

FALL 2012 | FREE

LEDGEYK





TIM DOYLE FOR MAYOR

Tim is the candidate for change in Yellowknife in 2012. His goal is to bring BALANCE back to the political scene in Yellowknife and help lead the city back to its rightful place as the economic and business centre of the North of 60 region. Balance is a truly sustainable objective, one that allows countless generations to live in the greatest place in Canada for years to come.



Tim's main issues are:

Fiscal responsibility:

Yellowknife City Hall has consistently increased spending and taxes for eight straight years. It is time to rein in spending, cut down on waste and show we are responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Cost of Living:

Yellowknife's costs have rapidly spiraled out of control as a reasonable place to live and do business. We need to stop burdening our residents and businesses with annual fee and tax increases, while stifling growth, and let developers help us grow the City's tax base. City Hall should **NOT** be competing with developers.

Accountability:

The City of Yellowknife needs to improve transparency with the citizens of Yellowknife through openness, accessibility, and by respecting the voters' decisions.

Public Services:

Many Yellowknife roads and sidewalks are in terrible shape and have been for years. We need to fix our infrastructure in a timely fashion. We also need to make our elected officials and administration open to the public once again.

Prosperity:

Yellowknife has slipped in importance as a business destination.

While our neighbours enjoy great business success, we have consistently added red tape and denied businesses the opportunity to grow and flourish. This attitude must change and we must strive to be the centre for business in the North of 60 region once again.

Environment:

We all have a duty to protect and preserve our environment. City Hall has a duty to create a sustainable and long-lasting contribution to the environment. Let's create policies that make sense and are sustainable for all stakeholders.



ISSUE 4 FALL 2012

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EDGE YK is available in Yellowknife at:

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AND ONLINE AT EDGEYK.CA

Old photos, Old Town and EDGE news

This issue looks back, and forward. Looking back, we have a great feature by Erin Suliak on YK's first professional photographer, Henry Busse. Accompanied by photos from the NWT Archives, the story tells us about the man while the images show YK during the 1940s and '50s.

Looking forward, our Old Town feature brings together a number of great contributions. It takes stock of where the area is, as well as where it might go. It also includes the visions of three mayoral candidates. Change is always difficult, but discussing the future of Old Town and the waterfront is important, and the City's recent negotiation of a long-term lease on the Government Dock is a good step toward improved public access to the water.

And as the days get shorter and colder, we have lots of other great stories to curl up with, including our first local Band Spotlight by Casey Koyczan, a story on making a beautiful piece of rustic birch furniture by Josey Goodin, as well as Sarah Marsh's scoop on geocaching in YK.

There's also news from the **EDGE** office, the biggest of which is we've hired a managing editor. Laurie Sarkadi has spent many years working as a journalist at CBC North and covered the North for the *Edmonton Journal*. It's an understatement to say we're incredibly happy to have someone with her talent and knowledge on board.

We've also changed our name (if only slightly) to **EDGE YK**, to make sure people know right away that we're all about YK. Also as of this issue, our fourth, we've outgrown the 48-page limit of our current format. Many thanks to the magazine's great contributors and advertisers for making that happen. After giving it some thought, we've decided to continue quarterly, but with more pages per issue.

No matter what changes around here, we'll keep producing great hyper-local media about Yellowknife for Yellowknifers. As many of you know, we'll cover everything from business to arts, and we're always looking for new contributors. Email story ideas, anytime, to editor@edgeyk.ca.

Until the next time,

Brent Reaney
Editor / Publisher



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have fun here,
give up.

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CONTRIBUTORS



**ERIN
SULIAK**

Erin is an Archivist at the NWT Archives. She was born in Yellowknife and spent her childhood here, returning to work to make history accessible to fellow northerners. She is also passionate about the arts, teaching fibre art techniques and performing dance.



**PEARL
RACHINSKY**

Pearl is a freelance illustrator in Yellowknife. Self-taught, and from the prairie loins of Alberta, Pearl's line drawings capture perceptive and incisive expression in the subtlety of her lines and shapes. Her style has been described as incomparable and identifiable from a great distance. In this issue of **EDGE YK**, Pearl illustrates Loren McGinnis's story on Ice Road Trucker, Alex Debogorski. Other collaborators include *The Independent Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, Blue Note Records, Epitaph Records, and Sub Pop Records. When not drawing, Pearl coordinates the Folk on the Rocks Music Festival. pearlrachinsky.com



**SARAH
MARSH**

Born and raised in Whitehorse, Sarah moved south after high school to live, snowboard and bike in BC... oh, and go to college. She misses the mountains, but loves her life in YK. She finished school, got married, moved to Yellowknife and has two cool kids – both of whom enjoy geocaching, which she writes about in this issue of **EDGE YK**. This is her first attempt at writing something more entertaining than her Facebook status.



**JOSEY
GOODIN**

Josey's Yellowknife experience began in 2006. He arrived by motorcycle for a month-long visit from Vancouver and instantly fell in love with the North's rugged beauty. After several return trips, he moved here in January, 2010. Originally from Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, in the mid- to late-90's Josey began making rustic furniture, which he writes about in this issue of **EDGE YK**, as well as traditional Mi'kmaq baskets. joseygoodinbasketry.tumblr.com



**CASEY
KOYCZAN**

Casey has been working "backwards" through the arts; starting digitally and moving toward the traditional sense of art. He is starting his graduating year at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops this fall, where he will experiment with a combination of sculpture, installation, and audio art to create enveloping interactions for the mind and body. Casey doesn't consider himself a professional writer, but he knows how to put sound and energy from musicians into context for the reader's examination, which he does in this issue's Band Spotlight.



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SPREADSHEET

City vote breakdown

We're having a municipal election on October 15, so the **EDGE YK** stats team did some analysis of YK election results from the last decade. Here's what we found:

CANDIDATES

Incumbents rule city elections, period. Of the 17 incumbents who ran in the last three YK elections, 14, or 82 per cent, were re-elected.

However, only incumbents who were among the top three vote getters in the last election were safe from elimination. Two of the de-throned incumbents ranked as high as fourth in votes received in the previous election.

But every Councillor has to step down at some point, and there has traditionally been space for newcomers on YK's council. In this election, as this magazine goes to press, there are likely at least three of eight seats open. They include mayoral candidates Mark Heyck and Paul Falvo, who are not eligible to run for council, as well as Councillor David Wind, who was still considering whether he'd run again. Of the last four elections, an average of 3.5 newcomers were elected, while 2006 saw a whopping five newbies.

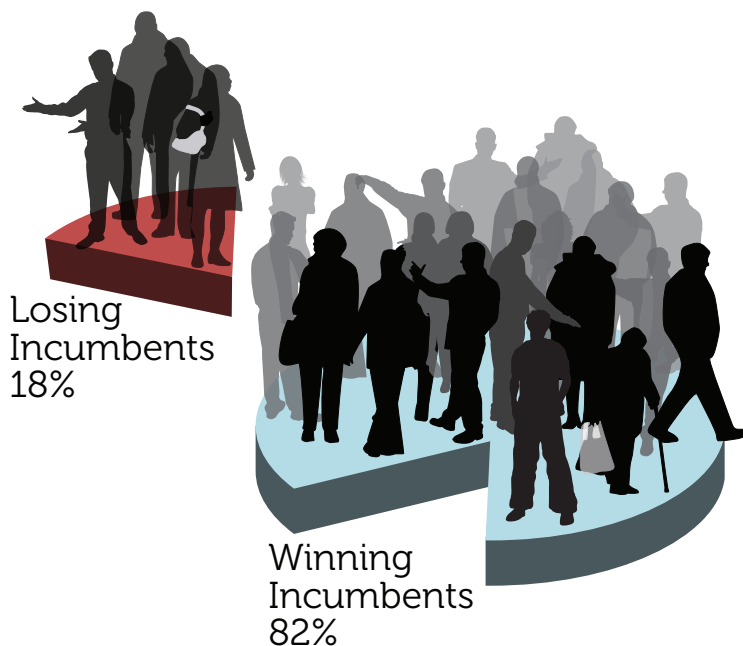
GETTING YOUR MESSAGE OUT

Although there are distinct preferences in some polls, such as downtown polls tending to vote differently from Range Lake or Frame Lake, candidates who did well tended to rank in the top four at all polling stations.

VOTERS

Every vote counts. While the difference between eighth and ninth has averaged about 150 votes over the past decade, the margin has been narrowing. In 2009, the ninth place candidate lost by 28 and in 2006 the last candidate was only nine votes away from victory.

The numbers also show losers as unlikely to run again. Of the 20 candidates who lost between 2000 and 2006, only one put their name forward a second time, and he only finished one spot away from being elected!



Looking for municipal election coverage? Check out EDGEYK.ca for interviews with mayoral candidates during the month of September.



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FOUND FOOD

Great Slave Lake Fish Cakes with Garlic Mayo!

Difficult as it is to imagine leftovers from a feast of Great Slave Lake fish, this recipe does justice to white fish, trout, or cod, and the garlic mayo is good on everything.

