

Walk Softly

Newsletter of the
Yukon Conservation Society
Summer 2014



Inside: • Meet YCS's new ED • Yukon's Energy Future • Fracking

Yukon Invasive Species Council Weed Pick Up Program

Andrea Altherr, the coordinator for Yukon Invasive Species Council (YISC), admits: “It is just a small project, but it’s the first step!” For a while, YISC has wanted to adopt the idea of a litter pick up and expand it to invasive plants growing in the ditches. This summer, a pilot project along selected stretches of highways will take place. The target species is sweet clover. The removal of invasive plants is often not just a matter of volunteers going out and cutting, whacking or ripping out plants; rather, most invasive plants would need repeated mowing or even chemical treatment to be removed for good. One big exemption is sweet clover.



The not-so-sweet invader

Success stories have been reported from the Cowley Creek Subdivision and the Dempster Highway. For several years, volunteers have eliminated every single sweet clover plant coming up along the roads of the Cowley Creek subdivision and along the Dempster Highway. Residents of Cowley Creek claim to have a sweet clover-free subdivision, and the sweet clover growth along the Dempster Highway has been reduced to the first few highway kilometers. The key to success is repetition and consistency. Over time the seed bank will be depleted, and fewer and fewer plants will grow. Any weed control should take place before the plants set seeds. In the case of sweet clover this is best done during second half of July. Once pulled out of the soil, the plants can be left on the ground where they will wilt.

Tall growing sweet clover can obstruct visibility and possibly attract wildlife, causing a safety concern. Eradication of sweet clover results in the return of native vegetation, such as fireweed and locoweed, and removes the mentioned hazards. This pilot project allows YISC to reward participating groups for their volunteer time similar to the highway litter pick up program. “This project, in partnership with the Department of Highway & Public Works, will take place outside of the city limits, for example along the Carcross Road. We would like to start a similar project in the City of Whitehorse, but have not secured funding yet,” says Altherr.

If you are interested in taking part in the weed pick up program please contact info@yukoninvasives.com

Another program run by YISC is the Spotter’s Network. Information on how to become a spotter is posted on www.yukoninvasives.com.

Meet YCS’ official greeter!

Thanks to Tanya Handley we now have a friendly, wise owl greeting you at our office.



Now at the YCS store!

YCS now carries Bean North Watershed Wakeup coffee. A delicious blend! \$17 – all proceeds go to the Peel legal case.



Protect the Peel shirts! \$20-\$25 -- all proceeds go to the Peel legal case.





Berger Opinion: No obligation to compensate for mining claims in the Peel

Once again, Yukon Government is saying in the legislature that if the Commission's Final Recommended Plan for the Peel Watershed were to be implemented, the taxpayer would have to pay compensation to companies with mining claims in the watershed. A legal opinion from Thomas Berger, commissioned by CPAWS Yukon and YCS, concludes that this simply isn't true.

The executive summary to Berger's opinion states:

We have considered whether, if the Final Recommended Plan (FRP) of the Peel Commission is implemented, the Government of Yukon (YG) would be obliged to compensate owners of mineral claims or other property interest within protected areas for economic loss resulting from restrictions on the use of their land.

This issue arises because of the provision in the FRP that surface access to existing mineral claims would not be permitted in protected areas (though access by air would be allowed.)

It is vital to keep in mind that instituting a program of land use planning is not the same thing as expropriation ... The Supreme Court in Tener compared land use planning to zoning. When your property is rezoned, you are not compensated. Everyone whose land is rezoned must live with what may well be a very serious limitation on the use of such land.

Berger also points out that to amount to de facto expropriation, two conditions must be met:

1. The government must acquire a beneficial interest in the land in question ... In the case of the implementation of the Peel Commission's FRP, YG acquires no beneficial interest in the mineral claims.
2. Removal of all reasonable uses of the land ... It could be argued this would be the outcome under the FRP, since there would be no access except by air.

Berger emphasizes that both conditions must be met for there to be de facto expropriation. Since there would be no acquisition of beneficial interest by Yukon government in the mineral claims, Government of Yukon would have no obligation to pay compensation.

It might be suggested that there is a moral obligation to compensate even if there isn't a legal one. I disagree.

Most of the claims in the Peel watershed were staked after the land use planning process began. There were 1,658 claims in the Peel watershed when the Peel Planning Commission was established in October 2004.

There are just over 8,400 now, so approximately 6,755 claims were staked while planning was in progress. The companies knew they were taking a risk staking in areas that could end up being protected in the land use plan. In fact, it is possible that these claims were staked in the hope of receiving compensation.

In any case, compensating exploration companies for speculative expenditures on early stage mineral projects runs the risk of encouraging claim staking and exploration in areas that are known to be of interest for potential conservation areas or of particular interest to First Nations.

Even in the absence of government intervention or change of land status, it is common for exploration companies to lose the money they have invested in exploration activities when the properties they are working on do not reveal viable deposits. Despite millions of dollars in losses, directors, officers and employees of the companies continue to earn income while investors may recoup much of the initial cost of purchasing shares through tax breaks. Why then should the public be on the hook for compensation?

More than half of the Peel claims (approximately 4,800 of 8,400) were due to expire on or before 2014. Given the state of mineral prices it is likely that many of them would have expired had government not issued a Relief Order excusing claim holders from paying annual fees or working their claims late in the planning process.

There is still a Relief Order covering the claim holders in the so-called Restricted Use Wilderness Areas (RUWA's) and Protected Areas in Yukon government's unilaterally developed plan, even though government's plan allows those claims to be developed with road access. In government's plan, most of the mining claims are in RUWA's and Protected Areas so government's Relief Order is ensuring that no claims lapse.

It looks as though YG is trying to ensure that mining claims remain in the Peel, rather than looking for a solution to remove them in order to follow the wishes of affected First Nations and the Yukon public.

It is perplexing that Yukon Government seems to be promising compensation, or inviting law suits, in cases where protected areas are created under Yukon land claims agreements. Worse yet, now they are inviting companies to stake more claims in the Peel despite the uncertainty of a legal case that could take years, hanging over the Peel watershed.

Karen Baltgailis

Walk Softly

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302 Hawkins Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 1X6

PHONE: 867 668-5678

FAX: 867 668-6637

EMAIL: ycs@ycs.yk.ca

WEBSITE: yukonconservation.org

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WORKERS ON THIS ISSUE

Tanya Handley
Judith van Gulick

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Editorial

by Mary Whitley, YCS President

Announcing YCS' New Executive Director

The board of the Yukon Conservation Society is delighted to announce that Christina Macdonald, who has been our Wildlife Coordinator since 2011, will be YCS' new Executive Director.

Christina brings to this position a love of nature and a passion for working with people to protect the environment. Formative experiences in the parks and wild places of Toronto, Kenya, Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton Island led her to pursue a Bachelor of Science and a Master in Environmental Studies, which deepened her understanding of the connections between ecological health and human management of our natural resources.

Diverse work experience in the Yukon has allowed Christina to become familiar with the many Yukon environmental issues, key stakeholders, First Nations land claims agreements, and emerging approaches to wildlife and land management.

