities processes and renewable energy.

We feel that Yukon Energy's Application to the YUB does not present the case for LNG objectively or fairly with respect to project alternatives, capital costs of the project and alternatives, long term operating costs of the project, load forecasts used in the economic analyses, the assumptions used in the economic analyses, and the range of sensitivities to the assumptions used in the economic analyses.

YCS is confident that the intervention by our highly qualified and diverse team will succeed in making the case that YEC's LNG project is a bad economic decision. We will also show that if viable alternatives are given fair consideration, we can instead move away from our reliance on fossil fuels.

The Yukon Utilities Board has scheduled a Public Meeting for March 31. Stay tuned for reminders of this meeting for people who would like another opportunity – perhaps our last – to oppose this project through official means.

*Anne Middler,
YCS Energy Coordinator*



Walk Softly

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Editorial

by Karen Baltgailis

Thomas Berger Represents First Nations & ENGO's in Peel Legal Case

On January 27, 2014 eminent aboriginal rights lawyer Thomas R. Berger filed a case against the Yukon government on behalf of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter, and the Yukon Conservation Society.

At the media conference announcing our case, Mr. Berger said:

"This is a lawsuit that nobody wanted to bring. But the Government of Yukon has forced these plaintiffs to go to court not only in defense of First Nations' rights and environmental values in Yukon, but also to uphold principles entrenched in the Constitution.

In 1993, Yukon First Nations together with Canada and the Government of Yukon, signed the Umbrella Final Agreement. It provided for settlement of the Yukon First Nations' land claims; it has been the means of progress towards social and economic stability in the territory. Its provisions have formed the basis of long-range land use planning in Yukon. Those provisions are entrenched in the Constitution; they protect the rights of First Nations and all Yukoners. As SFU professor Douglas McArthur said in the Globe and Mail on January 20, 2014 ... 'There is a new constitutional settlement in the North.'

This case represents a profound test of that constitutional settlement."

The trigger for this lawsuit?

On January 21, 2014 Yukon government announced that it had adopted its own unilaterally developed plan for the Peel. The government's new plan is almost exactly the reverse of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission's Final Recommended Plan. The Commission's Plan would protect 80% of the Peel watershed (55% permanently and 25% to be assessed at future plan reviews). Yukon government's plan leaves 71% of the watershed open for new mineral staking.

Although the government's plan designates 29% of the watershed as "Protected Areas", the many existing claims within these "Protected Areas" can be developed, complete with all season road access. Therefore government's plan actually leaves at least 80% of the Peel open to roads and industry.

Yukon government is required to follow the procedure for land use planning that is laid out in the Umbrella Final Agreement and individual land claims agreements. This procedure restricts Yukon government to implementing the modifications proposed in its official response to the Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan in February 2011. This official response was minimal and vague (likely due to fear about revealing its agenda a few months before the upcoming Yukon election).



Gill Cracknell (CPAWS Yukon Executive Director), Chief Eddie Taylor (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in), Margaret Rosling (Legal Counsel), Thomas R. Berger (Legal Counsel), Chief Ed Champion (First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun), and Karen Baltgailis (YCS Executive Director).

The plan that Yukon government has now adopted is essentially a rejection of the Commission's Plan, not a modification based on its earlier, official response, as is required by the land use planning process.

Our joint Statement of Claim asks the courts to declare that the Peel Watershed Planning Commission's Final Recommended Plan is the binding regional land use plan pursuant to Chapters 11.6.0 and 11.7.0 of the Umbrella Final land claims Agreement, and accordingly, the law of the Yukon. (You can see the Statement of Claim on our website.)

We anticipate that our case will be heard in Yukon Supreme Court by fall 2014. Mr. Berger expects that regardless of who wins, there will be an appeal. Due to its constitutional importance the case could eventually be heard in the Supreme Court of Canada.

The public response to Yukon government's undemocratic adoption of its own plan has been phenomenal. On January 29th hundreds of people attended rallies for the Peel in Whitehorse, Dawson, Mayo, Haines Junction, Fort McPherson, Aklavik, and Inuvik.

Hundreds of people also attended a hugely successful musical fund-raiser for the Peel legal case on February 10th, hosted by Claire Ness and Kevin Barr, with performances by Dakhká Khwáan Dancers, Manfred Janssen and Blues Cargo, Elaine Jakesta, Art Johns, Dash Root Sellers, Dennis Allen and the Hellhounds, Kate Weekes, Vision Quest, Marcus Steiner, Rick Sward, Daniel Ashley, Big Mama Lele, and The Midnight Suns.

The papers have been full of letters to the editor and advertisements paid for by private citizens, condemning Yukon government's new plan.

Donations in support of the legal case are coming in, including an impressive \$5,300 from Mike Martin and his three children – Jasper, Foreste and Kestrel.

While the case is working its way through the courts, companies considering exploration or industrial development in the Peel, outside of areas that the Planning Commission designated for roads and industry, do so at their own risk. It would be highly inadvisable to invest money in a place that affected First Nations and the public are so passionate about defending.



Re-Peel the Plan!

What YOU can do?

Take Action for the Peel Watershed?

Here are some ideas:

- Donate to support the Peel legal case at www.cpaawsyukon.org or mail or drop off your donation to YCS or CPAWS Yukon.
- Sign the Avaaz petition: https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Government_of_Yukon_Protect_the_Peel?pv=2
- Write a letter to the editor:
 - Yukon News: editor@yukon-news.com
 - Whitehorse Star: letters@whitehorsestar.com
 - Globe and Mail: letters@globeandmail.com
 - Toronto Star: lettertoed@thestar.ca
 - Canadian Geographic: editor@canadiangeographic.ca
 - and The Walrus: letters@thewalrus.ca
- Write to the Yukon Government and tell them what you think of their decision.
 - Premier Darrell Pasloski: darrell.pasloski@gov.yk.ca
 - Minister of the Environment Currie Dixon: currie.dixon@gov.yk.ca
 - Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent: scott.kent@gov.yk.ca
- Attend an event like a CPAWS Yukon Dinner and Discussion, a fund-raiser, rally or celebration as they happen over the coming weeks and months.

Overview of Differences between the Peel Plans

Peel Planning Commission's Recommended Plan

55% Special Management Area: Permanent protection from mining and oil and gas exploration and development. Existing mining claims continue but no surface access to them.

25% Wilderness Area: Interim protection – to be reviewed at the next Plan review in approximately 10 years. Existing mining claims continue to exist but no surface access to them is allowed.

20% Integrated Management Area: Roads and industry are allowed.

80% of the Peel region is protected from roads and industry.

New mineral staking is allowed in 20% of the Peel region.

Oil and gas development is allowed in Integrated Management Areas: 20% of Peel region.

Uranium exploration and development: Not allowed anywhere in the Peel until Yukon government develops policies and guidelines for uranium exploration and mining.

