

Walk Softly

Newsletter of the
Yukon Conservation Society
Fall 2019



Inside: • Hellos and Goodbyes • The Trouble with Sweet Clover • Gentle Lifestyle Hints

2019 YCS Yard Garden Report

This year the garden planting started extremely early when in March the weather warmed up significantly. At the time, Julia and I could not hold back from digging in the garden boxes. It felt so good to work the soil. After we had worked up the boxes, it was next to impossible not to put some seeds into them. So we decided that peas would be a safe choice of seeds to plant. Peas, after all need 0°C in order to germinate well. And if they didn't germinate there was still plenty of time for us to reseed them. But as it turned out, the seeds germinated and we had early pea plants which produced in June.

On May 9th, we had a garden planting day with a few volunteers helping. Also, by this time we had our week covered with one volunteer to water each day of the week. By the beginning of June, volunteers were starting to harvest in addition to watering the garden beds. Thankfully, there really was not much need for weeding in the raised garden beds.

The permanent beds were a different story. Grass has grown passed the rock boundaries right up to the bases of the gooseberry bushes. In an attempt to bring this under control we enlisted the help of a four person Y2C2 work crew who spent a day here helping to pull weeds, prune bushes and generally clean up the yard. I was very pleased with the amount of work that was accomplished in one day.

As the summer progressed things began to fall into a routine of watering and harvesting. Several times throughout the summer, the potatoes were hilled and at one point we added soil on top of them instead of just hilling. This work eventually paid off when we harvested them. Bringing in almost half a bushel of potatoes in varying colors. These potatoes were enjoyed by those who attended our BBQ on the 6th, of September.

Now that the summer is past and the leaves are dropping from the trees, we are thinking of what still needs to be done to put the garden to bed. The vegetables are mostly finished growing, with the exception of the beets and kohlrabi, which can withstand some cooler temperatures at the end of the season. One thing we did do this year was to harvest the seedpods of the different vegetables.

Seeds carry in their DNA the information of the previous growing season. So, seeds grown in the Yukon have genetic information of growing in the Yukon and this information is passed on to the next year's plants through the seeds. As a result, saving seeds not only gives us next year's garden but gives us a plant that is one year closer to being adapted to growing and thriving here. Which will increase our sustainability.

I would like to thank the weekly volunteers for the dedication to our garden. Without them things would not have grown as well as they did. They are: Jason Lane; Kelly Johannas; Luc Garceau; Melonie Moir and Patrick Bradley.

Joan Norberg



Autumn 2019

Is natural and organic the same thing?

Short answer, no.

Longer answer, still no, but more elaborate.

Natural is one of those fun words that's easy to bandy about without actually having to define. It's a corporate buzzword, because they don't actually have to define it. After all, everything is natural, in some form or another. Organic, on the other hand, has a range of very specific conditions that must be certified by government inspection before being labelled.

Organic, when used in respect to food, has a very clear and defined meaning as described by the Canadian Organic Standards, a regulated body who prescribe exactly what is and is not 'organic'. This includes use of pesticides, crop rotation, fertilizer usage, GMO's, and so on. So when shopping, never trust something that calls itself 'natural'. It's the smoke screen of branding. And if in doubt, look up the labels, and just who is backing it. Things like Rainforest Certified and Sustainably Fished are important, but even more so is whether those labels represent third party consideration.

Jason Lane

The Winner of the Parnell Scholarship: Christine Spencer



I moved to Carmacks from Vancouver ten years ago. I fell in love with the Yukon and was thrilled to find out I could complete a full BSc in Environmental Conservation Science at the Yukon College. I moved to Whitehorse in 2014 to attend the college and pursue my dream of launching a career where I could help to create a sustainable future. The Yukon is a special place in which we can all enjoy outdoor pursuits for leisure and as a way of life. However, the north is seeing rapid changes in climate which is putting our home and way of life at risk. In particular, I study the effects that climate change has on wildfire regimes and how communities can adapt to changes. I am passionate about answering the question: How can we allow wildfire to create biodiversity in the boreal forest, while protecting human life and infrastructure within the context of climate change.

Welcome to Davon Callander!

With great excitement, I join the YCS team as Outreach and Communications Manager. I have recently moved to Whitehorse from Vancouver Island and people keep asking me why on earth would I move here, away from the Island?! My family and I love the outdoors, mountain biking, skiing and hiking and so the Yukon is ideal for us.