The YCS Wildlife Coordinator portfolio is varied, and Christina has used the media, educational programs, presentations to the public, bureaucrats and politicians, and written submissions to protect habitat and wildlife from harmful development. Her work has been essential to promoting environmental values here in the Yukon.

In her time working at the Yukon Conservation Society, Christina has developed a thorough understanding of the organization's mission and programs, and built strong working relationships with her YCS co-workers, board members and allies.

Christina has strong project management and fundraising skills, and a talent for supporting grassroots organizations and bringing disparate groups together to identify and achieve common goals.

Christina will be training with outgoing Executive Director Karen Baltgailis in May and June, and she will officially take over as Executive Director July 1, 2014. Our Peel watershed legal case will be heard in Yukon Supreme Court the week of July 7, 2014, so Christina will be taking over the helm at an exciting time.

Karen will continue to work for the Yukon Conservation Society during the month of July under the new title of Peel Watershed Coordinator, to support Christina, our co-plaintiffs and our legal team during this busy time.

Welcome to your new job, Christina! Thank you for all your work as YCS Wildlife Coordinator and we look forward to working with you in your new position as Executive Director.



Dear Yukon Conservation Society members and supporters,

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your next Executive Director. I am honoured to have the opportunity to continue the work of an organization with such a long and proud history of conservation work in the Yukon.

In my three years as Wildlife Coordinator with YCS I have met with many of you - to hear your concerns, to learn from you, and to work with you on campaigns and projects to protect habitat and wildlife in the Yukon. These relationships and the passion and knowledge you have shared with me have been the part of my work I have enjoyed most. I am excited to deepen and diversify these relationships as Executive Director and to continue to help translate your ideas into successful conservation campaigns. I also look forward to sharing the vision and goals of YCS with others inside and outside of the Yukon to grow our membership and support for the work we do.

I believe one of YCS' strengths is our network of relationships – from grassroots organizations to governments. The bridging role we play facilitates communication and collaboration on environmental issues and we benefit from these different sources of information. Strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones will be critical in the coming years to tackle increasingly urgent environmental issues.

While we face many challenges ahead – protecting the Peel watershed, mitigating climate change by forging an energy future for the Yukon based on conservation and renewables, advocating for sustainable cities and communities, protecting habitat and wildlife from destructive development - I can't think of a more worthwhile, and hopeful, cause. As we all know, the Yukon is a special place and I am proud to work with the Yukon Conservation Society and our partners to keep it that way.

Finally, I'd like to say what an enormous privilege it has been for me to work with and learn from Karen these past three years. I have truly been inspired by her energy and unwavering commitment to YCS's vision and will strive to carry on this tradition of strong leadership.

Please drop by the office and say hi!

Sincerely,

Christina Macdonald

Welcome to
your new job,
Christina!



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
- Compiling environmental events for the weekly Yukon Enviro e-list mailing
- Being part of the painting party this summer: the YCS office requires a fresh layer of paint

Call us: 668-5678 or ycsoffice@ykc.ca



The Yukon Environmental Training Fund

The goal of the Yukon Environmental Training Fund is to support training, retraining, upgrading and improving of occupational skills of those employed by Yukon's environmental groups or individuals working on environmental issues and activities in the Yukon.

Training opportunities offered to assist Yukoners with securing immediate employment or keeping Yukoners up to speed in the Yukon non-profit conservation sector have been funded in past years. Individuals can be successful in obtaining funding if the training makes them immediately employable in the Yukon non-profit conservation sector or if they're currently working in the Yukon non-profit conservation sector and like to benefit from training to stay current in their field.

The Yukon Environmental Training Fund is available for you!

Check our website yukonconservation.org for more information about this Fund and whether your training project is eligible for funding or contact Judith at YCS 668-5678.

Energy Coordinator Update:

Yukon Energy's LNG plan in front of the YUB

It was a demanding quarter, mostly planning for and participating in the Yukon Utilities Board (YUB) hearing on Yukon Energy Corporation's proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project. A huge amount of work went into preparing our information requests of YEC, reviewing those of other interveners and the YUB, making sense of YEC's responses, planning cross examination strategies and questions, and then preparing our final argument.

YCS was fortunate to partner with local energy expert John Maissan of Leading Edge Projects and to hire an expert energy lawyer from Vancouver to significantly increase our capacity, as well as the effectiveness and impact of our intervention.

Thank you so much to our members who helped us cover the costs of our lawyer above what the YUB will pay! Another big thank you to everyone who participated in the public session by presenting intelligently and passionately at the standing-room-only meeting, or by writing thoughtful comments and sending them to the Board.

Throughout the proceedings and during the intense three-day hearing, we had Yukon Energy in a defensive position and exposed several weaknesses in its project. Yukon Energy did not adequately investigate or consider renewable and conservation alternatives. Yukon Energy underestimated the cost of the proposed LNG facility and overestimated the cost of the more sensible diesel alternative. It inflated its predicted cost savings through questionable load forecasting and by assuming that its precarious LNG

source will remain cheaper than diesel in the long term. Essentially Yukon Energy presented a dubious four year business case for a 40 year project.

Just a week before the hearing, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) came out with a very disappointing draft screening report on the project. The draft Screening Report more or less ignored the considerable public input that opposed the project for many valid reasons.

YCS has been closely watching YEC's LNG project for years, and we positioned ourselves firmly against it when the overwhelming evidence showed it would be bad for the environment, for the climate and for the Yukon. We felt that this YUB process was the last chance to stop it. On top of that urgency came several new revelations that showed that the project was even worse than we thought.

We learned that once the massive LNG investment has been made, the money spent and the LNG facility constructed, that cost will be "sunk." This means that any potential renewable energy project will be evaluated against the displaced fuel cost, which does not even include the \$40+ million upfront capital costs. This confirms that LNG would be the death of important solutions to the energy challenges we face.

At press time, the YUB has not come out with a recommendation to government on Yukon Energy's LNG project. But in the absence of any regulatory approvals or social license to proceed, YEC is pushing forward regardless, and has spent at least \$16.7 million on the project already.

At time of writing, some exciting actions are being planned in the near future to raise the profile of the proposed project and its location, as well as to tell government that regardless of what the YUB recommends, we the people do not

want this project to proceed. Instead, we want the opportunity to discuss the Yukon's energy future with government and the utilities, and how we can ensure our actions do not compromise future generations' ability to sustain life.

Really guys, is this Demand Side Management?

YCS also participated in YECL's GRA to cross-examine a panel of YECL and Yukon Energy representatives about their joint Demand Side Management (DSM) Plan.

YCS provided tepid support of the DSM plan. Don't get us wrong, YCS has always advocated that conservation and efficiency must be the first priority in energy planning (Negawatts Before Megawatts, or, conservation to avoid the cost of new generation), but we argued that this DSM plan was inadequate.

Even though Yukon Energy has known of a capacity shortfall issue since 2006, the DSM plan had no actions to reduce capacity requirements or manage the load by shifting demand away from peak times and utilizing off peak energy that is currently wasted. We urged the YUB to ensure future iterations of DSM plans focus on load management.

Despite ordering the utilities to work together to create a DSM plan, the YUB did not rule favourably towards the product presented to it. The YUB agreed to some initiatives within it. The utilities seem to be trying to figure out how the YUB decision affects their plan for DSM.