In Special Management Areas and Wilderness Areas air access is allowed to access existing mining claims and for wilderness tourism, but no new air strips can be built.

Dempster Highway subregional plan is required.

Wind River Trail is no longer recorded as an existing route under the Yukon Highways Act. Wind River Trail cannot be developed into a winter or all season road because it is in a Special Management Area, where roads are not allowed.

Yukon Government's Peel Watershed Plan

29% "Protected Areas": No new mineral staking or oil and gas exploration. Existing mining claims continue and "temporary" surface access to them is allowed for advanced exploration and mine development. All of the "Protected Areas" have mining claims in them except Landscape Management Units 11 and 12, the Blackstone and Hart Major River Corridors, and parts of the Peel main stem and Snake River Wild River Parks. Therefore the amount of "Protected Areas" where roads and mines could not occur adds up to much less than 29% of the Peel region.

44% Restricted Use Wilderness Areas (RUWA's): New claim staking, roads and mines allowed within a .2% surface disturbance limit. No oil and gas development allowed AT THIS TIME.

27% Integrated Management Areas: Roads and industry are allowed.

At most 20% of the Peel region is protected from roads and industry.

New mineral staking is allowed in 71% of the Peel region.

Oil and gas development is allowed in Integrated Management Areas: 27% of Peel region.

Although oil and gas development is not allowed in RUWA's at this time, the plan allows for this to change in the future.

No specific mention of uranium exploration and development, therefore it is allowed in Integrated Management Areas and RUWA's.

In "Protected Areas" new air strips are allowed for "reasonable access" for mining of existing claims.

Dempster Highway subregional plan is required.

Wind River Trail no longer recorded as an existing route under the Yukon Highways Act. But it could be developed into a winter or all season road since it is in a RUWA. An environmental assessment would be required to develop it into a road.





Turn this Ship Around!

Is the Whistle Bend subdivision as doomed as the sternwheelers its streets are named after? Originally envisioned as one of the most sustainable communities north of 60, the first phases of Whistle Bend have fallen far short of expectations. Planning errors resulted in large tracts of land being stripped of vegetation and trees, expensive law suits have arisen over contract disagreements, and alternative energy projects are nowhere in sight. Phases 3-7 are now before YESAB for consideration and serious concerns continue to be raised.

At full build-out, Whistle Bend is designed to house 8,000 people, which is just under one third of Whitehorse's current total population. This is a significant chunk of population which will place large demands on the territory's energy infrastructure. Clearly there is a critical need for the City and territory to create a truly sustainable community. So, turn the ship around! Let's ensure that every effort is made in the short term to ensure this subdivision is sustainable for the long term.

Here is an excerpt from YCS's submission to YESAB with our comments pertaining to energy conservation in Whistle Bend Phases 3-7. For the full comments, please see our website.

1. Yukon Five Year Demand Side Management Plan 2013, Yukon Electrical Company Ltd., Yukon Energy Corporation, Page 4.
2. Yukon Five Year Demand Side Management Plan 2013, Yukon Electrical Company Ltd., Yukon Energy Corporation, Page 4.
3. Yukon Government media release: Micro-generation policy diversifies Yukon's electrical energy supply, Oct. 29, 2013.

Energy Conservation

The proponent estimates that at completion Whistle Bend will require about 10 Megawatts (MW) of energy. Considering that Yukon Energy Corporation's three hydro facilities produce about 67 MW in winter, the energy requirement of Whistle Bend will be a very significant additional load. In order to prevent this new subdivision from forcing Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC) to burn diesel, Liquefied Natural Gas or other fossil fuels thus creating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, it is essential to reduce the energy requirements of Whistle Bend.

In the Yukon, on average approximately 19% of residential energy use is for heating.¹ The easiest and most cost effective way to reduce the energy required to heat homes in Whistle Bend, is to require all buildings in phases 3 - 7 to conform to an Energuide 85, or Yukon Housing Corporation's 'Super GreenHome' standard for insulation and Heat Recovery Ventilation (HRV). Buildings built to the Energuide 85 code use about 50% of the heat energy that buildings built to the City of Whitehorse and National Building Code use.

Building to the Energuide 85 standard could cost at most 7% more than building to the City of Whitehorse's current code. However savings on monthly energy bills would more than compensate home owners for the small increase in mortgage payments.

Hot water heating accounts for approximately 19% of residential electricity use.² Timers on hot water tanks should be required, so that water tanks are heated during non-peak times.



Whistle Bend phases 3 – 7 should also be used as a pilot project for Time of Use meters, which would enable people to pay cheaper power rates during non-peak times so that it is less likely that back up non-hydro power sources need to be used. This would encourage people to use power for appliances like dish washers during non-peak times. It would also make it worthwhile for people to install Electrical Thermal Storage (ETS) units, which can be programmed to store electricity in the form of heat during non-peak times, and release the heat during peak times without drawing electricity.

If this subdivision is to live up to its initial vision as a standard bearer for innovative use of renewable energy, it has to incorporate the use of sources such as solar energy and Borehole Thermal Energy Storage. Yukon government's new micro-generation policy, based on net metering, should provide an incentive to install renewable electrical generation systems, as it "enables individuals to connect their renewable electrical generation systems to the grid. Participants from either hydro or diesel-dependent communities will receive financial payment for surplus electricity sold to Yukon's utilities."³

Karen Baltgailis with contributions from Christina Macdonald

Status of Yukon Hard Rock Mine Projects

The Yukon is not exactly overrun with functioning hard-rock mines these days: Minto and Wolverine are puttering along with reduced staffing levels and Bellekeno (up near Keno City) is on hiatus. Of course, the abandoned mines (Faro, Mt. Nanson, Clinton Creek, and portions of the Keno area operations) continue to require lots of taxpayer dollars to maintain and remediate.

In the meantime, however, a number of companies are pushing their paperwork through the various regulatory bodies that exist in the Yukon. When their investment funds are secured and the commodity prices rebound, they'll have all their permits approved and it's full speed ahead. Of concern to YCS is that with all these projects just waiting to go, the Yukon could get hammered with a lot of mines starting up at once. The strain this will put on infrastructure could boggle the mind, not to mention the environmental and socio-economic impacts.

To keep everyone up to speed, here is a rather incomplete and very subjective list of what YCS considers the more interesting hard-rock projects in the Yukon.

Carmacks Copper: Looks like this copper project, which has previously been rejected by the Yukon Water Board (YWB), is reinventing itself for another run through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Board (YESAB) and the YWB. YESAB has been hiring technical support services for an Executive Committee Screening. Last time, the YWB process ended up in the courts and the proponent lost. Should be interesting to see what is proposed this time.