My background is based in environmental science and research. I have a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. I have done research on the physiological effects of climate change on marine organisms and the environmental variability of genetic regulation. Most recently, I was working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the BC Ministry of Environment to develop environmental DNA (eDNA) tools for invasive fish detection in BC freshwater lakes.

I have done extensive science communication and outreach over the past 15 years in many capacities and am excited to be getting involved with this incredible organization. I can't wait to get to know everyone and continue to experience the wonders that the Yukon has to offer.

Autumn 2019

Goodbye from the trail guides - Sylvie Kramer

Though many of the flowers this year came and went quickly, I did not think the summer would do the same. I could not count the number of hikers the trail has seen this season but I do remember all the smiling faces! Though much of the hikes consisted of the same material told time and time again, the people always kept it fun to talk about.

In my time working with the Yukon Conservation Society, I learned things about the Yukon I never would have imagined would be true. To have learning be the primary feature of the job was awesome. Who knew working could be so much fun? And it wasn't exclusively about the Yukon. So many hikers who joined us at the Canyon were from all over the world, and it was fantastic to learn about their homelands and cultures.

I remember at the beginning of the season, my coworkers and I were talking about the amount of exercise we would be getting, and how fit we would be at the end of it. I certainly feel much more fit now than I did then. Being more active was something I planned for the summer and what a plus it was that I was getting daily exercise as part of the job!

It still is hard to process that it's all over, but I am incredibly grateful to have had such a wonderful summer along the canyon. I discovered a history and a home to an abundance of organisms there that I had no idea existed. I'll be leaving with a new found confidence that this land remains as wild as ever, and that the Yukon Conservation Society as well as many others are working hard to keep it so. Thank you to the little blue house with the big owl on Hawkins Street!

Walk Softly

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Tanya Handley, Davon Callander

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Editorial

This is the speech that Mike gave at the Peel is Protected Party in Whitehorse on September 27 2019.

I'd like to recognize that we are celebrating on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwach'an Council.

When we gather together, we can experience the spirit of community, and when this happens – we connect and we become one. Still with our differences, still our own person, still our own peoples but we connect.

And so, here this evening, we connect and share community because the beauty of the lands and waters of the Peel touched our souls, our imaginations, and our hearts.

And there are thousands of people not here this evening, who are part of our Peel community, who, like you, cared enough to write letters, sign petitions, protest, sing songs, stick stickers on your car, bicycle, laptop or backpack, and send money, whether a few dollars or in the tens of thousands.

Together, we gave power to the message, "PROTECT THE PEEL"!

Thank you for writing, thank you for protesting, thank you for donating, and singing and at times crying. Your caring and your concern for lands, that are perhaps close to home, far away from home and for a lucky few, home! speak to how much we care.

We care about places and species, plants and animals, sunsets and sunrises we may never see. We care about the swimmers, crawlers, flyers, walkers and "two-leggeds" because we know everything is connected and everything is dependent on clean air, land and water.

I was taught, "In Wildness is the Preservation of the World" (Henry David Thorough). The message in these words is clear– the natural world holds the solutions to all of our modern day problems. Lose nature and lose yourself.

"Together for the Peel", we have ensured that the wildness of the place will be felt, and learned by future generations. That ways of life and knowing will continue.

In these dark days of biodiversity crisis and climate emergency, of young people worried for the world and their future,

We have created hope.

Mike Walton – YCS Executive Director

Farewell my fellow conservers!

As some of you may know and perhaps many of you will not, I am stepping away from my role here at YCS and taking on a new position at the City of Whitehorse. It has been an incredible year-and-a-half and I am sad to be leaving this wonderful community.

Looking back at my time with YCS, there are a number of moments and events that stand out and seem to define the time that I was here.

The first big one was the commencement of Yukon government developing their new Climate Change, Energy, and Green Economy Strategy. Our brilliant Energy Committee and I worked together to develop 29 specific recommendations to support the clean energy transition and keep Yukon wild. I am optimistic and hopeful that many of the recommendations will be reflected in the draft strategy that should be released soon.

Then the Yukon Utility Board ruled that Yukon Energy must give the axe to all current and future energy conservation and load shifting programs, collectively known as 'demand side management'. This represented a major step backwards as Yukon Energy had been inching into demand side management since 2011 and was on the verge of releasing a plan for much more significant conservation programs. Our advocacy resulted in Yukon government preparing to overturn the decision if need be and Yukon Energy has taken the utility board to court over the decision. The dust hasn't yet settled, but I am confident that YCS helped raise the issue to a point where the decision-makers are determined to set it right.