Unfortunately, the YUB also stated that it did not agree with the interveners that suggested the DSM plan was not ambitious enough. Clearly we have more work to do to convince the YUB that load management is doable and necessary.



A workshop focused on solutions

After expending so much energy fighting Yukon Energy's terrible LNG project, which would require and justify fracking, expand and entrench our dependence on dirty fossil fuels, and be a barrier to the development of renewable energy, YCS is happy to channel some hard work and energy towards a promising solution to the Yukon's energy challenges!

I assure you that at press time for this issue of *Walk Softly*, the YCS office is abuzz with extremely busy coordinators working to make this two-day workshop, as well as two public evening events, successful.

We'll take that victory! No LNG in Watson Lake!

Late last year YCS intervened in Yukon Electrical Company Limited's (YECL's) General Rate Application (GRA) in front of the Yukon Utilities Board. We opposed YECL's plan to modify its diesel generators in Watson Lake to burn a combination of diesel and LNG.

The Yukon Utilities Board (YUB) recently decided that it would not allow YECL to add the Watson Lake Bi-Fuel project into the rate base, effectively stopping the project from proceeding! It appears that the YUB's decision is mostly based on the fact that YECL planned to lease the modification and LNG storage equipment from its sister company, ATCO Gas, instead of through a competitive tender process.

YCS hopes that our participation at the hearing, in which we talked about the climate destabilizing reality of LNG and methane, and our subsequent written arguments opposing the bi-fuel project also influenced the Board's decision.

Here is an excerpt from the YUB's "Reasons for Decision" on YECL's General Rate Application:

"YCS submitted that the Watson Lake bi-fuel project is a fossil fuel substitution to create a market for natural gas in Yukon. Furthermore, it will present an obstacle to the development of renewable energy in Yukon's diesel communities. YCS pointed out that despite there being technologies to make diesel generators less polluting, YECL has not installed them. YCS asserted that proceeding with the Watson Lake bi-fuel project would defer the development of renewable energy and negatively affect the evaluation of renewable energy development in other diesel communities in Yukon. YCS therefore recommended that, because the Watson Lake bi-fuel project is a pilot project that would obstruct the development of renewable energy solutions, and because YECL cannot prove that the net emissions will be of benefit, the project should not be allowed into rate base."

Yay for the YUB's decision! We can only hope that the YUB has the same issue with Yukon Energy's economic case for its LNG project, and that the YUB will have the courage to recommend against government granting Energy Project and Operations Certificates to Yukon Energy.

Electric Thermal Storage: Space Heating With Renewable Energy

With JP and Sally as main drivers and early adopters, YCS has taken on the planning and execution of a workshop *Electric Thermal Storage: Space Heating With Renewable Energy in mid-May*.

The workshop will educate Yukoners about an innovative technology that enables homes, offices and businesses to be heated with renewable energy. In the Yukon, hydro provides secure, storable renewable energy, but it is less available in the winter when electricity demand is highest. As a result, daily load fluctuations on the grid in the winter often require diesel generation to meet the daytime peaks during the coldest days. Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) shifts space and water heating demand away from the daytime diesel peaks and into the nighttime when there is surplus hydro, maximizing renewable energy use and reducing fossil fuel requirements on the Yukon's grid.

The workshop goals are to:

- Increase awareness about ETS-Wind systems by providing key information
- Understand economic and infrastructure needs
- Learn and apply from case studies
- Identify obstacles and potential solutions

We are excited about the opportunity the workshop and evening events provide for people who are interested in energy and who work in the energy sector to learn together, and work on solutions.

Thank you to those YCSers who registered and we look forward to reporting back on what we learned!

Anne Middler

Speaking for the Land

*There's the land. (Have you seen it?)
It's the cussedest land that I know,
from the big dizzy mountains that screen it
To the deep deathlike valleys below.
Some say God was tired when he made it
Some say it's a fine land to shun
Maybe, but there's some as would trade it
For no land on earth -- and I'm one.*

The Spell of the Yukon by Robert Service

I'm sure this sentiment is as strong in all of you as it is in me.

That's what gives me the conviction that the Yukon Conservation Society is on the right path.

The land cannot speak for itself.

The animals don't vote.

We are the voices for the land.

We have a duty to speak loudly and clearly with courage for the land.

YCS has been the voice of the land this past year.

Speaking for McIntyre Creek,

Speaking for the Peel Watershed,

Speaking for energy conservation and renewable energy sources,

Speaking against hydraulic fracturing and its impacts on water and wildlife,

Speaking for responsible mining,

Speaking for land use plans that put the environment we depend on first.

With full understanding of the challenges ahead, the Board has shown its collective and individual support for the trail we are on. My sincere thanks to the members of the Board: Nick de Graff, Meagan Christie, Lee Carruthers, Gerry Couture, Bonnie Burns, Joshua Hunt, Roy Jantzen, David Neufeld, and Skeeter Wright.

Our voice speaking for the land would not be as authoritative and confident without the efforts of our excellent staff.

Christina Macdonald has been our front person, literally in the office, and with the ORV and City trails issues. She is soon to be our Executive Director.

Anne Middler skillfully manages her part of the energy file; she is our voice for sustainable energy and in high level meetings with government, boards and industry.

Lewis Rifkind's encyclopedic knowledge of mining issues allows him to make submissions to the water board and YESAB which are often the basis of practical decisions including mitigations to the application.

Sebastian Jones, our man in Dawson city, weighs in on the land use planning process in the Dawson area, and he is in charge of the oil and gas file.

Judith van Gulick keeps the numbers under control: the budget, the financial statements. Her varied portfolio includes work on special events as well as overseeing the Trail Guiding Program.

Karen Baltgailis is a treasure. She always sees the way ahead clearly, as if she has a compass and a map in her head. Her vision is what lights our way on the sometimes shadowed path. We will take her directions to heart during the upcoming Executive Director transition.

I am proud to be a part of this brave organization. YCS will be facing challenges in the coming year. The trail ahead may be rough at times but with the support of our members YCS will continue to be a strong voice for this "cussed" land.

Mary Whitley, YCS President

Students, this is for you!!

Ted Parnell Scholarship

YCS is happy to offer its annual scholarship of \$500 for 2014. This scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing any aspect of environmental studies, demonstrating outstanding interest and motivation in the field. Interests pertaining to northern environments such as wildlife, ecology, renewable resources, energy, and environmental education are appropriate areas for eligibility.

Applicants must be Yukon residents and should be entering or currently enrolled in a post-secondary school program (excluding graduate work). Proof of acceptance will be required before the scholarship is awarded.