Casino: Thousands of pages of documents have been submitted to YESAB for an adequacy review of this copper-gold-molybdenum project. YCS is currently of the opinion that the whole proposal is flawed, especially since it involves the construction of a massive earthen dam that has to hold back huge amounts of tailings and potentially contaminated water. The lifespan of said dam to avoid all that tailings and water mess from flooding downstream valleys would be forever. While YCS has the greatest respect for the engineering profession and their ability to build huge and complicated structures, a portion of the poem Ozymandias springs to mind:

*And on the pedestal these words appear:
"My name is Ozymandias,
king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty,
and despair!"
Nothing beside remains.
Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck,
boundless and bare
The lone and level sands
stretch far away.*

Keno: The proponent is currently moving yet another galena (a lead-silver ore) project (known as Flame & Moth) to open up some old mine shafts and adits through the YESAB process. Silver prices are low though, so even past approved projects (Bellekeno, Lucky Queen and Onek) are dormant. Large portions of this region are being cleaned up from historical operations, tax payers of course footing the bill.

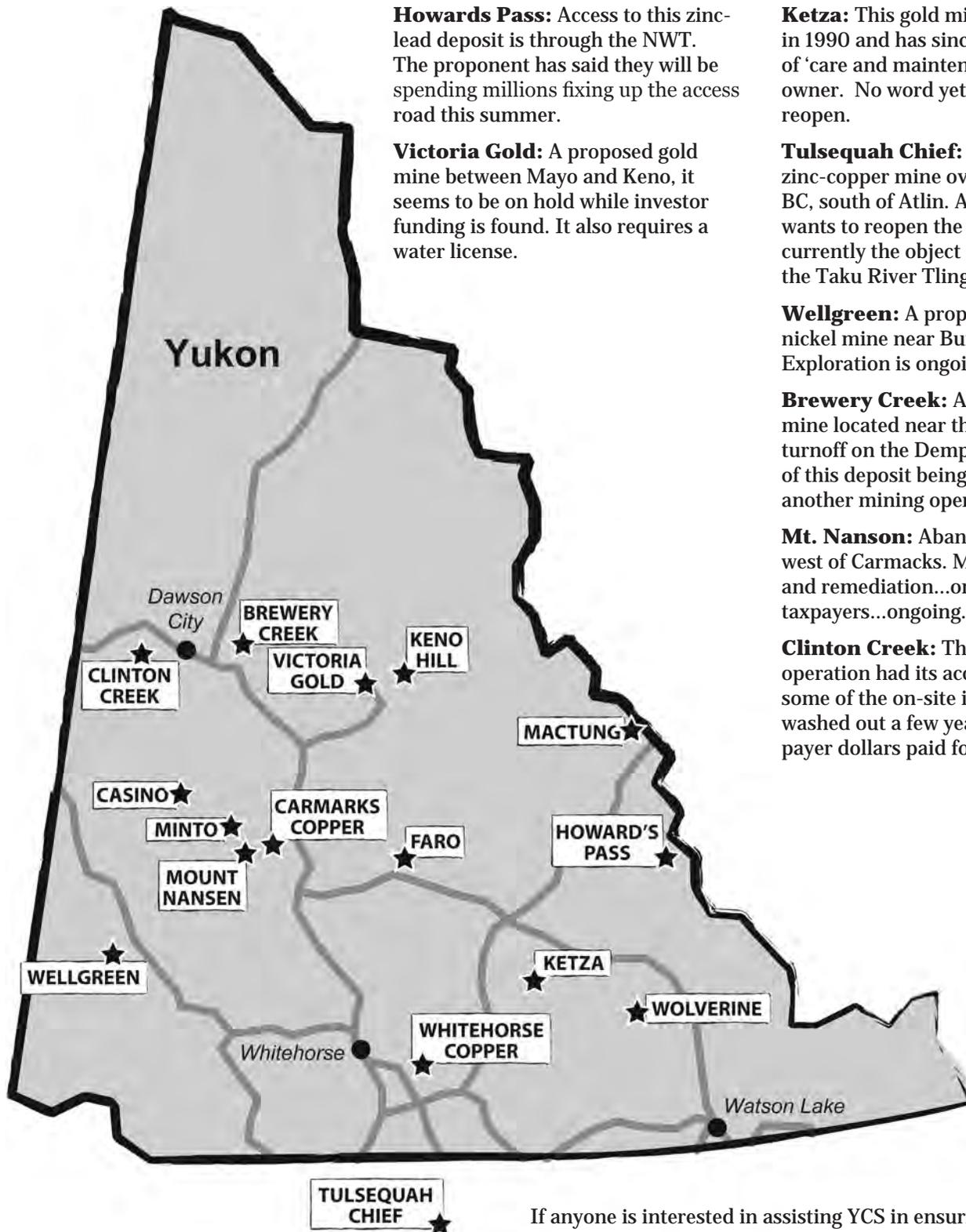
Minto: Phase V/VI (part of which involves going underground) of this active copper mine is being examined by YESAB. This mine is often pointed to as one of Yukon's mining success stories. It pays royalties to the Selkirk First Nation (it's located on Category A land) and has a long-term operating plan. There are environmental concerns on the mine site, however, such as a tailings piles that is moving due to frozen ground issues. Where, and when, it will stop, nobody knows.

Whitehorse Copper: An old copper mine site located right in Whitehorse just off the Mount Sima road, this project would involve running the old tailings through what is essentially a large magnet to remove a mineral called magnetite. The proponent is amending its Water License but there are allegedly legal issues over who owns certain leases on the site that might or might not interfere with the project operations.

Faro: Nothing seems to be happening to this old massive zinc site despite millions being spent each year. Remediation timeline...forever. Cost...hundreds of millions of dollars.

Wolverine: This privately owned zinc operation is operating at about three-quarters capacity.

Mactung: YESAB is preparing its recommendations on whether this tungsten project should proceed.



Howards Pass: Access to this zinc-lead deposit is through the NWT. The proponent has said they will be spending millions fixing up the access road this summer.

Victoria Gold: A proposed gold mine between Mayo and Keno, it seems to be on hold while investor funding is found. It also requires a water license.

Ketza: This gold mine last operated in 1990 and has since been in a state of 'care and maintenance' by its owner. No word yet if it will get to reopen.

Tulsequah Chief: An abandoned zinc-copper mine over the border in BC, south of Atlin. A new proponent wants to reopen the mine but it is currently the object of a legal case by the Taku River Tlingit.

Wellgreen: A proposed platinum-nickel mine near Burwash Landing. Exploration is ongoing.

Brewery Creek: A former gold mine located near the North Fork turnoff on the Dempster, there is talk of this deposit being the subject of another mining operation.

Mt. Nansen: Abandoned gold mine west of Carmacks. Maintenance and remediation...ongoing. Cost to taxpayers...ongoing.

Clinton Creek: This old asbestos operation had its access road and some of the on-site infrastructure washed out a few years back. Tax payer dollars paid for repairs.

If anyone is interested in assisting YCS in ensuring mining is done responsibly in the Yukon contact the YCS Mining Coordinator at ycspipe@ycs.yk.ca. Volunteer researchers are always welcome, and just like the miners we love digging up dirt, except we dig up dirt on bad mining practices and inadequate project proposals.