This summer, we (and so many others) spoke out against Yukon Energy's plans to build a new 20MW fossil fuel power plant... and we won! In the face of stiff public opposition, YEC will continue to rent backup generators until they work out an alternative solution.

And lately, I've been focused on the creation of an electric thermal storage (ETS) demonstration project that will see up to 50 ETS units installed in Yukon homes. The project isn't up and running yet, but stay tuned, hopefully in the summer of 2020 we will be able to start reducing diesel reliance with energy storage in people's homes!

I'd like to say thank you to my fellow staff for their support, patience, laughter, and collaboration. Thank you to our incredible board of directors for their guidance, wisdom, and enthusiasm. Thank you to our Energy Committee for sharing their knowledge, questioning the status quo, debating tough issues, and bringing forward inspiring solutions. And finally, thank you to our members. Our hundreds of members lend enormous weight to the YCS voice, and it is this community that gives the organization its strength.

Farewell, and tread lightly my friends. ☺

-Cody

Hello YCS members,

Members are central to YCS:

- The number of members shows the strength of support for YCS's public position on environmental issues. Members enhance the organisation's credibility.
- Members are an important source of volunteers and expertise.
- Members can amplify YCS's voice through individual actions such as signing petitions and writing to elected representatives.
- Diverse views from a broad spectrum of people who support YCS's mission strengthens YCS.
- Members may assist YCS with donations.



And your friends!

Would you invite two or three people you know to consider membership in the Yukon Conservation Society?

To assist you in inviting new members, a YCS overview brochure, printed copies of the *Walk Softly* newsletter and membership forms are available. Pick them up at the YCS office, or volunteers can drop them off or mail them to you.

Email outreach@yukonconservation.org

Or call Mary 668-4528 (membership volunteer) or Davon (outreach and communication manager) 668-5678 ext 1.

Thanks for whatever help you can offer. YCS has a solid membership base now, but more, in this case, is better!

*Membership Committee
(Jason, Mary, Julie, Itai, Davon)*

E-Bike Bliss

I love bikes. Since I moved downtown, I do most of my commuting and errands by bicycle. Unfortunately it wasn't always that way. I lived in Whistle Bend for about 6 months last summer and hardly ever rode into town. I thought about it regularly, but I always found that the time and effort required to ride back up Mountain View Drive was too much. Driving was just too easy.

Living downtown, I again found that visiting friends and family "up the hill" in Porter Creek, Whistle Bend, or Copper Ridge was too much of a commitment. Part of me felt frustrated and resigned to the fact that Whitehorse was too spread out, but part of me sought a solution.

Enter the electric bicycle (ebike).

I installed an electric conversion kit on my commuter bike this July and have been thrilled with it so far. It is a pedal assist kit, so you still pedal the bike like normal, but it gives you a boost when you want it to maintain your speed uphill or accelerate from a stop light. I find that I can cruise up Two Mile Hill and Mountain View Drive at about 30km/hr! I get to the top feeling warm and exercised but not sweaty. For me, this is a total game changer. Instead of a 30 minute ride followed by a shower (and needing to bring a change of clothes), I can get from my house to Whistle Bend in 15 minutes flat on my ebike. No shower required.

So far my odometer (yes, my ebike has an odometer) reads just over 100km, essentially all of which would have been traveled in my car in the past.

Because bicycles are so incredibly efficient, the ebike only uses approximately 1kWh of electricity to travel 100km. That much electricity costs about \$0.14, compared with about \$11.00 in gas to drive my car the same distance.

Regarding range, I haven't yet tested to see how far it can go, but on paper it should be able to do about 70km. What I do know is that I can go up to Porter Creek and back at least 3 times without needing to charge up. Charging is easy; I bring the battery inside and plug it in at night, just like a phone.

Some people feel that an electric bike is "cheating", but I see it as the perfect way to get ourselves out of the car and onto our bikes. You are still pedalling and exercising, the electric assist simply flattens the hills and reverses the headwinds, leaving you with all the best parts of cycling and none of the drudgery.

Give me a shout if you would like to learn more or take mine for a spin!

*Cody Reaume
YCS Energy Analyst*

The peel watershed final plan signing ceremony

The final plan! We have really truly arrived at a final plan in this epic battle for the protection of the Peel. The journey has been a long one and the final plan was signed by the different governments involved on Thursday August 22, 2019 in Mayo. There was a large event in Mayo on that day to mark the occasion.