Applications should be made in writing by June 30, 2014. Details regarding the application can be found on our website, yukonconservation.org

For more information call Judith at YCS: (867) 668-5678

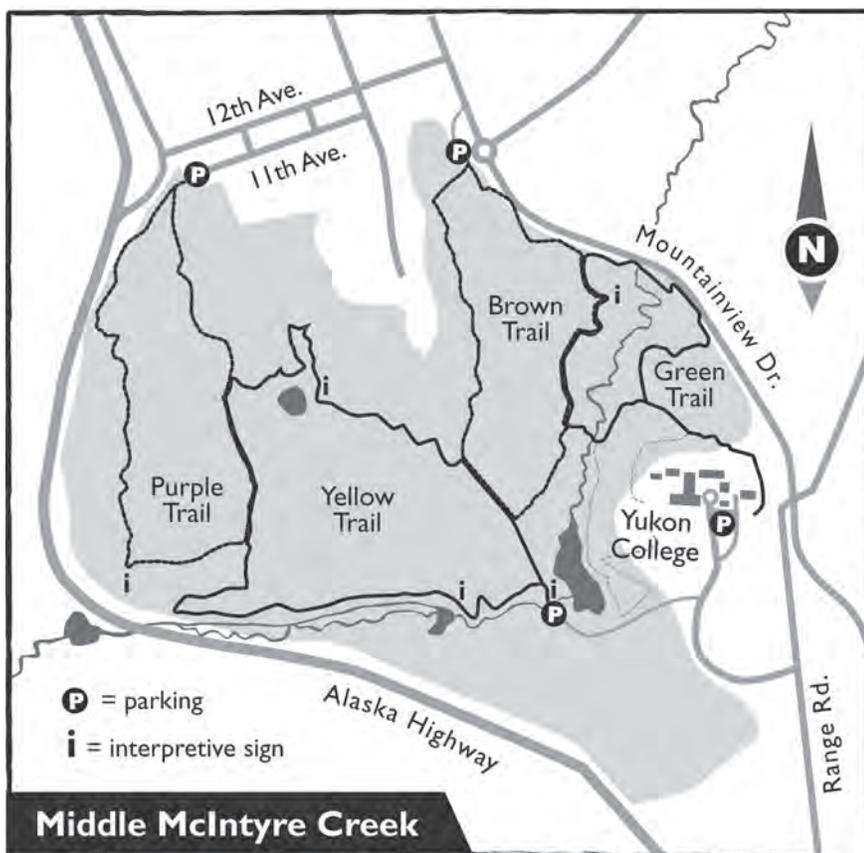


McIntyre Creek

We hope you will enjoy a walk on the middle McIntyre Creek trails this summer! The Yukon Conservation Society and Friends of McIntyre Creek produced four self-guided hike brochures that help you get to know this beautiful area in the heart of Whitehorse. Pick up your map at the YCS office or download one at friendsofmcintyrecreek.org

The trails are between 3.1km and 5.2km in length, are rated from easy to hard and include interpretive panels to educate you about the natural surroundings you encounter. Learn about the McIntyre Creek wetlands on the yellow trail, hike through a mature white spruce forest on the easy brown trail, watch eagles on the purple trail or spend time watching the creek from the footbridge on the green trail.

Perfect for a walk with the whole family!



PURPLE 1.5 hours (4 km) Difficulty: Moderate
Excellent views of city, surrounding mountains and marshes; eagle watching opportunities; meadows with seasonal wildflowers.

GREEN 1 hour (3.1 km) Difficulty: Moderate
Views of city and McIntyre Creek; foot bridge across McIntyre Creek; mature white spruce forest.

BROWN 1 hour (3.9 km) Difficulty: Easy
Views of city and McIntyre Creek; mature white spruce forest.

YELLOW 2 hours (5.2 km) Difficulty: Hard
Excellent views of McIntyre Creek wetlands, Stinky Lake, the city and surrounding mountains.

Free Guided Hikes

The Yukon Conservation Society is pleased to offer another summer of free guided hikes at Miles Canyon & Canyon City!

Hikes are scheduled twice daily - 10am and 2pm - Tuesday through Saturday starting on Saturday June 14. Meet your trail guides at the Robert Lowe Suspension Bridge below the Miles Canyon parking lot for an informative and fun 2 hour hike. Rain or shine, hikes are appropriate for all ages and are rated easy.

Throughout the summer YCS will schedule special themed hikes as well as Ed-ventures for kids. On July 25 & 26 we are hosting "Miles Canyon in Art" - for this two day art event YCS will ask local artists to create work in situ in the Miles Canyon area, while interacting with each other and the public. Keep an eye on our website and advertising around town or call the YCS office to find out the details. You can also befriend YCS Hikes on Facebook!



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 yca@yca.yk.ca

Cancelling The Commons

The shoreline of a portion of the Southern Lakes is about to change. Not only will it change in appearance it will also change in ownership. **Certain sections of the shoreline along Bennett and Windy Arm are about to cease being Crown land (and thus belonging and accessible to all of us) and instead become private leases, accessible to only those wealthy enough to purchase them or pay to stay there.**

Two major initiatives are underway. The first is the possible establishment of a high-end, exclusive “eco-lodge” at Millhaven Bay. The second is the development of twenty or so private cabin spots at remote locations. All of them would only be accessible by boat, skidoo or small aircraft.

From an environmental perspective both the “eco-lodge” and the cabin lots raise troubling but separate issues.

Millhaven Bay “eco-lodge”

The proposed eco-lodge is being put forward by a company that has already established one in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island. It caters to extremely wealthy clientele - the cost is about two thousand dollars a day per person.

Basically, these sort of lodges pamper their guests with extreme luxury (imagine wall tents with hot and cold running water) while letting them enjoy nature in a virtually pristine setting. It must also be noted this company has an agreement with the local First Nation in the Clayoquot area for training opportunities, economic spin-off contracts for supporting the lodge with guides, supplies etc. If the Millhaven Bay project were to proceed, no doubt something similar will be put in place.

From an environmental perspective **this sort of high end tourism** could have minimal effects on the environment. It is, of course, described as an “eco-lodge”. But as soon as daily (or even more frequent) **motorized boat, plane and helicopter** trips are factored in, the benefits of encouraging environmental appreciation by people who can afford paying thousands of dollars per night could soon be eliminated.

The biggest problem with the Millhaven Bay project is its location. When the idea of this project first surfaced, Environment Yukon did a review of the project’s Expression of Interest and said: “The park reserve was established with the intention to ensure public access, as well as to protect a rare ecosystem with high ecological and social values.” In terms of the privatization of public space, Environment Yukon further stated that: “Development of an eco-tourism lodge would reduce availability of the land for public use. The most attractive portion of the park reserve is the sand beach at the head of the bay, which overlaps with the proposed development.”

Environment Yukon’s submission goes on to describe the proposed lodge location and the surrounding area as being important habitat for Southern Lakes caribou, Dall sheep, moose, grizzly bear, wolf, pine marten, snowshoe hare, pika, Columbian Spotted Frog, and numerous bird species. When land claims in this region were hammered out, the Millhaven Bay Area was not included as part of the First Nation claim (despite high local use of the region by First Nation members) because Yukon government presumably wanted to turn it into some form of park or protected area.