FISH CAKES

Ingredients:

- 1 pound of cooked fillets
- 2 medium-sized potatoes
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- Grapeseed oil, or other high-smoke-point oil, such as canola oil, for frying

Boil and mash the potatoes. Flake the fish with a fork. Be sure to remove all bones. Mix the ingredients together. If the mixture is too crumbly, add another egg. If too sticky, add some more bread crumbs. Form the mixture into cakes and fry them on medium-high heat.

AIOLI PROVENÇAL GARLIC MAYONNAISE

Ingredients:

- Four to six large garlic cloves minced
- Salt to taste, pepper and pinch of chili flakes
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 cups extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

Mash together minced garlic, bread crumbs, salt, pepper, chili, and red wine vinegar. Add the egg yolks to make a thick paste and begin adding olive oil in dribbles, whisking it all together. It helps to rest the bowl on a damp towel shaped into a ring. Once you have a good emulsion, add the oil in larger amounts. When all of the oil has been added, taste and adjust salt. Refrigerate until ready to use. Mayo is good for a couple of weeks, if kept refrigerated, but is unlikely to last that long.

Do you have a recipe that uses at least one local ingredient?
Email us at editor@edgeyk.ca.

Congratulations to everyone embarking on a new year of learning.

"Knowledge is an unending adventure at the EDGE of uncertainty."

Jacob Bronowski

WENDY BISARO

MLA Frame Lake, Legislative Assembly of the NWT

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SOUNDWALKING AROUND OLD TOWN

AN AUDIO TOUR

by Janna Graham



artwork by Myka Jones Design

When I began exploring Yellowknife as a newcomer, the Old Town was like a wild treasure hunt that might unearth artifacts at every corner. Visually, there was a lot to take in. Then, as I came to know people in town, the narrative of the town's beginnings fascinated me. The stories of bootleggers, prospectors, trappers, fishermen, woodcutters, bush pilots and adventure seekers seemed an integral part of the town's frontier spirit – worth preserving. It also struck me that it's still possible to go for a walk in the Old Town and locate places and pieces from the early days.

So, this summer I set out to find a few guides – Yellowknifers with a history in the Old Town – to talk about the town as they know it. I recorded a series of interviews and also the sounds of neighborhoods. The resulting mix of stories, ambients sounds and archival audio is The Old Town Soundwalk. Basically, it's an audio walking tour winding through Willow Flats, the Woodyard, the Government Dock, up Pilot's Monument and down along Back Bay.

For me, sound and oral history are one way of connecting to the roots of a place. And yet, history only goes so far. Getting to know a place on one's own, one neighborhood at a time, is a powerful experience. Something is always happening in the Old Town – you just need to show up.

The map above shows all the stops on the Soundwalk route. You can download or print your own at oldtownsoundwalk.ca.

Wanna go for a walk?

The Old Town Soundwalk is available online and can be done anytime. Here's how it works:

Pick up a map around town or download a PDF from the Sound Walk site at oldtownsoundwalk.ca. You can pick up physical maps at Down to Earth Gallery, the Visitor's Centre and a few other locations, or you can cut out the map on this page.

Go to oldtownsoundwalk.ca and download the audio clips (there are seven in total) to an MP3 device. If you have a smart phone, you can keep the web page open as you walk and stream them as you go.

If possible, the tour is intended to be heard without headphones so you can also hear what's happening around you during the walk.

To start, go to the corner of School Draw and Brock Drive. Play audio clip #1 from Willow Flats, and follow the directions. The entire tour takes roughly 80 minutes, start to finish, and you can do it in sections, if you don't have time to do the whole thing.



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THE ODD PETS OF YELLOWKNIFE

The Parrot

by
Alison
McCreesh



A sure sign of Spring's coming,
was once enthusiastic shrieking



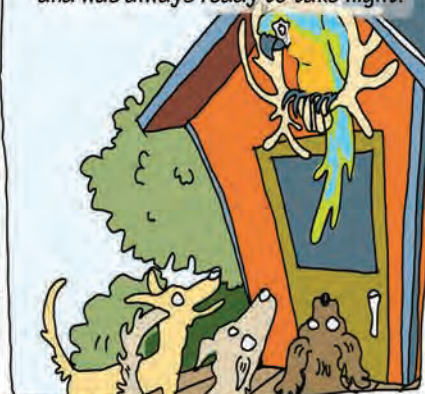
for when the long Winter was through,
around the Woodyard a parrot flew.



Of course, Old Town was a haven,
for many a dog and a raven



but thankfully the bird was bright,
and was always ready to take flight.



For many a Northern Summer,
the exotic bird would boldly wander



and though days were full of exploration,
evenings were for food and relaxation.



Then into a teenager the parrot grew,
and one windy night mocked curfew.



He stayed out later than was wise,
and thus met his tragic demise.



The parrot was hatched and raised in Yellowknife's Old Town, and lived with the Rocher family for 14 years. The colourful (nameless) bird spent Winters in the house and Summers flying freely around Old Town. Many locals still fondly remember seeing it perched in the trees and on the roofs, as well as sighting it soaring over Franklin Ave and Yellowknife Bay.



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BAND SPOTLIGHT **CAUGHT BY HOLDEN**

LOCK UP YOUR LIQUOR CABINETS AND HIDE YOUR STAR WARS COLLECTABLES...

by Casey Koyczan

photo courtesy Kyle Galbaransingh

I have known all these musicians over the last six years, and not only are they very solid dudes, they also put together some pretty awesome music. Whether it's punk, alternative, or some sort of toe-tapping noise, Caught by Holden fill rooms with energy and music true to the punk roots an abundance of us possess from growing up in the North.

It seems almost everyone in Yellowknife plays a guitar, and when they do, they either play folk or punk. There's not much in between, it's what we know and love, and these guys are not folk musicians at all.

The band's name derives from the book *Catcher in the Rye*, where at the end, the main character, Holden, talks about wanting to save kids (innocence) from falling through the rye, and wished someone was there to catch them if they fell. The same thing applies to the band and their music; they don't care, because in the end they know that no one should, it's all about fun.

I've sat in with these guys numerous times at their jam shack in Kam Lake. It's always a good time and a fun atmosphere to be immersed in; music posters and guitars hanging all over the wall, a PA chained to the ceiling, various equipment and amps all over the place, and beer cans scattered throughout the outer rim of the space that note the hours logged playing music, or sitting around talking.

They have played on both sides of Great Slave Lake; at the South Slave Friendship Festival in Fort Smith, tearing it up at The Landing, and at numerous venues in Yellowknife. They kept it real at the SnowKing Festival, and there are not too many bands that can say they have had people crowd surfing at the Top Knight.

They're also masters of promotion. Being a huge Star Wars fan, lead singer and guitarist Kyle Galbaransingh once had a ploy to gather a massive amount of people at a gig by advertising a "Free Toyota." It was never typed out on

the show poster, just spread through word of mouth, and people speculated that it would be a beast of a vehicle that no one would want... but regardless, it worked and a solid number of people made it out in anticipation of, or curiosity about, the car or truck in question, in addition to the band's performance. When the draw was finally made, Kyle handed over a miniature "Toy Yoda" Star Wars collectable figurine to the winner, an abundance of laughs were had, and the night was set.

Along with doling out Star Wars stuff, Kyle plays catchy riffs that span multi-genres of music, and his scratchy, pack-of-smokes-a-day voice intertwines harmoniously with his chord structures and adds to the drive that fuels the rest of the band. Kyle is a riot to hang out with, and his slightly abrasive comedic attitude highlights hilarious conversations.

Greg Hamann slays the bass with an ever-evolving rig of crunch, while at the same time being able to bench press his setup multiple times. I've seen him do it. Let's just say he's a good guy to have on your side, and he cares a lot about water quality, which is important.

The backbone of the band, Dan "bloody hands" T'seleie, holds it down as one of the most on-time drummers YK has to offer. Even if he's gushing blood from every knuckle from excessive rim shots, he cracks out dependable beats every time I've seen him play. Dan is also probably one of the most down-to-earth mofo's I know, and spends his work-time fighting the good fight for Canada's indigenous population and drawing attention on a global scale to northern climate change.

This past summer, the band teamed up with Benji Straker, guitarist and vocalist of Hello Paisley, to record a few of their favourite songs. They will soon have these tunes online, but you can track them down via band members at facebook.com/CaughtbyHolden.

Dear Yellowknifers,

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the citizens of Yellowknife as a City Councillor for the past nine years. Together, we've made progress on many important objectives, such as improving our quality of life by investing in amenities like the Fieldhouse and Somba K'e Civic Plaza, controlling our cost of living through the development of affordable housing and better energy planning, and preserving valued green spaces like Tin Can Hill.

As a born and raised Yellowknifer, I understand our community's roots; as an experienced Councillor who has also served as Deputy Mayor for the past six years, I understand what's working at City Hall and where we can improve.

We need to:

- Engage all stakeholders to address the social issues in our downtown core;
- Take a common sense approach towards sustainable development;
- Improve our community engagement and communication;
- Make life more affordable for our residents through innovative programs that address our high cost of living; and
- Continue to focus on improving our customer service - including making more services available online.

I want to put my experience as a proven leader on City Council to work for you, and to lead the next City Council towards a community that is affordable, healthy and sustainable. On **Monday, October 15th**, I ask for your support to continue the important work we've begun together.