Sebastian Jones and I were up there on behalf of YCS, as well as many other happy Yukoners. For those that weren't able to make the trip to Mayo, there was a signing ceremony live stream event at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse. At 3pm the ceremony began in Galena park near the river in Mayo. Luckily, the road works and paving that was meant to take place that day was postponed! The different leaders participated in a water ceremony during the signing. They each poured water from a different Peel related water source into a beautiful communal jug that was then poured into the Stewart river later that day following the festivities. It was beautiful.

After the singing itself, an exchange of gifts, and of course a press conference, there was a reception dinner and dancing at the community hall. To end the evening, there was more singing around a fire up at C6, the Nacho Nyak Dun Government house.

Here at YCS, we are happy with the plan. Protection of large swaths of intact wilderness is important. The interim protection will be reviewed in 10 years and will need the approval of ALL parties if changes are to be made.

Thank you to everyone near and far who helped protect this precious region.

Davon Callander



The Trouble With (Bitter-)Sweet Sweetclover

Sweetclover sure is sweet, but its harm in Yukon conditions far outweighs its benefits and concerted efforts need be applied.

The story of invasive species is one of species that have so much competitive advantage when they are introduced to a new ecosystem that they outcompete the others. And they win flat out. For sensitive or fragilized ecosystems, this is a call for the demise of their biodiversity, resilience, and productivity. Sometimes it's an outright toppling, with the native species being completely displaced and extirpated. Fragilized ecosystems include highway corridors, unattended lots, or disturbed slopes. They often are a vector/carrier to legit sensitive ecosystems, such as floodplains, riverbanks, grasslands, and wetlands. There already are far too many documented instances where this has led to the loss of species and entire ecosystem types: science has established that invasive species is among the top culprits in the current biodiversity crisis, and possibly the number one threat to insular ecosystems.

One especially nasty exotic invasive that has been creeping along in Yukon is what is called 'sweetclover' (*Melilotus albus*). It was introduced to North America in the 1600's for forage and honey production. It forms – arguably beautiful, fragrant – strands along roadways. As the name implies, sweetclover is a boon for bees. The sugar content of its white (sometimes yellow) flowers is phenomenal, and it is not uncommon to see bees frantically foraging among sweetclover stands. As a matter of fact, sweetclover has been documented to be able to significantly boost the 'carrying capacity' of bees in North American ecosystems. No doubt, sweetclover is sweet. Like any plant of the legume family (Fabaceae), its presence also adds nitrogen to the soil.

What these bees don't know is that this quick sugar source actually is very damaging to pretty much everyone else. Sweetclover is especially nasty and of special concern because it invades and destroys sensitive ecosystems that are unique to the North, with a throng of known and some less-known impacts. In Alaska, the invasion of glacial rivers' floodplains has been documented to cause a variety of measurable ecological shifts, from changes to vegetation succession to the alteration of rivers' sedimentation rates.

In turn, these changes impact a variety of species and local cultures and economies. For instance, it is a reality that the presence of sweetclover on rivers' gravel bars can degrade northern shorebirds' habitat, and salmon's spawning grounds can be affected by the alteration of sedimentation rates.

More direct and immediate impacts on human well-being include the fact that sweetclover grows tall and thick along roadways (1-2 meters high), creating a visibility hazard and a public safety issue. Farmers also need be concerned by the fact that the presence of moldy sweetclover in hay produces dicoumarol, a toxin that can severely impact livestock health (cattle, sheep, goats, horses). All in all, sweetclover sure is sweet, but its harm in Yukon conditions far outweighs its benefits.

Besides, providing sugar for bees is nothing that local, native plants can't offer (e.g. roses, lupine, fireweed, balsam poplar). And a variety of



*Invasive species painting
by Stephanie Ryan*

other harmless legumes can provide otherwise well-needed nitrogen to agricultural soils (e.g. lupine, alfalfa, field peas).

New invasion beds are spotted every year. Of special concern at the moment is the fact that sweetclover has been documented in the vicinity of Kluane National Park, on sand bars of the Alsek river near Haines Junction. It is well-known that sweetclover can disseminate downstream from a road-river interface. It is also known that efforts pay off. For more information on invasive species and to get support on integrated management efforts, visit YISC website at www.yukoninvasives.com, or email us at info@yukoninvasives.com. In the global fight to stop the erosion of nature's complexity, every effort counts.