Now it would appear that the land will be leased to a private company so that an exclusive lodge can be established. Part of this exclusiveness means that locals (anyone who isn’t a paying customer) will not be allowed to use the immediate area. **A small and special part of the Yukon that was intended as a park, a designation that would ensure it belongs to all Yukoners in perpetuity, could instead become a playground for the rich only.**

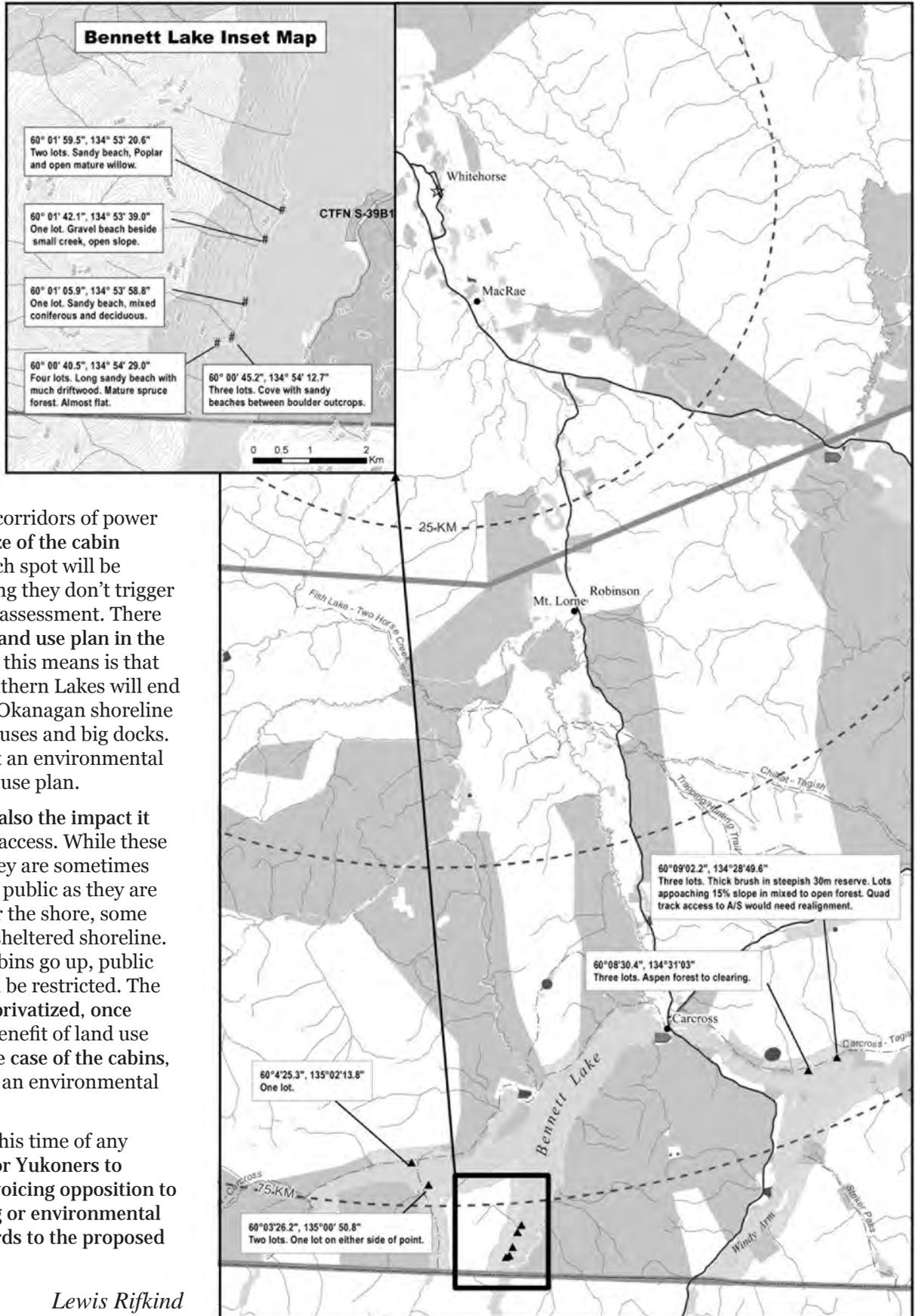
These considerations have to be balanced with fact it is an eco-lodge, and that the economic benefits to nearby communities and the local First Nation could be substantial. **As the project advances in the planning stage it will go through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment process. YCS hopes to better understand the activities associated with the operation of the resort, and will have developed a formal position on this issue by then and will be submitting comments. In the meantime, if you have any comments or suggestions on this issue please contact Lewis at yvspipe@ycs.yk.ca or 668-5678.**

Remote Cottage Lots

We’ve all been skiing or canoeing on a remote lake or stretch of river and have thought to ourselves this would be a great place to have a cabin. Then, rounding a headland or bend, someone else’s cabin pops into view and the disquiet surfaces that how dare they ruin the remoteness for everyone else. Well, this disquiet is about to happen big time on Bennett Lake and Windy Arm in the Southern Lakes near Carcross.

The Yukon Government has, in its alleged wisdom, decided to sell 20 remote cabin lots. These won’t be accessible by road, instead they are sites that can only be accessed by skidoo, boat or plane.

Remote Recreation
Lot Potential



The rumour in the corridors of power is that the actual size of the cabin development on each spot will be limited thus ensuring they don't trigger any environmental assessment. There is also no regional land use plan in the affected area. What this means is that the some of the Southern Lakes will end up looking like the Okanagan shoreline – potentially big houses and big docks. And all this without an environmental assessment or land use plan.

A major concern is also the impact it will have on public access. While these sites are remote, they are sometimes used by the general public as they are mostly flat bits near the shore, some with small bays or sheltered shoreline. Once the private cabins go up, public use of the areas will be restricted. The commons is being privatized, once again without the benefit of land use planning and, in the case of the cabins, most likely without an environmental assessment.

YCS is unaware at this time of any means or process for Yukoners to submit comments voicing opposition to the lack of planning or environmental assessment in regards to the proposed remote cabin lots.

Lewis Rifkind

THE FRACKING NEWS

There is quite a bit going on in the fracking world these days.

The Fracking Committee has had its reporting deadline extended until the fall sitting of the legislature; originally it was to have reported this spring. Clearly fracking is a more complex issue than it was expected to be, clearly Yukoners are genuinely interested in learning the facts so that a wise decision can be made. Contributing to the complexity, the Committee's fact finding mission to Alberta did not provide the expected endorsement of fracking. While the regulators and industry as expected repeated **the canard that fracking is safe**, that the regulations are world class and that there are no examples of harm caused by fracking, testimony from ordinary citizens including **conservative farmers and ranchers** listed a series of adverse effects on **their health, the environment and their ability to make a living on their land**. Such a stark contrast requires **the Committee to conduct a serious investigation for the reasons**. This investigation will take some time.

On April 25th, the Committee sent **out an invitation to Yukoners outside of the communities of Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Old Crow to write in before the 1st of May requesting the Committee come to their community**. Fortunately, given the short notice, over 150 Yukoners had already written the Committee. Judging by the interest shown, **the Committee should hold hearings in Dawson City, Faro, Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Haines Junction, the southern lakes community of Tagish and the hamlet of Mount Lorne**.