Lewis Rifkind, Mining Coordinator

Public Proceedings of the Select Committee on The Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing

The public proceedings of the Select Committee on the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing at the Yukon Legislature on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 were a very interesting and worthwhile exercise. Many Yukon people sat through both days of presentations to learn from engineers, scientists, regulators, environmentalists, First Nations leaders, and industry proponents. People in the gallery and Select Committee members asked the presenters a lot of really good questions. In fact, the question and answer sessions were often far more illuminating than the presentations.

As a person who does not believe that fracking and all that comes with it can be done safely, I left the two-day proceedings feeling very confident in this position. I felt empowered in our work to prevent this destructive industry from spreading like a cancer through the Yukon's wilderness. I felt that the people who are keen to cash in on the illusion of short-term profit and participate in the race to extract and export our finite resources using fracking, would have had their confidence seriously rattled.

Firstly, it's not just about fracking: the process of violently injecting water, sand and chemicals into the earth to shatter the underground, sending methane and hazardous wastewater back to the surface. Fracking is just one part of a bigger industrial picture that has huge repercussions above and beyond the devastating effects on ecosystems of massive water withdrawals and pollution.

Water consumption and contamination are obvious impacts from oil and gas development through fracking. But there are many other impacts, including air pollution from wells and gas processing plants; habitat fragmentation including well pads and linear development

from roads, pipelines and seismic lines; silica frack sand mining; noise and emissions from flaring and other related industrial activities; wildlife disturbance; increased heavy highway traffic; and increased violence and crime.

The cautionary tale of infringed treaty rights and the "environmental nightmare" described by Lana Lowe, the Fort Nelson First Nation Lands Director and Fort Nelson First Nation (FNFN) Chief Sharleen Gale, educated or reminded listeners of these impacts, and brought many people in the public gallery to tears.

Their powerpoint presentation stated that FNFN is "no longer able to manage our environment in a way that ensures the land will sustain us for generations to come."

Another slide said that fracking is "undermining FNFN ability to live off the land as we have for millennia – reduced access to wildlife, no longer able to drink from rivers and streams, harvesting of medicinal plants, fur bearing animals and game impacted by availability and contamination."

Lowe talked about how, prior to the shale gas development boom in the Horn River Basin, three of the most viable caribou herds thrived in their territory. But now these herds are endangered.

Yukon Party Vuntut Gwitchin MLA and Select Committee member Darius Elias was overcome with emotion when he warned the women that if the caribou in their territory are gone, the traditional teachings, knowledge and culture that go along with them are also gone. "And no amount of money is going to bring that back," he said.

Lowe and Gale shared their nation's experience with industry deceit and arrogance, government greed and regulator incompetence. Their objections were ignored and industrial development proceeded in an irresponsible and reckless way on their lands without their consent or input. They now struggle to ensure they have some say and control over the coming onslaught of more fracking that will be needed to feed the proposed pipelines and LNG plants that make up BC's LNG export agenda. What has happened in the Horn River Basin since 2006 is a drop in the bucket to the kind of ramp up and build out plan that will be needed when the LNG export aspirations are realized.

The women spoke of how the Liard Basin, also within FNFN territory and reaching north into southeast Yukon, is still essentially "pristine". They said that they would hate to see what happened in their territory happen in the Yukon, describing fracking as a Pandora's Box, which in Greek mythology is a small jar that when opened, released all the evils of the world.

EFLO Energy, the company with a majority interest in the Kotaneelee gas field in southeast Yukon's Liard Basin, has big plans to frack there.

EFLO Chief Operating Officer Wayne Hamal spoke of how his company "will operate safely, efficiently and in harmony with the natural environment." His company will focus on developing the remaining conventional gas at Kotaneelee, but is very keen on exploiting the larger shale gas deposits using fracking. Shale gas development in the Liard Basin "creates a new business model for Alternative Fuels – 'Yukon Gas For Yukon'", said Hamal, and is "crucial for Yukon's sustainable growth".



But what doesn't make sense is how and why any of this gas would actually make it to a Yukon market. The Liard Basin is not connected by road to Watson Lake, in fact it's quite far. Furthermore, the Kotaneelee Gas Project is already connected to the BC gas grid via a Spectra pipeline that has drained all the Kotaneelee's gas to B.C. to date. EFLO's corporate literature speaks of its ambition to sell to higher priced Asian markets when gas gets piped to coastal liquefaction and export facilities.

What is sure, is that if Yukon mines or utilities wanted to burn Yukon's gas, they will be paying much higher global prices for this finite and climate destabilizing fossil fuel.

He said that his company's billion dollar plan for southeast Yukon would have "a huge impact on the local economy," and that "the risk of negative environmental impact due to fracture stimulation at Kotaneelee is essentially zero."

But University of Alberta geotechnical engineer, Dr. Rick Chalaturnyk (who declared that much of his work was funded by the oil and gas industry and confirmed that he did believe fracking could be done safely) has a different perspective on risk. Much of his presentation was about the language around hazard assessment and risk management.

Some might even call him a spin engineer communicator. When asked whether he believed that fracking could happen safely, he responded with this troublesome Orwellian concept described by this gobbledygook: "I do think that there is a way to put in place a monitored decision framework that allows the process to actually proceed in a way that data is gathered to convince the public that it's proceeding in a sustainable fashion."

When asked how industry can afford to reduce the environmental risks to zero and still make money considering the low price of gas, his response must have made EFLO executives very uncomfortable. "Risks will never be reduced to nil... In fact, I would submit that if you come across somebody who actually tells you that we're proceeding with something and the risk is zero, you should be very careful."

I believe that despite EFLO using the qualifier "essentially" before its incredible claim that fracking has zero risk to the environment, we truly must be careful about that Texas company's plans for fracking in the environmentally sensitive and ecologically diverse Liard Basin.

The eureka moment of the entire proceedings for me was when Chalaturnyk responded to a question from the gallery about whether wellbore casings (the main pathway for migration of methane and other contamination) will last for seven generations. Chalaturnyk seemed to do the math in his head, then said a firm: "No."

Another question to him was whether he agreed that future generations bear all the risk, to which he answered: "Yes, I do."

It appears that the statute of limitations for "risk" or harm from fracking is very short. Is it within the lifetime of the people who will make the decision whether or not to permit fracking in the Yukon? To me, the timeline or window of "acceptable risk" must not close – ever. We have an obligation to the future. The original definition of sustainable development spells it out: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

If we know that well casings will fail and leak in a century (and many much sooner than that, some immediately), and that drill and frack fluids, radioactivity, methane, and different qualities of groundwater will migrate and contaminate aquifers, rivers and lakes from the inevitable loss of integrity of these wells, it is a no brainer. How can anyone consider that an acceptable risk?

In northern BC, there is only one compliance and enforcement officer. So if no one is looking for problems, problems won't be found.