Michel Duteau, for Yukon Invasive Species Council (YISC)



The Yukon Conservation Society exists to protect the wild – the animals, the fish, the birds and even the plants. We do this largely by monitoring, and sometimes opposing, the actions of some industries and the policies of some governments. This is important work that has energized the organization for the last half century.

But that is only half the story. The increasing number of people who have chosen to live in the Yukon must also play a role in 'protecting the wild'. Along with people everywhere, we are realizing that continuing to live the status quo will only take us further down the road to unsustainability. We must change our own ways. But how, in what ways?

In a coming series of articles in *Walk Softly*, we want to explore some of the possibilities for these changes. YCS doesn't have a 'to do' list for its supporters. But we do have some ideas of directions that can lead to towards a brighter more sustainable future for the Yukon – for all its parts, human and non-human.

For this first article, we look at a small first step – **what we use to package our food?**

The Zero Waste Challenge has encouraged all Yukoners, particularly those in Whitehorse, to do all they can to reduce their wastes and to compost or recycle as much of the remainder as possible. Recycling metals such as tin and aluminum cans is simple and straightforward. Glass is not recyclable in the Yukon but can be used as clean fill and poses no environmental problems. It is sometimes reused in some bottling places.

But the mountain of plastic containers in our recycling box or, worse, in our garbage is a different matter. It gets tricky. The clear plastic pop bottles and plastic 'clam shells' are made of the same plastic (#2) as polyester clothing and is relatively easy to recycle. Similarly, the milky white milk jugs are made of polyethylene (#1) and are relatively valuable. The rest is more difficult and that includes all those single-use plastic bags you find in the produce section or at the checkouts.

There are alternatives and they are easy to use. For your produce there are sheer cloth drawstring bags, often for sale at the supermarkets. For the checkout, cloth or nylon bags work better than paper or plastic as they don't burst. These too are often for sale. (Environmentally, it turns out the nylon bags are better than cotton bags due to all the water and pesticides used to grow cotton.)

And finally there's all that thin plastic wrap that's so handy to wrap up leftovers. Here, too, 'crafty' Yukoners are now selling beeswax impregnated cloth wraps that seal around food or over containers just like the plastic wrap.

These changes in our individual behaviour are important but large scale change will make more difference in the long run. Currently, the Yukon Government is considering placing a fee on the use of those troublesome single use plastic bags or even an outright ban.

Making use of these alternatives does require more organization and, alone, won't 'save the planet'. But it is one solid step in moving from wasteful convenience to satisfying sustainability.

Stuart Clark and Walter Streit



Key Biodiversity Areas

YCS has become aware of exciting work being done in Yukon and Canada with Key Biodiversity Areas or KBAs. Systematic conservation planning and KBAs are two methods that are used to inform management decisions in land planning processes.

KBAs use biodiversity data alone, while systematic conservation planning uses biodiversity data and implementation-relevant data to support planning choices. These two approaches support science-based decision making in land use planning processes.

This Yukon KBA work will be important as we continue to influence governments to address the dual threats of climate change and biodiversity loss. As the KBA process proceeds, YCS looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and to learn more about KBAs.

One of the most effective ways to safeguard wildlife and wild places is through the improved management and protection of areas of special importance. **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.**

The new KBA Standard provides criteria to identify and recognize these areas, developed by an IUCN Task Force and recommended for use in Canada by the Pathway to Target 1 National Advisory Panel (NAP). KBAs bring together a range of efforts developed for different elements of biodiversity (birds, plants, mammals, ecosystems, etc.) under one roof for the first time, creating a comprehensive, robust and quantitative tool. Areas may be recognized as key because they contain rare or threatened species or ecosystems. They may also be areas where animals gather in large numbers for part of the year,