There have been some encouraging developments elsewhere in Canada: The Fort Nelson First Nation whose traditional territory lies over the Horn Basin in Northern B.C. has been impacted by fracking more

than most. Despite the promises of jobs and wealth, concern over the **social, economic and environmental impacts of rampant development has been stretching the tolerance of the First Nation**. The breaking point came when the B.C. government unilaterally decided to exempt Liquefied Natural Gas plants from environmental assessments. When the government, the First Nation and industry next came together for a meeting, the First Nation ejected the government and industry from the meeting: they told them why the First Nation was upset, asked them **to leave and then began drumming until the government delegation had left the room**. This dramatic gesture shook the government; they realised that **the informed consent of the indigenous people is essential**, and they climbed down from their decision. We in Yukon can be inspired by this event: fracking will only take place in Yukon if the First Nations and the people of Yukon give their consent. Even if government and industry decide unilaterally to go ahead, we can shut them down **through acts of civil outrage such as this**.

To add emphasis and validation to the concerns of those already affected by fracking, and to those of us here who have thus far **kept it from our land, the federal government convened an expert panel on "Harnessing Science and Technology to Understand the Environmental Impacts of Shale Gas Extraction"**. The findings do not endorse the pro-development view of the current federal government. The report notes that fracking has expanded exponentially without a **corresponding increase in monitoring and research into impacts on the environment, public health and communities**.

Concerns listed include:

- Degradation of the quality of ground and surface water.
- Disposal of huge quantities of waste water.
- Increased greenhouse gas emissions
- "Fugitive" emissions of methane during and after production.
- Disruptive effects on communities.
- Landscape changes related to the footprint of fracking.
- Adverse effects on human health.
- Release of toxic gasses.
- The triggering of small and medium sized earthquakes.
- Leakage of gas and fluids from aging wells is inevitable.

The report notes that proper **assessment of the impacts is hampered by the lack of information about many key issues, in particular the escape of fluids from leaky wells**.

Yukon is getting a lesson in this very issue right now:

About 50 years ago, Mobil drilled an exploratory well in the Eagle Plains region. It came up dry, so they abandoned it – or more accurately they "gave" it to the **federal government to use for ground temperature monitoring**. To do the monitoring, the well was filled with diesel which is fairly inert and stable and does not freeze. A set of thermometers were placed into the well. After some years, the government lost interest in the well and it was re-abandoned. Because the well was now a government well, they check it out periodically. Last July, the casing was discovered to have failed: there was diesel at the surface, the steel casing was corroded and the cementing had failed. Under an emergency order, \$1.5 million was allocated for its clean-up. The work is expected to be completed this summer.



This was a conventional well that had been abandoned to the standards of the day and monitored by government. It still required a re-working and repair at considerable expense to Yukoners, in addition to the potential environmental harm resulting from the well failure. When a hydrocarbon basin is fracked, there are thousands of wells subjected to far higher pressures than this well. What will happen to these wells 50 years down the road? Will we have to pay to fix them? What damage to the environment will happen in the meantime? These are the sorts of questions the report raised.

The main thrust was that we simply do not know, but that the effects are serious and irreversible. Those of us who heard Gilles Wendling last winter will recall this being the core of his message too; let us hope the Fracking Committee reads the report. The final gem in the report was to draw attention to the fact that unless and until the public endorses fracking an area, it will face continuing push-back. It goes on to point out that the only way the public can properly weigh in on fracking is if they are fully informed and given a voice.

It is not too late to send in letters to the Select Committee, they can be reached at:

Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing

Box 2703 (A-9)

Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

OR via email to: rbhf@gov.yk.ca

Sebastian Jones, Peel Coordinator



Photo: Kim Melton

Foreign Forager

Travelling, arriving and departing all take skill and practice to be done smoothly. While I often find the first effortless, the latter two seem to take a lot of time, and energy - though that is usually if I am rushing. I traveled south recently, chasing down the spring that I know is on its way at home. When I caught up with it in the Gulf Islands, it was decked out in daffodils and easter lilies, though the days were not as warm as our sun-drenched snow-melting afternoons at home. The transition wrought by the modern technology of the airliner is fast and furious, not at all natural. A van, a plane, a train, a bus, a ferry, a car: eight hours from the door of my cabin to that of my parents' house. My body takes time to realize that it is in a new place; humid, salty, forests that harbor quite a different form of life and light. So when I arrive, I walk down partially paved roads and on tracks thick with ferns and salal. Moss covers every surface that doesn't move (and some that do), large slugs and deer vie for predominance as the most prominent animal feature in the landscape. And as I walk, my forager's eye hungers for something recognizable. Like walking into a party in full swing, I look for someone familiar. Perhaps a person I've seen before, or even just someone who looks like a friend. In the mass of moving, chatting, laughing bodies and faces it's hard to pick out a single being. Easy to believe that distinction is futile. Then I say a name. Cedar. No, it is a question. Cedar? Yes, a tree answers to that name. Western red, I say. I will look it up when I get home. Underfoot are leaves that look like oak. Oak of storybooks, I've never lived with an oak. You, with your clusters of white buds and solid thorns - hawthorne. How is it that I know you? It doesn't matter, does it. Enough that there is recognition. Rosebushes are larger here, their hips rounder and more solid. Blackberries ramble to become brambles while our raspberries simply bush. And then I even see those that I would know exactly as they are here, at home: along the path is stellaria, chickweed, an old friend. I can eat you. And bedstraw. I feel encouraged by these familiar faces, enough to look around again, with eyes that, instead of bemoan the impossibility of understanding and my consequent failure as a naturalist, begin to see. One at a time. Begin to notice differences, and similarities. Realizing that the biggest blocks to learning are believing a thing to be impossible, and berating myself for not already know things. So I relax, trusting that even far from my garden, cellar and familiar foraging grounds, nature will provide good things to keep me fed and healthy.

Kim Melton

Happy Soil Day!

June 17th is Soil Day in my books. The full name is World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. Here in the Yukon we can give the gift of compost to our soils, and they will pull carbon from the air and build with it.

Our soils range from sandy loam to silty loam. That's the native stuff our vibrant Boreal forest grows on so well. These soils are only 10 000 years old! That is young compared with prairie soils, which are about ten times older and more weathered. Clay is almost non-existent in our soil, but it is clay that is good at holding nutrients. Our sandy/silty soils are not so good at that, but look at the massive amount of plant life that calls Yukon soil home. Why?

Trees are ace at pulling their food out of thin air. Air has carbon and hydrogen, which is why trees are tough ol' carbohydrates. The soil provides footholds for roots, while the litter layer, sphagnum and other mosses provide cover for the fungi to be secondary roots for the trees. The fungi send out a one-cell thick network that can extend for hundreds of feet in all directions from each tree and plant. This network can pull in moisture and nutrients from far away, trading it for the energy their trees create using sunlight. That is how our Boreal forest can live in young soil.

The fungal network also works like our internet system, communicating for miles around, and maybe across continents. Fungi link plants to one another. Fungi can sense your presence as you walk overhead and actually rises up to meet you. It's best to keep the fungal layer intact.

What about our food plants? They were selected over hundreds of years to be the best food possible for us. Over that time, their growers gave them the richest soil possible, richer in nutrients than any native soil here. Our veggies were not groomed to use the carbohydrates like our boreal trees, which is why vegetables are not hard and indigestible. They were given a soil environment that was rich with nutrients and micro- and macro-organisms of many, many stripes. For example, a cubic inch of healthy garden soil contains one to one hundred million bacteria and a few miles of fungi.