The Select Committee was struck in part to "facilitate an informed public dialogue for the purpose of sharing information on the potential risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing, as well as gathering input from the Yukon public, First Nations, stakeholders and stakeholder groups including non-governmental organizations."

Thanks in part to these proceedings, we are informed. It's time to have that public dialogue now.

All the presentations and transcripts from the public proceedings are posted on the website for The Select Committee on the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing: <http://www.legassembly.gov.yk.ca/rbhf.html>

Comments submitted to the Select Committee can also be uploaded and viewed at the website. YCS encourages everyone to submit comments reflecting their views on fracking to the Committee, and to pressure the Select Committee to hold public meetings about fracking in all communities to enable the public dialogue.

Anne Middler, YCS Energy Coordinator (Even though I happily passed the oil and gas fracking part of the energy portfolio over to Sebastian Jones last spring, I can't seem to keep myself away from it.)

Talk of the Town:

Whistle Bend Subdivision Development

YESAB is now in the process of preparing its recommendations on the proposed Whistle Bend subdivision, phases 3 – 7. This portion of the subdivision is designed to hold nearly 5,000 people over a build-out period of 10 - 20 years or more. YESAB plans to issue its recommendations on these phases of the development by February 26. Initially billed as one of the most sustainable subdivisions in the north, Whistle Bend phases 1 and 2 have fallen far short of expectations – planning errors resulted in large tracts of land being stripped of vegetation and trees, expensive law suits have arisen over contract disagreements and alternative energy projects are nowhere in sight. Serious concerns remain about phases 3-7 – see the article “Turn This Ship Around!” in this edition of Walk Softly for a summary of YCS’ concerns.

Range Road North Planning

A planning session for the Range Road North area is concluding with the potential for a final plan to be approved by City Council in the spring 2014. This area encompasses the Takhini and Northland Mobile Home Parks, Mountain View Place, Mountain Air Estates, Stone Ridge, several Kwanlin Dün First Nation parcels and surrounding greenspace including the former landfill.

Landfill to Increase Cardboard Fees

City Council has approved amendments to the Waste Management Bylaw that will designate cardboard as a controlled waste at the landfill. The controlled waste designation will come into effect on May 1, 2014 and the new cardboard fees (triple the old fees) will apply starting September 1, 2014. Diverting cardboard from the landfill by providing incentives to recycle it instead, is a key step towards the City’s Solid Waste Action Plan goal of 50% less waste by 2015.

Yukon College Endowment Lands Decided

After many years of uncertainty, the Yukon College Endowment Lands have been finalized. Originally intended to include much of the land in the area known as Middle McIntyre Creek, the endowment lands are now restricted to 97 hectares on the south and east side of McIntyre Creek. The College has committed to completing a master plan for the campus within a five-year term. This land use plan will be developed in partnership with the Yukon government, and in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Robert Campbell Bridge to be widened

Both sides of the sidewalk along the bridge are scheduled to be widened in 2013 and 2014 to accommodate cycling.

Raven Recycling and Styrofoam

With the recent purchase of a Styrofoam compacting machine, Raven Recycling is now accepting Styrofoam. The machine densifies the Styrofoam, making it 50 times smaller than its original size, so it can then be efficiently shipped to a Vancouver facility for recycling. This machine will help the City meet its goal of Zero Waste by 2040 with an initial target of 50% reduction in the amount we landfill by 2015.

Asphalt Path Proposed along Alaska Highway

The Hillcrest Community Association (HCA) has proposed a commuter path along the Alaska Highway to connect their neighbourhood with the existing paved path built in 2005 around the north end of the airport. The cost of the project, estimated at \$400,000, would be shared between the Community Development Fund, Yukon Government (through Highways and Public Works), the City of Whitehorse and the HCA. Should funding be confirmed, the project would be completed in 2014. This project is part of a city-wide initiative to enable active transportation and make walking and cycling the preferred modes of transportation.



East of the Yukon River Trails

After much consultation, the City of Whitehorse has released updated maps for the motorized multiuse (MMU) trail network east of the Yukon River. Significant changes from earlier drafts include removing the Lower Power Line trail and PeeWee Hill from the MMU network. A MMU connector between Chadburn Lake Rd and Cantlie Lake Rd is still being proposed. Trail questions, concerns or proposals? Contact the Whitehorse Trails and Greenways Committee (trails@whitehorse.ca; 668-8325). This committee is composed of City representatives, and stakeholders and users of the Whitehorse Trail System. The committee meets on a regular basis to discuss and make recommendations on the achievement of the 2007 Trail Plan’s guiding principles, with particular focus on stewardship, public education, and respectful use of Whitehorse trails.



Roundabouts

Roundabouts are becoming more common in Whitehorse. These street features are designed to increase safety and reduce delays and pollution. Confused about how to use roundabouts? Contact City of Whitehorse Engineering Services for more information. Or better yet, take the bus! Bus service now includes evenings.

Magnusson Ski Area

A pilot project is being proposed for the Magnusson Ski area to machine pack trails for winter non-motorized use, including fat tire biking. For more information, call the City at 668-8325.

Magnetite Extraction to Start at Whitehorse Copper

Eagle Industrial Minerals Corp received an industrial water licence from the Yukon Water Board in May 2013 and may move ahead with operations this summer. The company plans to extract magnetite from old tailings at the site. YCS concerns include primarily the potential for water contamination.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facility Proposed

Yukon Energy Corporation is proposing to replace two diesel generators at their facility near the Whitehorse Rapids Dam with a facility that burns natural gas (trucked to Whitehorse in the form of liquefied natural gas). This proposal has been met by fierce opposition from the public who have deep and wide ranging concerns about the social, environmental and economic impacts of getting the Yukon hooked on LNG. YESAB is in the process of considering all comments and information received. They will then issue a draft set of recommendations followed by another round of public consultation before producing final recommendations, likely by mid-April. The Yukon Utilities Board is also in the process of reviewing the project. YCS does not support this proposal; for information on why, please see our website.

Schwatka Lake Planning

A plan for the west side of Schwatka Lake is currently being developed by City planners after public consultations that took place in the late fall. Public input identified a number of existing assets including the central location and beautiful scenery which makes the area popular for recreation including walking, running and biking, salmon habitat, bird and wildlife habitat and viewing opportunities, and the area's importance to float plane operations. The plan will include recommendations for improved area management, develop a long term vision for the lake and adjacent lands and identify potential new land and recreational uses. The plan will be finalized in March and presented to City Council for consideration in April.

Christina Macdonald

PROTECT the PEEL

Watershed Wakeup

Medium/Dark Blend

Profits support Peel actions and legal case.

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Available in Dawson at Zorro's Cantina in the arena and the Recycle Depot Office.

Available in Mayo through Joella Hogan.

Profits support Peel actions and legal case.