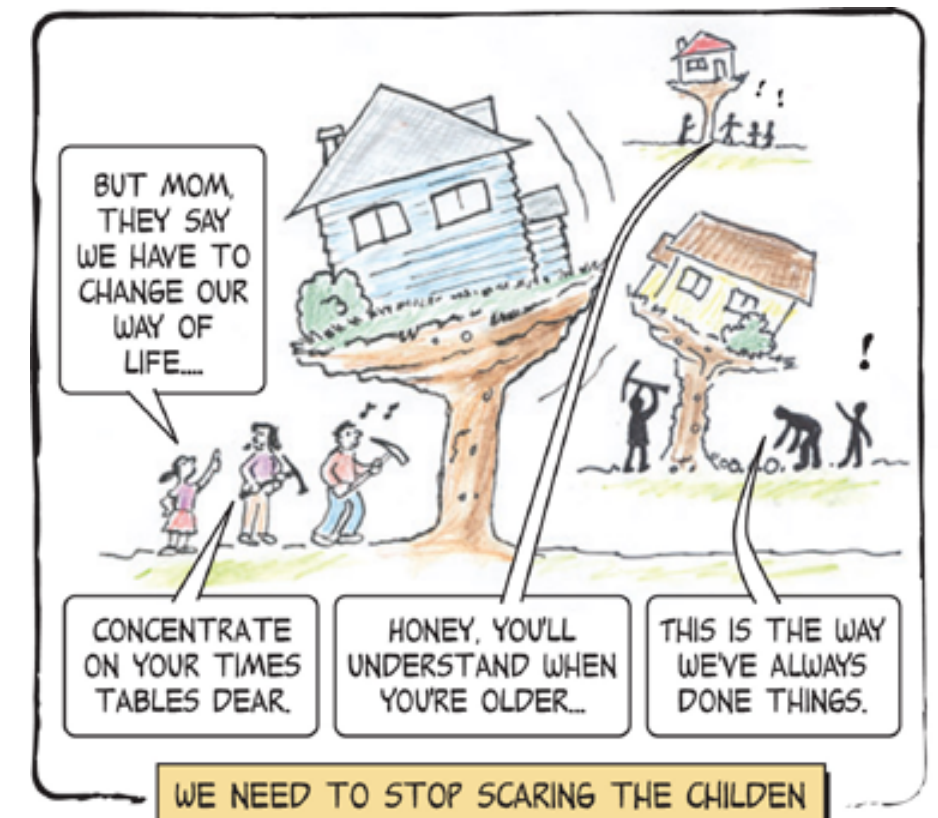
intact areas that are undisturbed by industrial development, or areas of irreplaceable habitat. The identification of KBAs in Canada will allow for more informed conservation efforts, including as part of land-use planning and economic development. It is important to note that KBA designation by itself has no impact on access to land. Foundational support for the first few years of the KBA initiative has been provided by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The technical stage of this work – gathering data and assessing population thresholds related to specific species – has been initiated in Yukon. The Yukon KBA Coordinator, Maria Leung (leungreid@northwestel.net) is reaching out to local taxonomic experts and other knowledge holders to complete this first stage of the work. The KBA Coalition would like everyone to be aware of this work,

and to note that opportunities for other forms of input will be provided as the work progresses. Yukon is the first regional initiative in Canada to try to identify KBAs and the experience will provide lessons and ideas for doing this work in other places in Canada.

The Canadian KBA Coalition coordinates the identification of KBAs in Canada and is open to environmental NGOs, Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments, Indigenous leaders and academic and other expert institutions. These organisations, as well as other affiliated groups such as COSEWIC, are providing support and expertise to assist in identifying KBAs and are important partners helping to gather information, communicate the importance of KBAs and promote appropriate measures to conserve them. Coordination is provided by WCS Canada as the Secretariat of the initiative.

Learn more at www.kbcanada.org



In Memoriam: Gerry Couture

March 5, 1939 – May 16, 2019 • Dawson City, Yukon



Gerry Couture was a dedicated and tireless advocate for Yukon wildlife.

The Yukon Conservation Society is deeply saddened to hear that the Yukon has lost a conservation champion with the death of Gerry Couture.

Gerry was a tireless and fearless advocate for Yukon fish and wildlife, particularly salmon. His conservation efforts spanned decades and his death leaves a big hole in the Yukon landscape.

Gerry worked as YCS's Mining Coordinator until he retired in 2009. The Yukon Conservation Society commemorates Gerry's feisty spirit and personal dedication to conservation with the Gerry Couture Stewardship Award. The donor of the award is inspired by Gerry Couture's fearlessness and persistence in the face of adversity, and his creativity, innovation, and curmudgeonliness.