In our fields and gardens, then, we strive to add the kinds of nutrients along with the bacteria and fungi that feed those nutrients to our vegetable plants. The easiest way to do this is to add compost. Compost is the result of combining "green" ingredients like food scraps or livestock manure with "brown" ingredients. Brown ingredients are straw, shredded office paper, dead leaves or old grass clippings. Each ingredient has its own nitrogen to carbon ratio, and in compost, we are striving for a combined ratio of about 1:30. How do you know when you have the right ratio? Well, it's an art, really... You have to try, adjust, try, adjust, and try. Start with one part "green" (nitrogen heavy) to three parts "brown" (carbon heavy) and tinker from there.

For real compost (as is described in the Canadian Organic Standard), the mixture must heat up to 117 F for 2-3 days. Then, the core is inverted with the outside of the compost heap, and "cooked" again. The result is finished compost, and it has: no weed seed; no identifiable constituents (i.e. pieces of food), and; high amounts of beneficial bacteria, fungi and humus.

Compost is not rotted or aged manure. Compost is not old food scraps. Compost does not contain pathogenic bacteria. All of these can and should be digested by the high heat-producing bacteria present in the composting process. Compost smells like the earth (that's the fungi) and is edible.



Heidi Marion photo



The slogan of Soil Day is “Enhancing soils anywhere enhances life everywhere”. We can grow our own soil instead of importing the prairies a bag at a time. We can enhance our soil by adding compost. By leaving leaves on our fields and gardens instead of “cleaning the beds” in the fall leaving exposed soil, we shelter the vast, mysterious sensory system known as fungi.

Heidi Marion

Heidi is the owner/operator of Foodscapers, a local business dedicated to helping Yukoners grow food by understanding soil and landscapes. foodscapers@northwestel.net



Did you know that you can support the Yukon Conservation Society by enjoying a drink on your deck this summer? Bring your refundable containers and bottles to Raven Recycling and let them know that you'd like to donate the money you collected to the Yukon Conservation Society's account. Thank you!

Private profit, public risk

The recent Yukon territorial budget for 2014-2015 just goes to show how taxpayers subsidize resource extraction in the Yukon.

The Yukon mineral exploration tax credit has been increased by \$640,000 to a total for the coming year of \$1.4 million. This essentially allows investors in mining exploration projects to dramatically reduce their taxes on other income. For an explanation of this tax credit read the fine article in the Summer 2013 issue of Walk Softly available online at www.yukonconservation.org/newsletters.htm.

Reduced taxes means less money for the government to spend on housing, health-care, education, debt reduction and all the items that make for a decent society. Meanwhile, money is available through the tax incentive program for miners to go onto the land and do environmentally bad things. Things like line clearing, drilling, digging test pits, cutting access roads, all the activities required to facilitate resource extraction.

And speaking of tax dollars, let's have a look at how much is being spent by the abandoned mine branch. One little line item in the budget is labelled 'Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources Assessment and Abandoned Mines – Type II Mine Sites' and is for \$43,030,000 (page 9-15 of the budget book).

Think what else that amount could be spent on. When one considers the cost to taxpayers of Faro, Keno, Mt Nansen, Clinton Creek et al it is amazing that any rational government would continue to permit any mine without a major overhaul of the assessment, regulatory and closure permitting systems. In particular, the environmental bonding companies have to provide on their operations must be drastically increased.

There's also the small matter of moving the Dome Road in Dawson to permit a placer miner to access the potentially gold bearing gravel underneath it. Cost to taxpayers has yet to be made public, but it will probably be between one and two million dollars. And if the placer miner does find any gold, they will pay a royalty of thirty-seven and a half cents per ounce of gold. Gold, at the time this article is being written, is worth about thirteen hundred dollars an ounce. Taxpayers will pay a fortune to facilitate this particular mine and might, if they're lucky, get a pittance in return. And this doesn't include the disruption to the tourism industry as a portion of the Dome Road, leading up to an amazing viewpoint of Dawson City, becomes a construction zone for a few summers.

If the resource extraction industry is truly the bastion of free enterprise and non-government wealth creation it claims to be, maybe they can prove it by actually creating wealth instead of sucking it away from the rest of us.



Lewis Rifkind, Mining Coordinator

Is the Dawson Land Use Plan Headed Down the Same Toilet as the Peel Plan?

Any reasonable person would be forgiven for expecting that this time it would be different. After the fiasco that Yukon Government (YG) created over the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan – where despite the UFA requirement that the governments work together to create a joint land use plan, YG presented a unilateral plan that ignored the wishes of the other signatories to the UFA, and the wishes of almost all other

Yukoners too. Any reasonable person might expect that YG might have learned something and that when it came to the next plan, the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan, they would engage proactively and strive to avoid the discord and legal challenges it created last time.

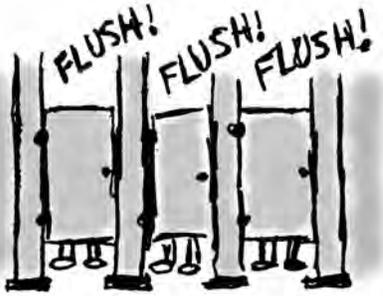
Dream on reasonable person, this is the same government that thought it fitting to present Caribou Legs Brad Firth with a copy of its unilateral Peel plan after he ran all the way from Inuvik to carry the words of outrage from his people precisely about that unilateral plan.

The Dawson planning process has been underway for almost 3 years now, and had it gone according to the dreams of YG it would be all nicely wrapped up by now, ready for adoration by a grateful Yukon populace, grateful to have been shown just how simple it really is to do land use planning.

In the real world, land use planning is HARD- at least good planning is hard- anyone can wave a magic wand and pretend that all land uses are compatible and all a planner really has to do is get out of the way. Because planning is hard, it does take time. It takes time to assemble information about the land, about the people who live and or work there, it takes time to bring the affected people together so they can reach consensus over a multitude of issues and competing interests.

So after three years, we are about to receive the results of the feedback at the “Considering Alternatives” stage, from which a Recommended Plan will be crafted and presented. Behind schedule by about a year, but not bad considering how long it took to get to this stage in North Yukon (the only finalised plan in Yukon) or the Peel (which will be going to court in July.)

The feedback is available for all to read online: <http://dawson.planyukon.ca/>



Much of the feedback is more or less what one might expect: enviros asking for lots of protection and miners demanding universal access. I happen to think most of the submissions were heartfelt and well thought out. Things became more interesting recently on the release of the feedback from the parties- the governments of Yukon, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in (TH) and Vuntut Gwitchin (VG.)

Mere mortals such as YCS were required to submit feedback by March 2nd. YG however, found itself unable to meet this deadline (despite having harangued the Commission to work faster), and gave notice that it needed more time to pass its comments around the different departments- well, judging by the comments, to give EMR time to bowdlerise the input of subordinate departments, but more on this in a bit. Naturally, when the TH and VG governments discovered YG was dilly dallying, they saw no reason to hustle to release their comments on time and took more time to do more consultation with their people. The YG comments were received on April 3rd and have just been posted and circulated.