Sincerely,
Mark



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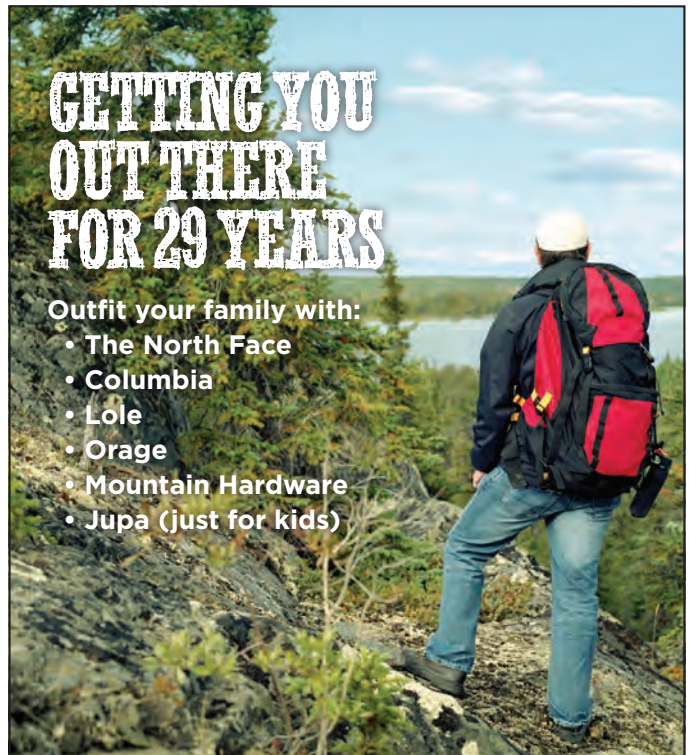
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A YK-INSPIRED WEDDING GIFT

by Josey Goodin

MAKING A RUSTIC BIRCH-TREE PODIUM

Walking through the bush with a handsaw in one hand and an evolving vision in my mind, I realize how much I am truly enjoying this quest – this mission to find and transform a piece of nature into a functional work of art that will capture and exude its organic elegance.

Each tree is a potential piece of the puzzle. With every birch, poplar and alder I pass, every twisted root I stumble over, ideas run back and forth through my mind that will eventually take the form of a rustic podium.

A couple weeks prior to my adventure in the woods, I was approached by some friends to help with prep for their upcoming wedding. Of course I was more than happy to oblige. They first asked if I could build some stands to support a 'canoe bar' for the reception. Easy, done.

Then, almost as an afterthought, they asked if I could whip together a podium. "Maybe just something simple like a birch log with a top on it," was the groom-to-be's concept.

After some consideration, I concluded that if I was going to create something that would be a focal point for 160 people, it should be a little more elaborate. Something rustic-yet-elegant, to capture the spirit of the outdoor ceremony set to take place in scenic Old Town with the natural beauty of Great Slave Lake as the backdrop.

So with a vague concept in mind, a packed lunch and a handsaw in hand, the following week I headed down the Ingraham Trail in search of some deciduous inspiration.

Rummaging through the woods, I am filled with a sense of connectedness and respect for the natural beauty of my surroundings. My creative juices begin to flow.

I stumble across a grey, twisted deadfall poplar with a smooth, polished surface created by years of extreme weather. It would make a fantastic rustic log headboard or frame for a bed. Soon after I find a stand of young willow just begging to become the arched accent of a bent back chair, but I'm searching for a podium.

continued on page 17

rustic

adjective

1: constructed or made in a plain and simple fashion, in particular; made of untrimmed branches or rough timber.



photo courtesy Natacha Saravania

Josey displaying the vibrant inner bark of the freshly peeled birch logs (top). The finished product (right).



photo Josey Goodin



yellowknifemars.com

stake your claim, get a tshirt.

Around four hours in, and several mosquito bites later, I've covered a fair bit of ground. I've discovered some great pieces of wood but none quite fit the images conjured in my mind. Then, out of nowhere, like an epiphany, a piece of the puzzle reveals itself to me. Eureka!

Whether by luck or fate, I stumble across a birch tree unquestionably destined to become an integral part of the podium. Its contours remind me of the Swiss alphorns from those old Ricola cough drop commercials. You know the ones.

With some new-found clarity, it takes only another half hour or so to find two similarly bent pieces of birch to complete the puzzle. Satisfied and inspired by what the land has offered me, I pack up my saw and wood and head home to ponder the day and prepare for the next task of transforming my vision into something tangible.

As I play around with the materials I've harvested, I try to let the natural curves and details of each piece of wood determine its own destiny. A peeled back strip of the white, husky, outer bark reveals a smooth and deeply vibrant orange inner bark. Perfect!


Exposing this beautiful hidden layer will give the stand an element of rustic refinement worthy of an outdoor wedding ceremony. As I plod away over the next day or so, the

three birch alphorns go through a kind of metamorphosis and begin to take the form of what I can only describe as a prehistoric beast spreading its toes. I like it!

Pleased with how the legs have come together, it's time to work on the top. To keep with the theme, I decide to use a piece of cabinet-grade birch plywood to complement the design. After determining the proper angle and attaching the plywood to the base, I cut out the desired shape, router and sand the edges, and add a quick coat of varnish. For a final accent, I peel and split a small birch branch to attach to the surface as the lip of my podium. Voila! Mission complete.

With a touch of inspiration and a few days' work, I've created a one-of-a-kind memorable gift for my friends' special day.

The key to working with rustic furniture is finding beauty in imperfection. One of the great things about using raw materials is that no two pieces are ever the same. No matter what you have planned or envisioned, each piece has its own personality that will shine through in the finished product.

Creating something rustic, whether a functional piece of furniture or a decorative work of art, is about being in the right frame of mind. It doesn't take a master woodworker or an acclaimed artist to create something unique and beautiful. Once you open yourself to what your surroundings have to offer, the possibilities are limited only by your imagination. 

TIPS ON MAKING YOUR OWN PIECE OF FURNITURE

Whether you've made something in the past, or you're newly inspired to head out to the bush and put your imagination to work, there are some things that can make or break your rustic furniture making experience. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- **Use a good handsaw:** I use a Japanese crosscut saw from Lee Valley that is great for cutting medium to small trees and making clean-finished cuts. Most often this is the only saw I use. I also keep a ratcheting lopper in my arsenal to cut smaller trees and branches. These work especially well for cutting willow shoots for bent back chairs.
- **Check for bugs:** Oftentimes deadfall or dying trees have been burrowed through by ants or termites and should be avoided. Loose areas of bark, small holes in

the tree and little piles of sawdust are all signs insects have discovered that perfect piece of wood before you.

- **Make it sturdy:** I like to use a cordless drill to pre-drill then screw together most of the furniture I make. Although screws tend to be a bit more visible than nails, they secure the pieces very well. With a bit more time and patience, it's fun to try different methods of joinery such as mortise and tenon or lashings. However it's assembled, you don't want to see your creation tip over or fall apart as soon as someone touches it!
- **Use it or lose it:** Unless you are purposely drying your wood to avoid it cracking or shrinking once it has been assembled, use it while it is still workable. If you want to peel the outer bark off of a piece of

birch, for example, it is best done soon after the tree has been cut. Otherwise, the bark will become too dry and brittle. Willow for bent back chairs is also best used while green as it is much more pliable for bending. If anything, the odd crack that appears will add to the character of the piece as it ages. You may want to think about drying the wood first, if you plan on using mortise and tenon joints to avoid shrinkage, which can lead to loosening joints.

- **Maintain it:** By keeping rustic furniture under cover and away from the elements, it can be enjoyed for years, or even decades. It is also a good idea to retighten screws that may have loosened from drying or being moved around over time. One of the first chairs I ever made is as sturdy today as it was when I made it more than 15 years ago.

He gets it done.



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The treasure! Troy Marsh and son Eli (two weeks old) found their first geocoin at a cache by Pilot's Monument. Made especially for geocaching, many geocoins are tracked by their owners, from cache to cache, around the world.

ON THE HUNT

THE SCOOP ON GEOCACHING IN YK by Sarah Marsh

The first time I went geocaching, it was the middle of January and I had pretty much slept away the first half of the winter (being pregnant can do that to a girl)! But by the time the New Year rolled around, something in me snapped – the doc called it “starting your second trimester” – and I had a ton of energy and couldn't bear the thought of taking one more nap.

The sky was cloudy and the mercury had dropped to -38 Celsius, but I didn't care; I needed to get outside. That's when my husband, Troy, suggested geocaching. I'd heard the term before and had a vague notion that it was “modern day treasure hunting.” I was pretty keen, but needed more details.

Troy explained it better: “a person makes and hides a cache (essentially a container filled with random items) anywhere in the world. They note its latitude and longitude coordinates using a GPS device, then post the geocache's location online. Anyone with a GPS or GPS-enabled smartphone can find it, and when they do, they write in the cache's log book, take an item and leave something in its place.”

Troy Googled “geocaching” and found *geocaching.com*. He created a profile, entered our postal code and Voila! Up popped about five or six geocaches hidden around the city. Soon, Troy had installed an app from the geocaching website and uploaded the caches' coordinates onto his GPS. He could've entered them manually, but if “there's an app for that,” he'll use it!