Scientists Say Enough Is Enough on Canadian Boreal Forests

A Global Conference was held in Baltimore last summer that resulted in a call from international environmental scientists for half of Canada's Boreal forests to be protected from all kinds of development, and that the remainder must be carefully managed to preserve and restore its ecological integrity. Within Canada's 9.9 million sq. km landmass is one of the world's greatest natural resources, and at present it is one of the planet's last remaining pieces of environmental sections of land that basically remains untouched by large scale industrial expansions.

Unfortunately we recently learned that the Yukon government has finally disclosed their plan that will open all but 25 percent of the region known as the Peel watershed - located in Canada's Boreal Forests - to mining, oil and industrial development, regardless that this would destroy wildlife habitat, disrupt the Caribou migration, plough through the basics of the food chain of swamps, bogs and small creeks and pose one of the greatest threats to otherwise unpolluted clean flowing waterways. The Federal government, by taking the word "environment" out of the Fisheries Act in the last federal budget (lowest of all political trickery), cleared the way for fast and furriest commercial development in places like the Territory's "Peel" backlands.

The Global conference panel in Baltimore was not made up of lobbied politicians but rather of some of the top ecological scientists in the world. The territorial government's plan comes as no surprise. When I pulled my file it disclosed just who was donating large tracks of money, from Toronto to Vancouver, to the present territory's fund basket.

"A Bleak or Promising Future", that is the problem conservationists from around the world are toiling with today. Each day, species of fish and wildlife join the increasing number of extinct or endangered species. The main problem is the onrush of shrinking natural environment that all wildlife must have to survive. The cause of the problem stems with man's demands for industrial expansion for oil fields, oil and gas fracking, unlimited mining and other industrial expansion.

In the minds of some elected officials (lobbied by industry cash flows), the environment has become a secondary factor (at most). And

yet, without a natural and stable environment humans themselves cannot exist. Clearly, the political elements of territorial, provincial and federal levels have failed their responsibility to maintain the environment to a high quality. Man's greed blinds him to only dollar and cent values and has allowed little provisions, if any, for future wildlife - even for future generations of humans. Their legacies will be shameful.

Figures as far back as 1974, showed just how shocking the problem was when one considered the acreage owned or leased by oil companies. In the U.S.A. alone companies such as Standard of India use 20.3 million acres, Texas uses 9.9 millions of acres, Mobile uses 7.8 millions of acres, Gulf uses 9.9 millions of acres, Philips Petroleum uses 5.3 millions of acres, and the millions of acres owned or leased by Shell Exxon were well guarded. Forty years later we have the tar sands, fracking, and oil wells throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan that are putting caribou in the brink of extinction. B.C. is fracking in high numbers just south of the territory's border and the Territorial government, with strong backers of industries, wants to get in on the instant money grab and open the largest part of North America's last frontier to wide open industrial development.

For the human race to continue to blindly destroy the backlands, its rivers and waterways, to attenuate the means how future generations will have to live, is assuredly as immoral as it is improvident.

If we allow ourselves to stand by and watch the natural environment shrink, then as responsible citizens we must be prepared to have our hunting, fishing, camping and outdoors enjoyment and beautiful scenery, such as we have in the Yukon, strictly reduced in our times. Once gone - gone forever!

What past generations had, and what we now have, in forests, lakes and streams as well as fish and wildlife that inhabit these acres, basically came by chance. In this fast changing world, these natural resources can no longer be left to chance. For the conservationists who work for a better environment, it is





a God-given understanding and a labour of love. Those people are richer in the satisfaction that at least they have tried.

For those who have never turned a hand towards conservation of our environment and the fish and wildlife that inhabit it, they have missed one of the most rewarding causes to work for.

We are born crying, live complaining and in most, die disappointed. But if in that time of living, we can conserve the natural environment that we now enjoy, and pass this on to future generations, then life certainly will have been worth living.

It is incumbent that the true owners of this land stand together, regardless of political affiliations, to demand the government to maintain ecological processes and the full complement of fish and wildlife species at a comfortable level of at least 50 percent of the ecosystem and that a network of conservation areas that are free from industrial disturbances is incorporated. Finally, conservation initiatives must accommodate Aboriginal tradition uses of the land and should also clearly enshrine ecological protection in civic institutions, so that all environmental commitments cannot be changed to accommodate short-term political pressures and sensitivities.

In closing, a saying: Oscar Wilde said it all: Be yourself; everyone else is taken. That might improve politician's lives and I'll say amen to that brother.

Murray Martin

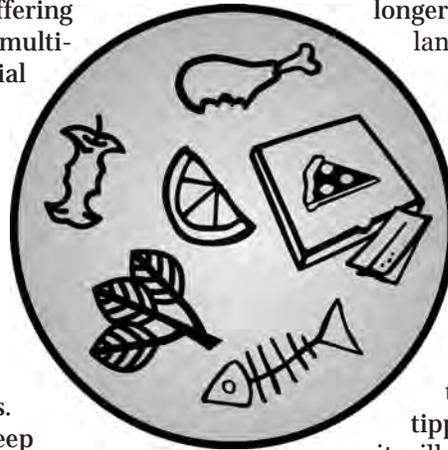
**This article was previously published in Whitehorse Star*

Get More Organics Now

There's good news for businesses and multi-family buildings wanting to get on the compost bandwagon. The City of Whitehorse launched a new pilot project offering green cart service to multi-family and commercial buildings.

The pilot aims to keep valuable resources such as organics and cardboard out of the landfill and divert them to the compost facility and recycling centres. The intention is to keep these commodities in use, recognizing that a disproportionate amount of energy and resources goes into their initial creation. Furthermore, we need to prolong the life of the landfill, which will be expensive to close and replace.

There are a few specific additional reasons to keep organics out of the landfill. For one, when organics are thrown in the landfill, they do break down, but not in the same way as composting. They create harmful substances. One is methane, a greenhouse gas. Another harmful substance is leachate - an acidic liquid that percolates through the landfill, gathering contaminants like heavy metals which can contaminate groundwater. By contrast, composted organics contribute to a rich soil amenity.



In 2015, there will also be a financial incentive to keep organics out of the landfill. Organics will be designated a "controlled waste" and will no longer be welcome at the landfill. A tipping fee of \$250 per tonne will be charged for unsorted waste (meaning, waste that contains organics or other banned waste) while straight organics will only cost \$26 per tonne. When the new tipping fees take effect, it will not make financial sense to keep throwing organics out with the garbage.

The City recognizes that source separation of organics won't happen overnight and it hopes that the pilot project will help as many buildings as possible to start source separation and collection before the ban comes into effect.

If you live in a condo or apartment, or if you work in an office, store, restaurant or other business, consider getting on the green cart program.