"A real loss for the Yukon. Gerry was so multifaceted. Placer miner, trapper, fisher, outfitter/horse wrangler. His years of service on the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Salmon Subcommittee. His outspoken voice in Dawson advocating for Salmon and a credible placer authorization. I can remember him flying me out to Thistle Creek in his Super Cub and spending an evening hanging out with some old time placer miners there, drinking coffee and listening to stories and opinions. Rest in peace Gerry." – Bob Van Dijken (YCS Mining Committee)

"Gerry was in many ways a mentor to me and I still leaned on him for advice on a regular basis. He leaves a very big hole." – Sebastian Jones (YCS Fish, Habitat & Wildlife Analyst)



Gerry's life and character placed him among the Yukon's colourful 5%. Born March 5, 1939 in Rossland BC, Gerry began working with natural resources at the early age of 15, working summers in mining and logging camps and smelters. Among his many life adventures, Gerry served in the Canadian military and was a pilot, tradesman, competitive dog musher, homesteader, farmer, hunter, commercial fisher, and placer miner.

Over the years, Gerry served on a number of boards working to protect fish and wildlife habitat. His roles included: 17 years as the Canadian Delegate to the Yukon River salmon negotiations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty; 13 years helping to establish and chair the Fish and Wildlife Management Board; and 12 years with the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee.

Perhaps his most difficult challenge with salmon hit close to his home in Dawson City. Mounting dissatisfaction with the Yukon Placer Authorization – an outdated relic of a bygone era – finally forced a full scale review in which Gerry, as a representative of the Salmon Subcommittee, joined with those calling for substantial change. This issue was highly volatile in Dawson City – the home of placer mining – where, in 2002, a demonstration called Black Wednesday was held. Under such local pressure the average citizen might have withdrawn until the crisis had passed. But Gerry had a military temperament and he never backed down despite becoming the target of industry harassment and threatening phone calls – not to mention ostracism by his home town. Eventually, a new Placer Regime rose from the ashes and salmon are the better for it.



YES! I want to help protect Yukon's environment by supporting the Yukon Conservation Society!

Send or drop off form to:
302 Hawkins St. Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1X6
info@yukonconservation.org

Both donations & memberships are tax deductible. A printable tax receipt will be emailed to you unless you request a paper copy.

Name(s): _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____
Postal code: _____
Email: _____

- I want to volunteer, please send me information.
- I would like to receive a twice-monthly email with YCS news and events.
- I would like a paper tax receipt.

Yukon Conservation Society

YCS has been working since 1968 to protect the Yukon's land, water and wildlife – thanks to the support of members, donors and volunteers like you!

Charitable Org. # 119307890RR0001

** PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.*

DONATION:
\$60, \$200, \$500, Surprise us! \$ _____
Monthly Pledge (credit card only) \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP: (valid for one year)
Chose 1: Student (\$10), Individual (\$25) or Family 2 or more people (\$40) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT

Payment Method:
Cheque # _____ \$ _____
Cash \$ _____
Visa / Mastercard \$ _____

Expiry /
Signature _____

OFFICE USE:
Received Date: _____ Amount: _____ Initials: _____
Entered into system: _____ Credit Card authorization #: _____
Receipt #: _____ date _____ emailed/mailed Initials: _____



Thank you to Mary, Jason, Julie, and Itai for getting up and running with the new membership committee!

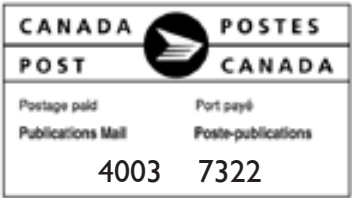
Thank you to Tanya Handley for her work on Walk Softly and some form updates.

Thank you to all our garden volunteers this summer who kept the plants weeded and watered!

Thank you to the volunteers who helped make our events run smoothly!

And thank you to everyone who contributes time and energy to YCS committees, projects and work!

Thank You Volunteers!



**Come
celebrate
with us!**

**302
Hawkins
Street**

YCS Member Pot Luck

Friday, Nov. 15 5:30-7pm

A chance for members to connect with each other and touch bases with YCS staff.

There are limited kitchen facilities at YCS so bring food ready to go (including serving tools). If you want to bring a crock pot by YCS to plug in at lunch time you are welcome to. Also it wouldn't be a bad idea to bring your own plate and cutlery.

YCS Year End Party

Friday Dec 13, Open house from 4, Pot luck from 5pm, award presentations at 6.

As the end of 2019 draws near, join us to celebrate all the amazing achievements from the past year. So much support from members and volunteers, and success on environmental issues.

All are welcome. Refreshments are provided.

The recipients of the 2019 Gerry Couture Stewardship Award and YCS Volunteer of the Year will be announced at 6pm.

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