We decided to check out the closest cache, hidden on the Niven Lake Trail. After half an hour of searching, digging and climbing in the blistery cold, we gave up. We couldn't find it, but that didn't stop us – it only made the hunt more alluring. We came back a few months later when the snow had melted, and after 10 minutes of snooping suspiciously around the Niven Lake bridge, we found it!

It was a microcache – a super-small cache containing only a log sheet and a pencil – so we wrote our names, the date and a little note about our adventures finding the cache. We carefully packaged it back up, put it back into its hiding spot, and that was it! We took a few pictures of the cleverly hidden little parcel, and the smiles on our faces when we found it, and continued on our walk.



photo Sarah Marsh

We've since found caches around the city, down the Ingraham Trail and on our travels south. Along the way, we've logged our visits, swapped our NWT-themed trinkets for treasures left by the geocachers before us, and found and re-hidden trackables – coins or tags that get moved from cache to cache with a tracking code so the owner can track its journey around the world.

We've introduced friends and family to the activity, and everyone has enjoyed their adventures. A few years ago, I even built a cache filled with all sorts of 'sentimental' goodies for my dad that he could hide for his 60th birthday. He thought it was pretty cool and hid it under a moose antler in the hills around Coal Lake, Yukon.

Geocaching's been a great way to check out different parts

of the city, the territory and the country – and it's always rewarding, even if you don't find the cache! The geocaches we've found are usually hidden somewhere pretty special, just off the beaten path, and while they don't contain gold or jewels, there always seems to be something memorable about the adventure.

Our kids got handmade “treasure boxes” from my dad this summer and they seem to understand, without any explanation or YouTube video, the lure of treasure, no matter how big or small, the thrill of the hunt, and the satisfaction of discovery.

This past summer, we started thinking about making our own geocache. We've always been the “seekers” and never the “hiders,” so we're looking forward to building and hiding something of our own.



YK'S GEOCACHING SCENE

- There are more than 90 caches hidden around YK and the surrounding area, as well as more than 60 across the territory!
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- It's great for locals and visitors. In fact, visitors hide just as many caches here as locals.

Rules for hiding a cache around Yellowknife:

- Use a weather-proof container. Think waterproof and freezer-friendly!

- If you can, try to hide it in a spot that's accessible year-round – if it's hidden above "snow level," we can find it in the winter!
- Don't hide food, drugs or alcohol – animals have better noses than us and can destroy a cache in no time.
- Have fun with your cache – make a theme, get creative with the container and put some cool local swag in there – you'd be surprised how many travellers come here and find a cache or two on their visit!

Rules for finding a cache anywhere:

- If you take something, leave something of equal or greater value.

- Write about your find in the cache logbook.
- Place it back in the original hiding spot.
- Log your experience at geocaching.com.

You can start simple by finding one of the many "urban caches" right downtown – but be careful – it's addictive! Before you know it, you'll be in the middle of nowhere scaling granite walls, scouring the forest floor, leaving no rock unturned and getting up close and personal with your inner-pirate! Arrgh!

Learn more at geocaching.com. Happy caching!



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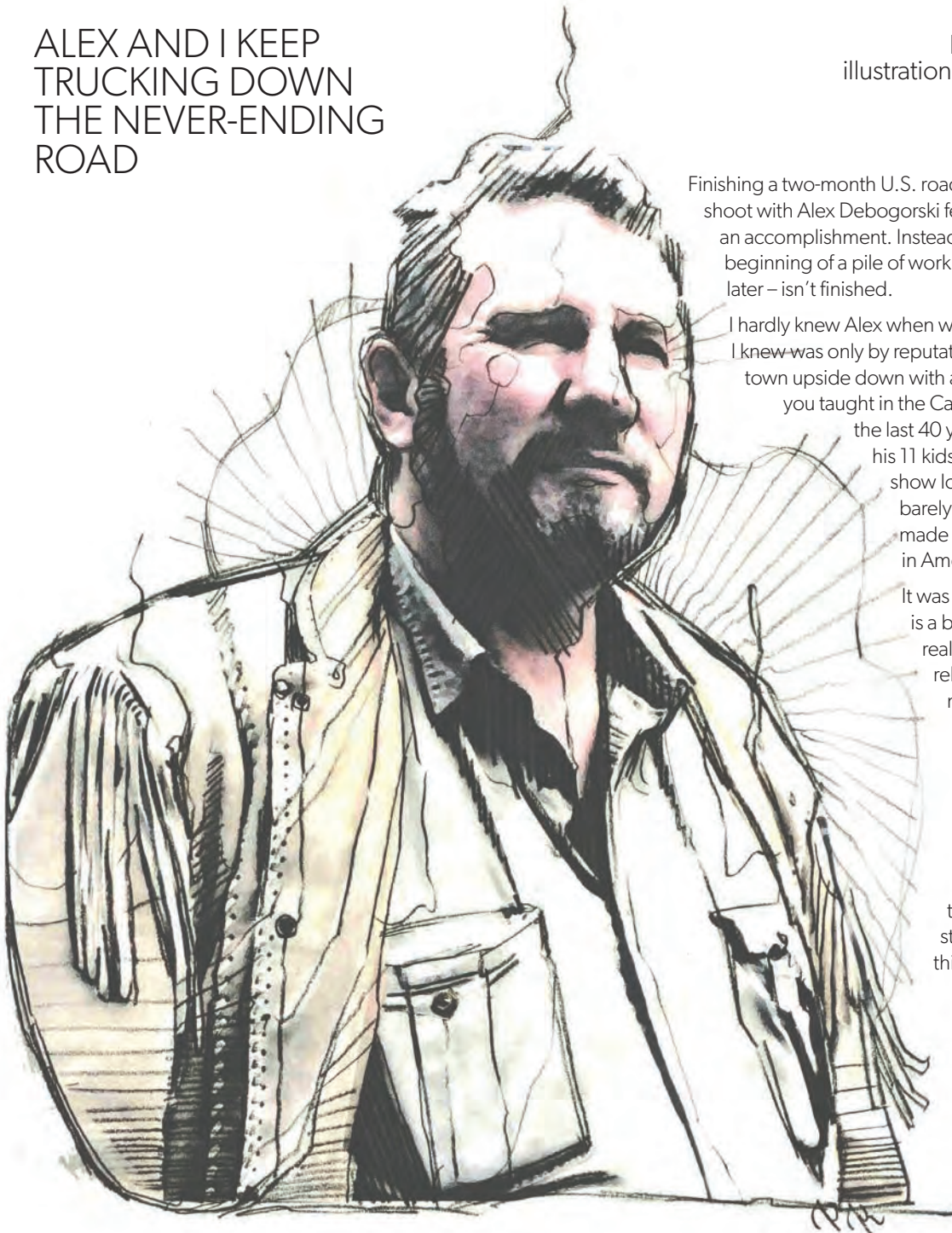
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IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

ALEX AND I KEEP
TRUCKING DOWN
THE NEVER-ENDING
ROAD

by Loren McGinnis
illustration by Pearl Rachinsky



Finishing a two-month U.S. road trip and documentary film shoot with Alex DeBogorski felt like both an ending and an accomplishment. Instead, it was a beginning; the beginning of a pile of work that still – nearly two years later – isn't finished.

I hardly knew Alex when we left for the trip. Anything I knew was only by reputation. I knew he'd turned the town upside down with a run for mayor. I knew that if you taught in the Catholic school system during the last 40 years, you'd taught one of his 11 kids. And I knew the reality TV show *Ice Road Truckers*, which had barely made a ripple in YK, had made him some kind of celebrity in America.

It was that last detail – that Alex is a big deal in the U.S. – that really formed the basis of our relationship. Alex's son and manager, Curtis, asked me about doing some filming while his dad drove across the states promoting his new book – *King of the Road, True Tales from a Legendary Ice Road Trucker*. I said, sure I'd film the trip, but we needed a storyline to make the whole thing work as a movie.

Rather than tape an unofficial, less-polished episode of Ice Road Truckers, I pitched a documentary. The idea: to analyze Alex's life as a television star. Rather than exploit the North's frozen roads for narrative tension, I'd talk to the god-fearing, conservative Americans who hunker down in front of the TV to spend an hour a week with Alex. Then I'd take their view of Alex and check that against the reality of his life; something like a portrait of a reality TV star from an unlikely insider's perspective.

After all, Alex is the perfect person to play the role of guide to the weird world that is his new life and job. He's a charismatic, camera friendly, philosophical guy who sees his role on the planet as cutting through bullshit, at

"He's a tough working man, but also literary and contemplative."

least everybody else's. And so we set out on the King of the Road Promotional Tour. Twenty four states, 22,400 kilometres. A typical day looked something like this: eat a trucker's breakfast, drive to an event, shoot a scene for the doc, eat a trucker's lunch, shoot another scene for the doc, eat a trucker's dinner, drive overnight through two states to get to the next event, check-in to a roadside motel, sleep a few hours, repeat. Fifty two times. It was a trip worthy of the overused word: epic. Traveling circus also comes to mind.

On the road, we drove, we talked to Americans, we ate, we slept and we drove. And in that daily, repetitious cycle we got to know each other incredibly well. Alex would bristle at the notion, but I'd say we got to care about each other. And so my dilemma is this: how to tell a story

about a subject – Alex – who's larger than life, extremely complicated, and now...a good friend.