For more information, visit www.whitehorse.ca/compost, or contact the Organics Coordinator 335-8296 or Organics@whitehorse.ca

Peel Watershed featured in National Geographic magazine

The Peel watershed and the legal case are attracting national and international attention. Check out Tom Clynes' 22 page article in the February 2014 National Geographic: Gold Fever in the Yukon: A modern-day minerals rush threatens North America's last great wilderness. The article includes stunning photos by Paul Nicklen.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2014/02/yukon/clynes-text>

Tom Clynes followed up with an on-line National Geographic article: Canada's Yukon Territory announced Tuesday that it has opened one of the largest unbroken wilderness areas in North America to mining and mineral exploration. Indigenous leaders, conservation groups vow legal challenge.

ZERO WASTE

STARTS NOW

We're busy working away on the Zero Waste Yukon education initiative and hope you'll join us! Momentum has been building since we kicked off last fall with National Waste Reduction Week and the launching of the Zero Waste Yukon website: www.zerowasteyukon.ca

In November the Be Smart / Buy Smart campaign rolled out in partnership with the Main Street Yukon Society, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and the Fireweed Community Market Society. Our recent Indoor Community Garage Sale at the Canada Games Centre (thanks to City of Whitehorse and North Star Mini Storage) is a great example of rethinking the process of purchasing goods and reusing of existing goods within the community. There will be more Be Smart/Buy Smart events to come across the Yukon over this coming year.

And here's where you come in

We've just kicked off the broader education piece called "Let's Kick Some Trash" and hope you'll not only participate but also spread the word.

"Let's Kick Some Trash" focuses on decreasing the volume of waste going into the landfill, and our consumption of disposable goods in 3 specific areas; disposable coffee cups, disposable bags and pizza boxes. We are partnering with local coffee and pizza companies to help increase awareness in these areas and will be awarding prizes for those spotted "being smart" with their waste.

LET'S KICK SOME TRASH!

Change your ways!
Bring your own!

"Being smart" means bringing your own! (Or in the case of pizza boxes, putting them in the compost rather than throwing them in the trash.)

We are also working on a recognition program to celebrate businesses and organizations that are working towards Zero Waste, and to encourage others to participate. Cardboard will be a designated material at the landfill as of May 1st so businesses are gearing up for change – it's perfect timing.

In the meantime, you can nominate a local hero or submit your ideas on how to get closer to zero. We will continue to offer ongoing support for the communities outside of Whitehorse with educational tools, site visits from Raven Recycling and by establishing community based partnerships. Let us know of any ideas you have on how we could provide additional support.

Check in with us on our website, facebook page or twitter feed and Let's Kick Some Trash!

Lee Vincent & Kristina Craig

zerowasteyukon.ca

Did you know?

Over 6.5 million trees a years die to make disposable cups for North Americans?

Canadians use more than 9 billion disposable shopping bags every year? That's enough bags to circle the earth 55 times!



Volunteer for the Yukon Conservation Society!

At YCS we love our membership and our volunteers. We currently have a few tasks waiting for eager volunteers. Please contact us if you're interested in ...

- Helping us to revamp our website
- Compile environmental events for the weekly Yukon Enviro e-list mailing
- Being part of the painting/ construction party this summer: the YCS office requires a fresh layer of paint and some small maintenance on the siding of the building

668-5678 or ycsoffice@ycs.yk.ca



New trail designation for Riverdale: what does it look like?

Finally, after a long and contentious process, trail designation has been finalized and approved by City Council for the Riverdale area, namely the East Yukon River (EYR) trail network. In January 2014, the City released the final EYR map, which can be viewed on the City website at this link: <http://whitehorse.ca/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=3930>

The EYR trail designation had to be planned around the City's Snowmobile and ATV Bylaws, which allow these off-road-vehicles (ORVs) to operate on most city streets and roads. ORVs are prohibited from downtown, Robert Campbell Bridge, ski trails, the Millennium Trail and Hospital Road. Snowmobiles are prohibited from sensitive areas, and ATVs (including motorbikes) must stay on designated MMU trails.

Non-motorized trails:

The final EYR map designates as non-motorized all trails in Riverdale, including Lower Powerline. The much debated Pee Wee Hill and Hidden Lakes areas will remain non-motorized, as they include extensive sensitive areas. Those areas are prohibited to snowmobiles. A non-motorized Pee Wee Hill was also deemed safer for all users of this extremely popular area.

Motorized multi-use trails:

There are two routes for ORVs to exit Riverdale: Grey Mountain Road and Chadburn Lake Road.

An extensive network of motorized multi-use (MMU) trails have been designated north and south of Riverdale, and these MMUs can be reached by driving a short distance up Grey Mountain Road.

What needs improvement:

Active Trails Whitehorse Association (ATWA) was involved from the beginning of this process and participated in the 2012 EYR Task Force. It soon became clear to us that the composition of this task force overly represented pro-motorized interests in a ratio that did not reflect the actual residents' and trail users' ratio, and that some important guidelines from various city plans were ignored.

The outcome of the 2012 EYR task force was a December 2012 EYR map that was proposing a multitude of motorized trails, which raised objections from many. City Council requested further consultation. A subsequent September 2013 EYR trail survey resulted in the majority of respondents opposing the December 2012 EYR proposal.

ATWA is grateful that City Council listened to the voice of residents, and requested from administration a more balanced plan. The final November 2013 EYR map was based on the September 2013 survey's results, and was a major improvement over the previous proposal. We heard that the final map was acceptable to most, but that the process had been overly contentious and prolonged.



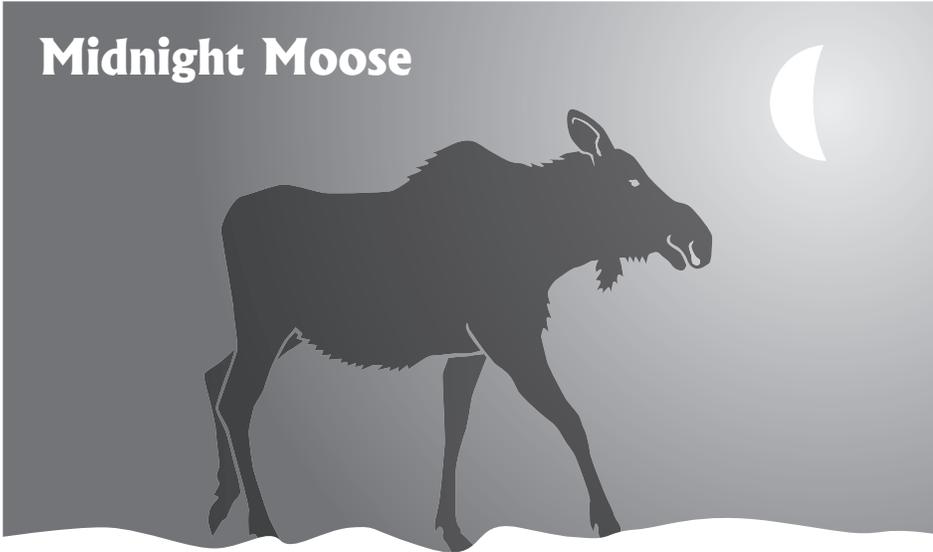
To spare city resources and unnecessary contention, ATWA would like to see future trail planning based much more closely on the City's environmental protection guidelines, as well as task force composition that better represents residents.

