

The Ted Parnell Scholarship

The Ted Parnell Scholarship Fund was established to honour the life and work of Ted Parnell (1947-1981). Ted was a sensitive and committed individual who contributed greatly to conservation in the Yukon. Ted's life and work reflected his keen environmental values and love of the north and its people.

The Yukon Conservation Society offers an annual scholarship of \$500 to a student of environmental studies who demonstrates outstanding interest and motivation in the environmental field. Interests pertaining to northern environments such as wildlife, ecology, renewable resources, energy, and environmental education are appropriate areas for eligibility. **For 2023, YCS is pleased to offer \$1000 for the scholarship.**

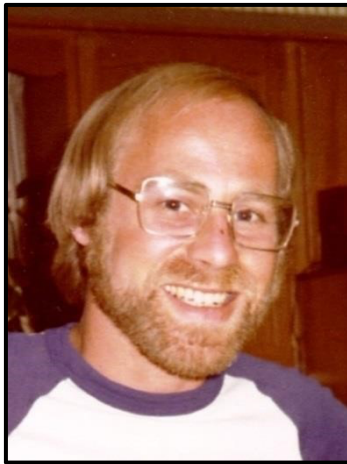
Application Requirements: Applicants must be Yukon residents and should be entering or currently enrolled in a postsecondary school program (excluding graduate work). Proof of acceptance will be required before the scholarship is awarded.

Please include:

1. Most recent transcript
2. In one PDF document:
 - Cover Letter that includes:
 - A description of an environmental concern in your locality and your ideas on how it can be solved, outlining both public and government responsibilities
 - A description of your interest and involvement in the environmental field
 - Your proposed course of study and goals for that study
 - Resume

Submission: Email to outreach@yukonconservation.ca with subject line: "Ted Parnell Scholarship Application" addressed to Ted Parnell Scholarship Committee. For more information or questions, call YCS: (867) 668-5678 ext. 1.

Application Deadline: Friday, June 30 at 11:59 PM.



About Ted Parnell (1947-1981)

Edward (Ted) Douglas Parnell was born on September 22, 1947 in London, Ontario, of Irish and Scottish descent, the middle of five siblings.

Ted attended Mountsfield Public School and South Collegiate High School in London ON. He was an avid reader, sportsman and outdoorsman. He was a valued team player in high school football, rugby swimming. At his family cottage at Edgerton Beach on Lake Huron and later in south Muskoka, he loved sailing, water skiing, swimming and canoeing.

Ted's many years in the Scouting movement earned him a Queen Scout Award at an early age and a love of camp craft and survival camping. In 1963, at 16, he was selected to attend the International Scouting Jamboree in Greece. As a leader in the YMCA Leadership Corps in London, Ted pursued swimming and lifesaving credentials. In 1965, at age 18, he was chosen to represent the province at a World Youth Council in Norway. From an early age, Ted was a camper at the YMCA Camp Queen Elizabeth on Beausoleil Island in Georgian Bay and later a counselor at Camps "Ponaka" and "White Bear" in Northern Ontario. Among his favourite memories and activities were his long canoe trips in the wilderness on which he honed his outdoor survival skills and appreciation for nature.

Ted attended Queen's University, Kingston, between 1966-1970, obtaining an honours BA in Political Science and Sociology. Ted was President of the Queens Arts and Science Undergraduate Society, a member of the Alma Mater Society of Queen's overall student council and received the Tri-Colour Award, the highest student award given by the University. Ted played rigger for Queens for several years.

In 1971, Ted completed a Masters in Political Sociology at the London School of Economics, England. He taught Political Science and Sociology at Simon Fraser University. Ted was a scholar by nature and a life-long learner by disposition. While living in England, he travelled extensively in Europe.

Ted moved to Edmonton in 1973 where he lived in the country working for the Edmonton Social Planning Council, and later for the Alberta Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association (AHRCLA) where he wrote his first book, *The Disposable Native*, the first definitive study of the Métis conditions in Canada.

Ted was married to Mary Beth (Missy) Follwell from 1971-1976. He moved to the Yukon in 1975 and bought property at Tagish Lake. Through his work, Ted passionately championed the causes of First Nation people with love and admiration. He published his second work, *Barriers to Education*, for the Yukon Association of Non-Status Indians.

Ted was a popular, compassionate man with a love of people, animals, children, learning and nature. His exceptional personal discipline extended to everything he did, including snowshoeing, scuba diving, skydiving, climbing, camping, hiking, and exploring nature. He was an expert canoeist and a great swimmer.

At age 11, Ted was diagnosed with Type 1 juvenile diabetes, requiring daily insulin shots. Ted died on June 11, 1981 of heart failure at 33. Living with diabetes no doubt contributed to his disciplined nature and compassion for both animals and people. He never complained and was noted for his positive, affectionate nature. He did not speak ill of others but rather encouraged those around him to demonstrate the highest respect for each person, regardless of gender or condition in life.

Ted is dearly missed by his family (*mother Dorothy Matheson Parnell; late father, Douglas Edward Parnell; sisters, Sandy Mullen, Anne Richards and Peg Herbert; and brother, Tim Parnell*), *nieces and nephews*, many friends and admirers.

Ted's legacy of helping others, passion for nature and animals, and his determination to give a voice to those who had none continues through his generous charitable gift to the Yukon Conservation Society. Ted's passionate respecting for the culture and life of individuals and his love of nature carries on and so does his memory. He was a leader who strove to build leadership in those around him. It is our turn now!