For his part, Alex knows a huge part of his fan appeal is that he walks the line. A guy who speaks his mind and manhandles politically correct conventions, Alex will actually refer to himself as "politically erect," before breaking into his maniacal bear hug of a laugh, "HAH HAH HAH HAH HAH." All of this is to say Alex wouldn't want a movie made about him that ignored the shadowy parts of his character. But how far down that rabbit hole to go?

This summer, King of the Road Director of Photography and Editor, Jay Bulckaert, and I got back to work on the project. It'd been shelved for a year and a half since we flew back to

Canada from the tour's end in Wisconsin. Aside from an opportunity to work on the film, this summer was also a time to reconvene with Alex. He picked Jay and me up in his rat-rod Cadillac, which took more than a few turns of the key before it turned over. Once it did, it was a thing of gas-guzzling beauty. And like we did across the U.S., the three of us, Alex, Jay and I, sat across the front seat, looking forward out the window and talking like a family.

Similar to our Cadillac drive around Yellowknife, our time on the road in the States was great, but there were also tough moments. The shadowy side of Alex is real and it's deep. I'm unqualified to guess where it comes from, but I won't let that stop me. When Alex was 12, his mom committed suicide. She'd been a member of an aristocratic Polish family that was part of the Polish underground resistance to the Nazi occupation during the war. She'd been educated at Cambridge University in England and when she came to Canada, she must have had no idea what life in the bush of Northern Alberta would be like. They lived in a shack in the woods with no electricity. After she had children, she suffered from postpartum depression and took her own life while in hospital. Alex is fine to talk about it.

One of the things that stands out for Alex about his mother is that he was her favourite. In him she saw the continuation of her aristocratic lineage. Alex would be a doctor or

continued on page 24

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lawyer, a man of science or letters. Either way, he was the one who would go on to be something great, something special. And then she was gone.


In her place was Alex's father, whose parenting philosophy was forged in the military during World War II. Alex says his father ruled the home with an iron fist, and without his mom to cultivate his role as the prodigal son, Alex was hardened by his father to work and be tough. Alex learned those lessons well, but his father's tough, tough love didn't completely quash the seeds his mother had planted in his early years.

This brings us to Alex today: a man of paradoxes. He's a tough working man, but also literary and contemplative. For me, he personifies the so-called hillbilly philosopher. And all of this is woven into the character he plays on TV; a character remarkably close to who he is in real life. The highs are just as high, but the lows aren't as low. Not by a few degrees.

There is a place Alex goes when he is dark and low. It's something I'd try to stave off while we were on the road trip. Rather than have the energy lull and the shadows overwhelm the mood, I'd try to tell a joke or a story. Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't. It was in those darker moments that Alex is at his harshest, his most cynical. It's the hardest on the people around him, whether it's me

or his family, largely because Alex is the centre of things. And when the centre's suffering, it's shared.

As natural as Alex's fame is, there's also machinery to keep it going. He has an agent, a manager, a PR team. And when Jay and I are around, he has a documentary film crew following him. And so I am a cog in a machine and now, my role with Jay is to turn 80 hours of footage into a documentary film that tells Alex's fans a story about him they haven't already heard. I want to be pulling in the same direction as the rest of the machine, but I also see that Alex's dark side is part of what makes him interesting, and what will make the story work.

The decision about how much light and how much dark to include in this documentary is tricky. It's laughable to remember that I thought the toughest part of all this was done when we returned from the U.S. road trip in December of 2010. The only thought that's remained the same since that time is that Alex is my friend; and that makes this story all the more difficult to tell. 

PROJECT UPDATE: Nearly two years in, the road to finishing the documentary stretches as far as the eye can see. Fingers crossed, there'll be a Yellowknife screening this winter. In the meantime you can follow Alex Debogorski and the King of the Road project at iceroadtrucker.ca.



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Sometime in the near future, we'll have to operate on our city's cultural heart if we want it to keep beating. The questions — neither of which have easy answers — are where do we make the incision and will surgery kill the patient? In this feature, Old Town architect, developer and longtime resident Wayne Guy makes a case for maintaining the area's unique culture, writer Jack Danylchuk tells us where the City's waterfront plan currently stands and the EDGE YK team lays out a few simple ideas we'd like to make happen, right now.

Old Town's Time

Modern-day photos by Courtney Holmes

A HOME THAT WORKS by Wayne Guy

Where most urban experiences are characterized by repetition, banality and homogeneity, Old Town stands apart, drawing people from around the world and across town to experience a unique place, which telegraphs its 80-year history. The patina of time and the quaint buildings nestled into the natural terrain, give rise to a dignity and harmony, which characterizes this community.

This delicate chemistry, and yes, it is delicate, is fostered by the important roles rock and water have played in the history and lives of the people. There is an appreciation and respect for surroundings that give inhabitants an overwhelming sense of community and belonging.

As an architect, Old Town is appealing from the perspective of the "genus loci" or the natural features — light, aromas and sounds which give rise to that "sense of place," a unique signature which evokes memories and makes this place like no other. The smooth low-lying bedrock slipping into Yellowknife Bay, the crimson light of sunrise, and the perfect reflection of the brightly coloured houseboats on a summer evening, all characterize this.

As a developer, I work within the rich tradition of those who have come before me. I find Old Town, the place where Yellowknife started, an inspiring place to design and build. Colour, form, materials and history, coupled with a vibrant and diverse community, provide a powerful pallet to

preserve, enhance and reinvent.

The preservation of old buildings with stories the length of one's arm, and building new ones to serve the contemporary needs of the community, provides opportunity to revitalize the old to be relevant and new.

The life and vibrancy experienced in Old Town is attributed to the "real" economy of Old Town. On the commercial side, a community of miners, pilots, geologists, restaurateurs, store clerks and fisher people creates a strong inter-dependency in which each business supports the other for the good of the whole.

Those who live in Old Town, do so as a conscious decision. Old Towners have made a lifestyle choice for the love of the water and ice, or the desire to feel a part of their natural surroundings. They have come here for the beautiful difference in a world where difference is becoming heresy, and "big box stores" and track housing the norm.

In the recent Harbour Plan, southern planners told us that for Old Town to move to the next step, squatter shacks should be replaced with quaint clapboard and log cabins on a boardwalk reminiscent of Disney theme parks, selling trinkets and Ragged Ass Road signs.

This approach disregards the plurality and inter-dependence of the "real" economy, which is at the heart of



NWT Archives/n-1979-052-3470



Old Town culture and appeal. If embraced, it would spawn a monoculture that would make Old Town a pale shade of its former self, a scenic footnote for tourists. Imagine the Woodyard shack community as a vacated and static attraction, with a plaque posted “enter at your own risk.”

Rather than follow the vision of planning consultants who see virtue in wider roads and the nighttime illumination of every nook and cranny, we should keep in mind that

community is about the people, their enjoyment of each other, and the connection to the natural environment. To lose sight of this is to relegate our future to a placeless existence where all is the same and nature is a three-hour drive away.

Wayne Guy is the principal of Guy Architects, president of Summit Circle Developments, and a resident of Yellowknife for 35 years.



NWT Archives/n-1979-052-0631, 1949 Government Dock

THE CITY'S REVISED VISION FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LOOKS MUCH LIKE ITS PAST

by Jack Danylchuk

On the first sunny weekend of a long damp spring, visitors thronged Victoria's Fisherman's Wharf. They snacked on fish and chips and exotic ice creams bought from kiosks that line the dock, and strolled the wooden piers that poke into the harbour, taking in a waterfront scene busy with kayakers, float planes and cruising pleasure boats.

Tucked away from Victoria's theme-park downtown, the wharf is divided evenly between whimsical houseboats and remnants of the commercial fishing fleet that echoes an earlier era, when a cement plant, fuel dump, fish factories and a paint factory dominated the harbour.

There were no sleek condos crowding the rocky shore, no waterfront promenade for tourists and weekend strollers, no kayak rentals, cafes, hotels or water taxis. It was very much like Yellowknife's Old Town waterfront is today – a topsy-turvy jumble of commercial, residential and industrial buildings, high-design and low-kitsch.

Today's Fisherman's Wharf looks a lot like the future that Toronto's Planning Group sketched for Old Town, where the City has invested roughly a million dollars over the past two years to both rebuild the historic Wildcat Café and finance the now-spurned vision of the planners.

"It was a bit too broad in scope, too southern and unclear as to priority," Mayor Gordon Van Tighem says of the rejected proposal. "Old Town should continue to be Old Town – a mixed-use area with residential, transportation, and as an historic area of interest to tourists. Hopefully, better maintained."

Council found the five priorities put forward by the local Harbour Planning Committee "much more focused and potentially achievable," Van Tighem says.

Contentious proposals – parks and residential development on Jolliffe Island, repurposing the Einar Broten Woodyard as an arts and crafts theme park, and corralling the ever-growing houseboat community and tethering it to shore – sank from view, but could re-surface in the future.

Yellowknife is among the last jurisdictions in Canada to take control of public docks formerly managed and maintained by the federal government, something the City did recently in negotiating a 50-year lease for the Government Dock.

But the neighbourhood's crown jewel – the waterfront Johnson's Building Supply property – remains in private hands and therefore outside the scope of any public plan for the area.