ATWA's next challenge is a proposal to change the non-motorized status of the Millennium Trail footbridge to motorized. With your input and support, ATWA will work hard to ensure that it remains non-motorized. For more information on this and other trail issues, visit our website at www.activetwa.org.

Dorothy Lebel – (director, Active Trails Whitehorse Association)



Midnight Moose



It's two am. February. A half moon casts a cool light, rendering the familiar meadow in two-tone quiet. The birch bushes and their shadows are silhouetted as one shape, close-cropped branches bristle towards the sky and roots creep out over snow pockmarked with moose tracks. I blink blearily as I gaze, slightly unfocused, out the loft window. I've awoken in response to my bladder, and as I collect myself enough to lower my feet gingerly to the top tread I pause. There is a large shape between the pine and me. The large pine with the kite lodged securely among its top branches. The one that last summer formed a partition between me and a wall-tent housing a series of travelling souls, stopping a time to graze what nourishment and insight they could from our sun-swept field. The pine that dwarfs my little house, its trunk a mere ten metres from my front door. The shape now resolves itself into a cow moose, the same one I imagine that I see two days out of three. Often when I look out the window just before first light I see her and her calf, sometimes a bull too, as they browse around the birch that covers the marshier areas of the meadow, forming a wide strip between the two water holes. Some mornings she traipses between my house and the path that leads to one or the other of my landmates' houses. Sometimes I don't see any of them for a week, but fresh tracks and beds let me know they are still around. I am a sound sleeper, and for once I am grateful for that extra cup of tea before bed. Never have I seen her so close. The moonlight gives me the sensation of peering into another world, one that is truly hers. Private. I feel as though I've been given a chance to see something secret, to see her completely on her terms – I feel she knows I am there, yet betrays no sign. The mornings she stays in the meadow she does look up, but remains blasé as I holler after the dogs, chop wood, slam doors...in essence do any number of things to upset the peace. Yet, I have never once seen her ears go back. She gives the impression of being solidly in her element, in control in a way that I can only dream of, that I approach only in moments of greatest connection and flow with the path of my life. I know she can hear me as I step down the stairs and make use of the bucket I keep for such occasions – not that I dislike outdoor plumbing mind you, I truly appreciate the opportunities to stargaze and glimpse the aurora – but I would rather not disturb her dinner. Her midnight snack perhaps? I climb back into bed and allow my eyes to open and close in their own rhythm, taking in the stars through the skylight. I drift off to sleep, comforted by the thought that while there are midnight moose to pray to outside my cabin, there is something still right in the world.

Kim Melton

**A BIG THANK YOU
to our wonderful and
super organised volunteer
ANDREA SIDLER!**

She made sure that all *Walk Softly* newsletters are now on our website. Check out www.yukonconservation.org to read newsletters from as far back as 1968 – the year YCS was founded.

Unfortunately we couldn't find hard copies of every *Walk Softly* that was published in the past. If you still have YCS newsletters in your basement, on your book shelves, on your coffee table or as washroom literature... please let us know if they happen to be published in the following years:

1969-1979 (and all years in between)
1983, 1985 & 1986, 1988-1995 (and all years in between) or 2004.

YCS would love to borrow your copy to complete our *Walk Softly* archives! Please call Judith at 668-5678 if you can help.



YCS has a basement office space for rent. We prefer to rent to a small environmentally-friendly NGO. The office can be furnished or unfurnished and is good for single, trustworthy individuals - \$475/month. Price includes 1 parking space, electricity, heat, high-speed cable internet, shared kitchen, boardroom and bathroom. Phone/fax/copier are available for additional fees. Available immediately.

For more information call Judith at 668-5678 or email inquiries to [ykc@ykc.ca](mailto:ycs@ykc.ca)



YES! I want to protect the Yukon's environment and support the Yukon Conservation Society!

I'd like to make a tax deductible gift!

\$60 \$200 \$500 \$1000 Surprise us! _____

I'd like to make a monthly pledge by visa of \$ _____ (charged on the 15th of each month)

I have made a bequest to YCS in my will

Please, sign me up as a member:

Student \$10 Individual \$25 Family \$40 (2 or more people)

I am a **new** member!

I am **renewing** my membership for 2014!

Memberships are activated on day of receipt and good for 1 year, and include a subscription to the Walk Softly newsletter. Both donations and memberships are tax-deductible.

Do not send me newsletters. Instead, **notify me by email** when they are online.

Payment Method: Total \$ _____

Cheque # _____ enclosed (payable to Yukon Conservation Society)

I am putting it on my Visa # _____ Expiry _____ Signature _____

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email – for Tax Receipt and YCS Email List _____

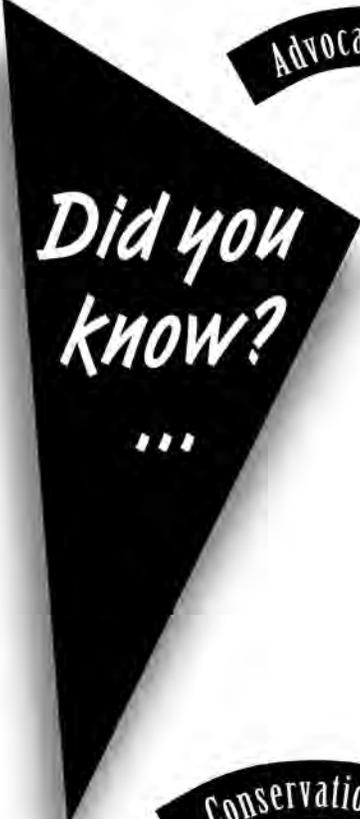
Mail completed slip to: 302 Hawkins St. Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1X6 – Phone: 668-5678 – ycs@ycs.yk.ca

Thank You Volunteers!

The Yukon Conservation Society wouldn't be the vibrant, active organization it is without your help!

- Computer maintenance, back-ups and support: Joshua Hunt & Anat Tal
- Membership Database Support: Mary Amerongen
- Recycling: Raven Recycling
- Communications: Tanya Handley, Lewis Rifkind, Mary Amerongen & Regan Galicia
- Energy Committee: JP Pinard, Nick de Graff & Sally Wright
- Office: Julie Frisch & Andrea Sidler





YCS staff and board invite you to our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 5:30pm

at the Yukon Conservation Society, 302 Hawkins Street, Whitehorse.

Please RSVP your plans to attend so that we may ensure quorum (and seating).

RSVP yics@yics.yk.ca or 668-5678. Refreshments will be served.



Follow the Yukon Conservation Society on
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and 'like' us on Facebook: [Yukon Conservation Society](https://www.facebook.com/YukonConservationSociety)