The TH and VG comments were interesting but not surprising. I saw much to like in the TH submission; it is clear they want to see much of the region managed for sustainability with a focus on renewable resources. TH suggests a swathe of land north of the Yukon River, ranging from the Alaskan border to the Peel watershed be either protected or managed according to traditional economic principles. They also call for the far southwestern corner of the region be protected, acknowledging the lushness of its boreal forest and its distance from roads. VG also called for much of the same area in the north of the region to be protected, but pointed out that this area will most likely become part of the North Yukon plan once TH and VG have sorted out their mutual boundary. This means that much of the area proposed for protection by TH will not in the end count as part of the percentage of land protected in the planning region.



It was the YG comments that really dropped my jaw: YG does not support the Conservation Area (CA), Traditional Economy Area (TEA) or Yukon River Corridor (YRC) zones because it wants the plan to use the same land designations that the other plans do. Illogically, it then goes on to suggest using the infamous RUWA (Restricted Use Wilderness Area) designation. This designation does not appear in the only real plan in Yukon, the North Yukon plan, as it was a new designation introduced unilaterally after the planning process was complete in the under-court-challenge Peel plan. I was surprised to see RUWA rear its ugly deceptive head because all the conversations I have had thus far at many Dawson planning meetings and workshops have given the clear impression that YG would not be advocating this thoroughly discredited idea.

YG rejects the brilliant compromise proffered by TH, the creation of a TEA where not only traditional activities would be encouraged but also modern sustainable activities such as small scale forestry and agriculture, which would be regulated by limiting the size of the equipment used.

YG takes the view that all activities can take place concurrently. Mines, homes, farms, forests, towns, and a healthy environment for wildlife can all co-exist in harmony. All we need to do is to use the tools already in place in Yukon. Heck, take that thinking to its logical extreme and we would not even need land use planning at all!



YG rejects limits on cumulative effects; rather they think that if thresholds are approached, more research should be done, presumably to figure out how to exceed the thresholds. It appears that the thresholds in the North Yukon plan will not allow for a full build-out of oil and gas fields; the 3D seismic work that took place at Eagle Plains this winter reached the cumulative effects limits during the exploration stage, leaving little room for further exploitation. To quote from their submission: "Mineral or Oil and Gas exploration for example may be inadvertently excluded by cumulative effects indicators..." YG appears to be scrambling to find a way out of being locked into something like the North Yukon plan again.

It is clear from reading the YG submission which department wears the long pants in YG. Mining and oil and gas get twice the space that environment and wildlife do. If the YG submission showed as much concern for the health of the caribou as it does for the health of the big oil and gas companies, their submission might approach the "balance" they call for.

It is hard to see how the planning commission will be able to reconcile the parties to the plan after this blindsiding by YG.

Sebastian Jones



Newsletter archive

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.

A dose of self care: yoga, energy work & eating living raw food

Taking good care of yourself (eating, sleeping, exercising, making the conscious decision to think happy thoughts, etc.) is paramount to maintain sanity and health regardless of what you do for a living, but is especially important for people in stressful or depressing work – as environmental advocacy can be.

Recently, as a birthday gift to myself, I registered for a One Day Retreat in Whitehorse. Local yoga practitioner and instructor, and all round awesome activist Erica Heuer brought together ten participants and seven practitioners to do yoga, make and eat raw food, and experience healing and energy treatments of reflexology with Elissa Miskey of Atlin Reflexology, Indian head and face massage with Elaine Hanson, healing touch energy work by Ruth Lera of Root Awakening, and laser acupuncture with Roslyn Woodcock.

We arrived at a house in Takhini North in the morning to an hour of yoga with Erica, then to the kitchen to make and eat seed cereals and nut and fruit smoothies. The glowing Elaine Hanson of Alpine Ayurveda made delicious fresh almond milk of soaked almonds and water whirred in her fancy blender, and shared her very tasty energy bars.

After the morning feast, we got familiar with a partner's feet during a reflexology workshop, applying pressure to specific points to send healing energy to the solar plexus and pituitary gland. We washed our hands and headed back to the kitchen to marvel in the preparation and consumption of more raw food.

Elaine Hanson made pizza crusts out of the fibrous pulp of carrot and beet that is a byproduct of juicing, as well as the pulverized nut meat that the nut milk is strained from after a good blending.

Onto these prepared dehydrated crusts she added vegan "anything green pesto", marinara sauce, tomatoes, yellow pepper, black olives, marinated mushrooms and zucchini, and some vegan cheese made from macadamia nuts.

As a substantial side dish to this life affirming and completely delicious raw pizza was Philippe Mouchet's living seed and bean sprouts of alfalfa, mung beans, chick peas, green peas, radishes, and broccoli.

The "Sprout Dog" started sprouting seeds and beans ten years ago when he spent a winter in Old Crow and fresh food was scarce, expensive and of poor quality. He got hooked because he doesn't much like cooking, and liked that sprouts are easy, cheap and a super nutritious living food.

This man seems to vibrate at a different frequency from most of us, and clearly thrives from the life force of the sprouts that he almost exclusively consumes.

He is confident that sprouts are the answer to food insecurity and malnutrition, and will significantly reduce the energy, land use and community impacts associated with the modern food system if we receive the nutrition that we need from eating sprouts – living food for life.

Eating Philippe's cereal and sprouts, and Elaine's almond milk smoothies and raw pizza for a day made me feel exceptionally good, alive, balanced and connected. This high quality fuel plus the healing treatments, yoga and human interactions that the one day retreat provided, made for a positive dose of health and inspiration during these busy times. It was a fantastic and lovely day.

If you have the opportunity to learn from and or receive the services of any of the practitioners mentioned, I highly recommend it. Your mind and body will thank you.

Anne Middler





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

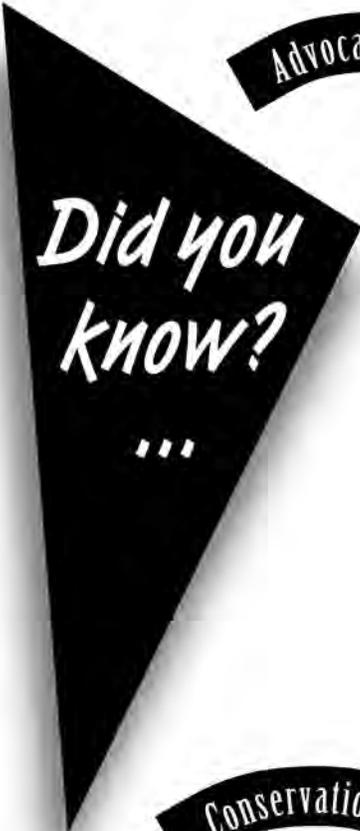
Communications: Tanya Handley, Lewis Rifkind, Mary Amerongen

Yard clean up: Sue S.

Energy Committee: JP Pinard, Bonnie Burns, Nick de Graff & Sally Wright

Office: Julie Frisch





Karen is leaving her position as Executive Director of YCS. Although she'll no longer be a staff member, she will continue to be an active member of the environmental movement and proud supporter of YCS.

Stop by to say thank you and good-bye to Karen!!

YCS staff and board invite you to Karen's Party!

Thursday June 5, 2014 at 4:30pm

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

Refreshments will be served – feel free to bring a pot-luck style dish if you can.



Follow the Yukon Conservation Society on
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and 'like' us on Facebook: Yukon Conservation Society