So far, City administration has also shown little appetite for repelling private encroachment on public land by docks built on Back Bay and along McMeekan Channel between the mainland and Latham Island.

The proposal to construct float plane docks on Back Bay, in time for an event this summer, ran into immediate resistance from Morrison Drive property owners whose yards abut the swampy willow flats between Watt Drive Park and Lessard Drive. They have long regarded the public land as their private preserve and, until now, the City has not challenged that view.

"The waterfront plan purposefully engaged many interests," Van Tighem says. "Like any public process, some citizens will not support all the recommendations. Others have indicated a complete support. That's how democracy works and this process has been highly democratic and inclusive."

Key blocks of Old Town and its waterfront are privately owned, much of it sternly fenced, and jealously guarded against any public incursion. Van Tighem hopes private land owners will be persuaded to "work with the City to redevelop their property into an even more vibrant and interesting Old Town."

"The public interests in this plan have been articulated in the poll done for the process. The private interests have also had their say," says Van Tighem. "Although there are strongly held views, I believe the process has drawn a roadmap forward for the City on these matters."

A longtime Old Town resident, Van Tighem will retire this fall after a dozen years as mayor. His preferred method has been to cajole and negotiate rather than confront and litigate. This is, after all, a small town. But diplomacy takes time, so it may be a while before Old Town's future arrives.

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NWT Archives/n-1979-052-0655, 1970s Jolliffe Island view

Five Harbour Planning Committee priorities accepted by Mayor and Council

- Place greater emphasis on exercising City enforcement authority and responsibility to maintain existing public open spaces
- Seek jurisdiction of the harbour and ownership of the Government Dock
- Improve Old Town's waterfront parks
- "Pursue" creation of a marina at the former Giant Mine townsite or Mosher Island
- Build a float plane dock for resident and visiting aviators on Back Bay





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MAYORAL CANDIDATES' MUSINGS

To get a better idea of what the future might hold, EDGE YK asked three candidates for mayor for their views on Old Town's future and what the city can do to encourage redevelopment of private land in the historic community.

MARK HEYCK

As someone who was born and raised here, I'm partial to the character of the neighbourhood as it is now. I think the City can encourage more access to the waterfront. The fact that Yellowknife sits on Great Slave Lake is such a huge potential benefit to the community that I think we have a responsibility to try and figure out how we can open some of those areas in Old Town, not only for tourists, but for residents, in particular.

We've had a Harbour Plan come forward and that has a very long-range perspective on the waterfront and Old Town. We identified five priority areas. Let's see how we do and then, as some of these things get knocked off, we can look at other areas of the plan.

The Government Dock is one of the five priority areas; the City is now negotiating with the federal government for a long-term lease. It's a small area but it has incredible potential to be a fantastic small waterfront park where any resident will have access and a nice place to be with their family.

Look at Civic Plaza. When the Gerry Murphy arena was there, you never envisioned anything different. To look at it now on an evening or lunch hour, it's filled with people. That's a shining example of how the city can take action to invest in amenities that have a concrete impact on quality of life.

With the former Johnson's property, it's a question of the price that's being asked. The Johnson's land is very desirable, but it's also not cheap and it's a matter of what the City can afford to do. I think there is an appetite to look at that in the future, but nothing pending.

TIM DOYLE

I think it's being developed according to what the owners of the land want to see down there. There is a lot of nostalgia and some new touches like the Gino Pinn condominiums. You're going to see smaller businesses down there, artists, folks who want to be there. It's a good walking community; it's a close-knit community. I'm not sure what will happen with land development there, long-term.

Les Rocher owns a lot of the land, so it's up to him really, to say what he wants to do. I always joked with him that the old lumber yard there would make a fantastic spot for a convention centre with float plane fly-ins just like they have in Vancouver. Maybe it should be a park, but it's his land, and as mayor, it's not my job to tell someone what to do with the land.

I think the City has to engage the developers. For the last number of years, it has been the City coming in and telling them what to do with their own land. The only thing that does is get their backs up. We need to engage them and get them back to the planning table. We need to let them know what we need in the city for the next number of years, so they can see how they fit in there.

Les feels close to his heritage there; he grew up in Old Town and he wants to protect it. I understand that. He doesn't want to see it bulldozed to make way for a 20-storey tower. I would definitely be having those conversations with Les to see if he wants to swap (Johnson's).



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PAUL FALVO

Old Town has fantastic character; it's one of the things that makes Yellowknife the special place that it is. It's been doing that without the City's direction, so we need to stay out of it as much as possible. Old Town is Old Town.

There are areas, though, that could be cleaned up. In some cases you can't even see the buildings because there are so many dead cars. Some people think that adds character, but I think there is a line. It's time to clean that up to preserve the things that attract.

I would like to see greater public access to the waterfront.

I remember my very first evening in Yellowknife, I wanted to see the lake and I couldn't find it. I knew it was out there, but I couldn't find an access point. There are node parks and little bits, but I think we can do more. A Latham Island boardwalk needs to be pursued. That will anger some people, but I think people can't expect to privatize public land.

The privatization of public land is not an isolated phenomena. You have to look carefully before we act. I don't think there's a one-size-fits-all solution. We also have squatters shacks that add a lot to the character, and some are paying taxes. We have to look at each on its own merit.



NWT Archives/n-1979-052-4775, 1970s



THE LOW-HANGING FRUIT

Not all Old Town improvements have to cost millions of dollars. Here are just a few EDGE YK recommendations of projects for today (or tomorrow morning) to make the place a little more awesome:

WILLOW FLATS BOARDWALK

Rotary Club volunteers have performed yeoman service, but it's time to complete the long-promised link between Rotary Park, the WoodYard and SnowKing Point. We have nothing to lose but inertia.

BACK BAY BOARDWALK

Take the proposed float plane dock on Back Bay a step further with a boardwalk from Watt Park to McMeekan Channel. Think fingers, secured with locking gates, poking into Back Bay with ample rental spaces for residents and visitors.

SKI SHELTER

Two small buildings at the end of Lessard Drive on Back Bay are slowly falling into ruin. They would make excellent winter shelters where skiers and hikers could stop for a hot drink on a cold day.

EINAR BROTEN WOODYARD

Some of the Woodyard shacks could be replaced with small structures – not more than 150 square feet – that demonstrate the efficiency of new building, heating and

waste management technologies and wherever possible, use recycled material. They would shelter visiting artists and the city's artist-in-residence program.

HIDDEN POCKET PARKS

Why have we not added firepits and grills to the beautiful, but largely unknown, and seldom-used waterfront parks on Latham Island? While we're at it, why not mark the public swaths of land on the island? Have a look at the City Explorer tool at yellowknife.ca to see what we're talking about.

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Shooting the early days

by Erin Suliak
photos from the NWT Archives

Henry Busse: YK's first professional photographer

↑ A caribou stands in a puddle in Yellowknife's Old Town on April 26, 1957. This caribou wandered into Old Town on a Saturday, where it was surrounded by people and dogs trying to shoo it away. RCMP killed the animal, fearing it was sick, although citizens complained the caribou was harmless and should not have been shot in front of children.

↑ Frank Crozier works behind the counter at the Giant mine commissary on March 4, 1957. Newcomers to Yellowknife may not realize that the Giant and Con mine sites were lively, somewhat isolated, communities unto themselves in the early years. This photo shows a rare glimpse into everyday life at Giant mine.

Henry Busse's early newspaper ads claimed he'd "Shoot Anything – Any Time." It was true. Parties, community events, family portraits at home, nature and street scenes were all captured by Busse's roving camera. Busse's 54,000-image collection at the NWT Archives spans 1944-1962. It prominently features Yellowknife, but also documents people and places around the North.

As an Archivist, I spent a couple of years organizing and describing this collection. It was fascinating to immerse myself in Busse's work, looking at the early years of my hometown through his eyes. Organizing, researching and describing tens of thousands of Busse's images brought me closer to Yellowknife's history than I had ever been. Busse's photography reveals a lot about the early years of life in the 'Knife, but also shows his persistence and dedication to document his adopted town. The photos accompanying this feature are a few of my favourites.

Hans Heinrich Maximilian (Henry) Busse was born in Germany in 1896 and immigrated to Canada in 1927. After working at a number of farms and businesses throughout western Canada, he was interned as an enemy alien during World War II because he neglected to file his naturalization papers. Released in the 1940s, he went north and found work as a pipefitter's helper at Eldorado Mining and Refining Ltd. on Great Bear Lake.

At Eldorado he joined the photography club, refining skills learned in the 1930s running a darkroom in an Edmonton stationary store. It was at Eldorado where he met Oblate priest Father Gathy, who apparently used the club darkroom as a makeshift confessional. Father Gathy encouraged Henry to go into business, and in July 1947 he moved to Yellowknife where he opened the town's first commercial photography shop, Yellowknife Photo Service.



CREDIT: BUSSE/NWT Archives/N-1979-052.5767

- ↑ Bud Lessard preaches from a pulpit on the roof of a Dodge Regent car on August 20, 1957 in Yellowknife. Lessard was the son of Agathe and Louis Lessard, who ran the Rex Café on Latham Island. He became a traveling preacher, ministering in southern Canada.
- Elk's Bingo at the Yellowknife Public School gymnasium on November 27, 1954. Bingo is as popular now as it ever was. One of the prizes for this bingo was a refrigerator. The Yellowknife Public School (later William MacDonald school) was located where the Abe Miller building is now.

At the time, Yellowknife was a booming frontier town, with several active gold mines and dozens of claims in development. Newcomers, such as miners, prospectors, bush pilots and entrepreneurs, flocked to the area traditionally inhabited by the Dene people.

Busse's shop was the first of its kind in the North. He set up a portrait studio, took photographs of local events and did contract work. Customers also brought in their own film to be processed. Over the years, his photography became more refined and recognized, and eventually received international awards and appeared in several magazines.

Yellowknife Photo Service was in a few locations in Old Town, including the old News of the North building (an old Johnson's Building Supply warehouse on Franklin) and a place across from the Wildcat Café. In 1958, he moved the business up the hill to the expanding New Town, where he set up next to the Museum of the North building, now Northern Images.

It's hard to imagine a time where cameras weren't ubiquitous. But in 1950s Yellowknife, Henry Busse's shop was the only place to have photos made locally. He photographed sports teams, businesses, children's birthday parties, crime scenes, and made thousands of portraits. People who knew him talked about how he was rarely without his camera, documenting anything happening in town: visiting dignitaries, fires, construction, and parades.



CREDIT: BUSSE/NWT Archives/N-1979-052.5775



CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1979-052: 5030

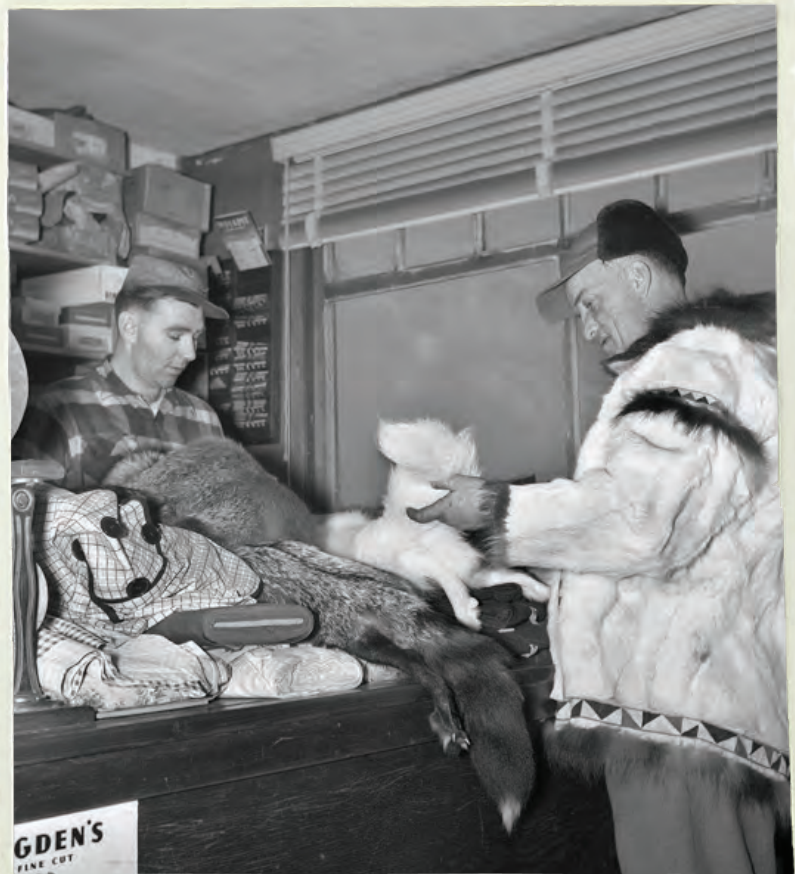
Dene families in canoes near the causeway on June 14, 1954. The Rex Café was located on Latham Island, on shore opposite these canoes. It was a popular café that welcomed Aboriginal customers.

What can I tell you about Busse through his photos? He must have had a way of making people feel at ease around him; surprisingly, I found very few photos of crying children. He was likely fond of animals, or maybe he just had great business acumen, because there are many animal portraits. As many photographers do now, he spent a lot of time trying to capture the beauty of the North: sled dogs howling, northern lights, and the midnight sun. He seems to have been friends with pilots and liked airplanes; there are a lot of photos of aircraft in his collection.

On September 28, 1962, Busse chartered Ken Stockhall's Ptarmigan Airways Cessna 185 for a photographic assignment in the Nahanni Valley. They were joined by two employees from Giant mine, but the group didn't return at their scheduled time. Despite a two-month air search, their plane was not discovered until June 1963, crashed in a valley near Cli Lake, west of Fort Simpson.

After Busse's death, the Yellowknife Museum Society approached his daughter, Elfrieda Hanselmann, to acquire his work and preserve it for future generations. When the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre opened in 1979, the Henry Busse collection was transferred to the NWT Archives.

A portion of the collection was catalogued in the 1980s, but since it is so large the entire collection was addressed only recently. Over 50,000 images were organized in 2007, and 3000 were given detailed descriptions in 2008. An online web exhibit on Busse's photography can be found at: pwnhc.ca/exhibits/busse/



CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1979-052: 5062

Sam Otto, wearing a fur parka, trades furs on December 24, 1953. According to notes on the photo envelope, this photo was staged for Maclean's magazine. Sam Otto was a trapper and prospector, and one of the founding pioneers of Yellowknife, who built one of YK's first homes. The location of this photo is likely the Hudson's Bay store in Old Town, between the Wildcat and the Causeway.

continued on page 38



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	Heat recovery ventilators	\$300 — ENERGY STAR®
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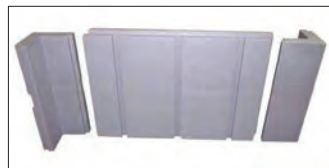
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CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1974-052: CN2545A

The first vehicles cross the new bridge built by Royal Canadian Forces on August 8, 1957. There were several versions of the bridge connecting Latham Island to the rest of Old Town. The connection is named the McMeekan Causeway in honour of newspaper editor Jock McMeekan's grouching about the project.



CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1974-052: 7284

Con Mine Halloween Dance on October 30, 1954. There are many great photos of parties in the Busse collection, proving Yellowknifers have a long history of inventing creative costumes.



CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1974-052: 5149

↑ Albert Canadien sits at the Yellowknife CBC radio studio on December 17, 1960. Canadien was the host of the popular CBC request show Gather 'Round with Ernie Pokiak while they were high school students at Akaitcho Hall. This was a promo shot for an NFB film called Arctic Campus.

← Two couples dance at the Northern Construction Company Christmas dinner at the Yellowknife Golf Club in a converted DC-3 airplane in December, 1956. Dancing in a DC-3 looks a bit cramped!



CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1974-052: 5149

continued on page 40



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Dominion Day bicycle parade on July 1, 1958. Canada Day celebrations have been happening on the old Petittot Park site (now Somba K'e Civic Plaza) for decades.



CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1779-052: 5001

A work crew builds sidewalks along Franklin Avenue and 49th Street in front of the Federal Building (now the post office) on September 6, 1956. The Federal Building was opened in April 1956 and housed the post office, federal offices, and a court room.



CREDIT: Busse/NWT Archives/N-1779-052: 7015

The Gold Range Hotel while under construction, looking west up 50th street on June 20, 1957.



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Riding public transit in Yellowknife is often more of a private experience.

ON EDGE OPINION

by Dorothy Proud

What to watch for in the City's new bus contract

Bidding recently closed on the City of Yellowknife RFP for transit services, and the new contract presents the City with an opportunity to make major changes to the system.

It's about time, too. Transit ridership in this town has been stuck at one per cent of users (what transport policy wonks refer to as the modal split) for what seems like forever.

The last contract cost the city about \$1.1 million per year and brought back less than \$400,000 in revenue, though there's actually nothing wrong with the revenue figure. It's more or less the same as fare-box recovery ratios in Edmonton and Ottawa, and few transit systems outside of Asia come close to breaking even.

Cities subsidize public transit because it's a way to produce other social goods like decreased traffic and a way for the working poor to get to work, to name but two. Still, there lingers in Yellowknife a sense that having a traditional transit service is a waste of time and money.

It's partly because this is a town where people either love their cars (and especially pickup trucks), their bicycles, or walking. If you live in the suburbs, it's not hard to appreciate the appeal of a private vehicle over the current milk run that serves the outer neighbourhoods. If you live in Niven Lake, there's no bus service at all.

If you live downtown, the distances most commuters travel are so short a quick walk or bike ride will suffice. It's with good reason 24 per cent of Yellowknifers walk or bike to work.

Meanwhile, for transit riders, it's a litany of complaints. According to the City's 2012 Transit Users Survey, the biggest complaint was a lack of summer service to the hospital. It's hard to fathom why someone thought this was optional during the summer months. Passengers also wonder if their bus will arrive on time (or, occasionally, at all). More than half of respondents also said they want more frequent service at peak times and a route to the airport. This last point is an apparent no-brainer in a city this small, even if cabbies would doubtless hate the idea.

Fortunately, there are indications the city will do something about some of these problems. The 2012 budget documents pledge "that transit service will expand into the Niven area once the roads have been paved. Increases in service are expected for September 2012." And the 2010 Transportation Improvement Study depicts a possible route linking the airport and Niven Lake with downtown.

The same study also promotes the idea of transit-oriented design nodes, where infill development would be built around transportation facilities and public space. This has improved transit ridership elsewhere, and if done properly, it can work in Yellowknife, too.

There's one catch. Whatever the City does, it'll have to be cheap: transit funding is budgeted to increase only three per cent per year in 2013 and 2014.

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The YK dilemma: to stay or go

One recent Sunday saw me strike up a conversation with a burly-bearded Yellowknife retiree, who I'll call Bill. We discussed that hardest of Yellowknife topics: What could make you leave?

"Well there's too many rednecks," Bill said, comparing Yellowknife to living in Whitehorse and Iqaluit. Having lived in Whitehorse, I agreed.

"And there's too many 'yappies' — Young Arctic Professionals. They come for a year, make big money, then leave. They don't give a damn about the place."

If I'm honest, though, I'm envious of these types. See, I want to leave Yellowknife. But despite physically leaving, in 2010, I've yet to go in my heart. I've been stuck — by memories of Yellowknife's highs. Having left, I'm now shielded from the lows. In 2008, I moved here and watched the city fulfill fantasies of finding a new hometown. By 2010, though, as a guy who's lived across Canada and overseas, I needed to wander. But upon arriving in Hong Kong's bright lights, I vividly remember checking on Yellowknife through Facebook before exploring the streets of Kowloon.

What about this city makes so many of us straddle its fence — like Bill, longing to leave but unable to go, or like me, pining to return after taking the jump? Aside from the obvious hooks — the midnight sun, the big money, jigging at the Gold Range — I think the answer to why Yellowknife is so sticky has a lot to do with group psychology.

In the 1960s, psychologist Stanley Milgram conducted an experiment that illustrated how our actions aren't just individual decisions but are influenced by social connections. He placed people on sidewalks and told them to look up. If one person did this, Milgram found it had little effect. But if a group of five or more people did it, more than 80 per cent of pedestrians strolling past stopped and did the same. Like the group, they'd look up, at nothing at all.

What group Yellowknife does is celebrate the city's uniqueness while forbidding grousing. Within six months, I was more socially linked here than anywhere I've lived, largely through celebrating. The more I did, the more I pleased the group, the more I belonged. But the encouraged celebrations forced conflicts with reality.

The cold doesn't suck — no, it's exotic! February isn't depressing — no, it's what makes us the anti-Toronto! The town isn't insular — no, it's a community!

Displeasure with the climate or the smallness eventually becomes undeniable, though. But to avoid social flak, Yellowknifers leave this out of their public chatter. That voice — the doubter — goes internal. And it's here where the other group, those who leave — and Statistics Canada research shows thousands leave per year, while thousands others arrive — amplifies the doubting voice. I think that's why a lot of Yellowknifers straddle the middle. They're part of both groups, one public, the other private.

This certainly holds true for another long-termer, who I won't name because, he says, he's often "scolded" for revealing his frustrations. This guy equates Yellowknife to joining a gang. "One of the most important things when you're in a gang," he says, "is to make sure no one leaves the gang." He also notes that, if he does move on, it won't be because of a desire to leave Yellowknife but more from a desire to go somewhere else. "The people who move here are novelty seekers," he says. "So once the novelty has worn off they're going to be looking farther afield. And they're probably not going to be leaving loathing Yellowknife."

Despite his realization of Yellowknife's shortcomings, this guy's staying. He's trapped. And he's on the fence. Same goes for Bill. But neither can talk about it openly. In public, they're just here.

As an outsider I no longer have to worry about pretensions for appearance. I left. And now, after a summer visit, I'm officially pulling my remaining foot out of Yellowknife and coming down off the fence. Home, I've realized, must be where I live.

I love my friends here, and always will, but they're not coming with me. I can come visit them, but I can't feel homeless while I'm away. And they can visit me. There's nothing better than an ex-Yellowknife reunion. Indeed, many of my friends in Toronto are former Yellowknifers.

So, for all current and future expats, I offer this advice: if you go, take your heart. Get off the fence. Embrace where you live next. But realize this: Yellowknife can be a state of mind, as well as a home.




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A HISTORY THAT EVERYONE "NOSE"

verse by Anthony Foliot

I drifted into reverie when I read my history book,
of the Erebus and Terror, and the effort that it took...
to find the Northwest Passage though many others tried;
Sir John must have had his doubts when the first two sailors died.

John Torrington, John Hartnell, those guys are smiling still,
They ate a lot of lead-tin food, I guess they had their fill.
They found them in the permafrost, buried side by side,
on the Beechy Island beach, those guys were mummified.

We were north of King William Island, besettin' there two years straight,
and if you were to ask me, Old Sir John wasn't looking that great.
Commander Fitzjames started reading Shakespeare,
said he wanted to play Lady MacBeth;
Captain Crozier's got that look in his eye, like he would march us to the death.
So what do you figure, me hardies? It's each man to his share...
it's pully-haully all night long for Erebus and Terror!

But, ring ring ring the dream is stopped, a phone call from 'The Man.'
"Some verse of the Northwest Passage? Shucks! That isn't worth a damn...
it's got to have a local EDGE, a focus on what's here..."
So I took a cruise down YK Bay, to my buddy's for a beer.
And we talked about 'Nose-worn' Neilson, a pilot of Old Town renown...
but you never said 'Nose-worn' to his face, or else he'd smack you down.

Yes he sure knew his business, from his head down to his toes...
still you never were to mention the condition of his nose.

Then I hiked up to the watering hole, that's called the 'Chez Pierre E.'
And I asked a couple old boys for some 'Nose-worn' history.
So Moustache Mike and Lanky Lou, went on an anecdotal spree...
but when I focused on the 'Nose-worn' part, Lanky Lou admonished me.
"Oh come on, no-one called him that. 'Nose-worn'? That's absurd!...
his name is Neil, a real nice guy, you'll have to take my word."



Well rats! There goes my angle, where's my story for 'The Man'?
He doesn't want my Franklin stuff, and I've lost my back-up plan.
This 'Nose-worn' Neilson's still alive, I can't make fun of him.
But, I need to get my verses wrote, so I can hand them in.

Then I started wandering 'round the town, wondering what to do,
when suddenly it came to me on Franklin Avenue.
This versifying business sure puts me to the test...
and I'm roaming through the Old Town just like Franklin on his quest.
But minus all the scurvy, and the sledging heavy loads,
it's my own small Northwest Passage along the Hearne Hill Road.

I trudged Otto Drive then Morrison, around to the old float base...
and I thought of 'Nose-worn' Neilson with his nose worn off his face.
I wished that he'd been living a long, long time ago.
'Cause I could've versed 'ol 'Nose-worn,' and he would never know.
So take it from me, me hardies, when all is done and said...
It's easier to versify, about someone who's long dead.


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THE SMOKEHOUSE CAFE

Menu:

Traditional meets modern

The Smokehouse Café is Yellowknife's newest restaurant offering up buffet-style dining in Old Town. Located at the top of the hill in N'Dilo, the Smokehouse will offer a variety of choices in a rustic setting — and a spectacular view of Back Bay.

True to its name, the Smokehouse will regularly feature dishes like smoked beef brisket and home smoked salmon, each prepared with onsite smokers using homemade spice blends, rubs and marinades that are balanced to ensure that they don't overpower northern taste buds.

"The Smokehouse will be the place to go for a hearty meal," says head chef Roger Deleeuw. "Whether it's local fish that comes out of our smoker or linguine with spinach pesto, all of our food will be prepared from scratch."

A Red Seal Chef with over ten years of experience, Deleeuw will manage the restaurant, which also serves as a training kitchen for Bouwa Whee Catering Ltd. The goal is to prepare certified chefs and apprentices for life at remote mining camps.

"We'll have a lot of great chefs pass through this kitchen," says Deleeuw. "They'll know their way around a kitchen. Part of my role is to help prepare them for life at camp, but my main focus is to make sure the Smokehouse is serving quality food at every meal."

The Smokehouse Café will serve a wide variety of foods and offer a full buffet that changes daily. Choices will range from comfort foods to classical French cuisine.

"There will be a lot of choices," adds Deleeuw. "We'll offer a wide variety of foods, but we are definitely looking to add a northern and Aboriginal flair to the menu."

Deleeuw expects the Smokehouse to feature country foods from time to time. Northern whitefish, lake trout, Inconnu and pickerel will be served depending on the season. Bison will be a regular feature, with other game such as muskox served based on availability.

In addition to mixing in traditional foods, the Smokehouse offers visitors a chance to immerse themselves in Dene culture. Designed to resemble a teepee, the restaurant's walls will be adorned with traditional drums and photos that tell the stories of the Yellowknives Dene — a setting that should bring back fond memories for some, while providing others with an opportunity to learn more about Dene traditions and culture.

The Smokehouse Café will be open Monday to Friday for lunch and dinner.

To get news about the Smokehouse Café, including regular menu updates, follow them on twitter: @yksmokehouse



Bannock photo: NWT Archives/PW&S/G-1995-001:8012





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