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Editor Laurie Sarkadi  
editor@edgeyk.ca

Photographer Pat Kane  
patkanephoto@arcticmail.com

Design Janet Pacey  
design@edgeyk.ca

Ad Design Jillian Mazur  
ad\_design@edgeyk.ca

Advertising Manager Jeremy Bird  
advertising@edgeyk.ca

Sr. Contributing Editor Jack Danylchuk

Publisher Brent Reaney  
breaney@vergecomms.ca

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BY PAUL AINSWORTH  
PAIDESIGN.NET



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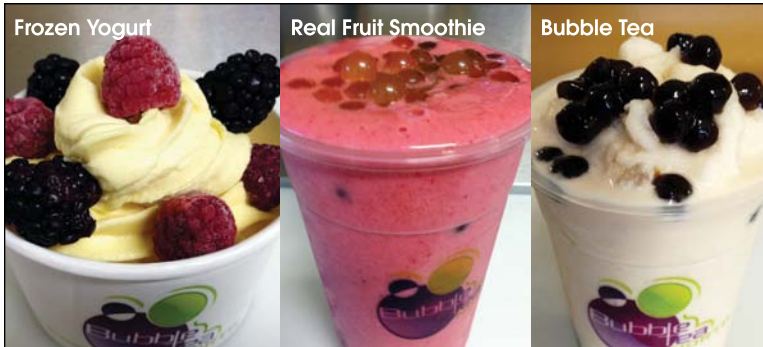
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**Contributors:**  
Paul Ainsworth  
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Marino Casebeer  
Jonathan Churcher  
Anthony Foliot  
Kimberly Fuller  
David Gilday  
Janna Graham  
Jim Green  
Brad Heath  
Fran Hurcomb  
Brian Kinzie  
Bronwen Livingston  
Alison McCreesh  
Katie O'Beime  
Thomas Parker  
Alex Power  
Peter Sheldon  
Joanne Stassen  
Cory Vanthuyne



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# Learning to swim in a frozen pond

Many years ago my husband and I were travelling through Clarksdale, Mississippi – Cradle of the Blues, home of John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson's Crossroads – visiting a musician friend we'd met. A large billboard featuring a smiling cartoon frog marked the city's entrance. "Welcome to Clarksdale, Home of the Big Frog," it said. Apparently, much to our friend's disgust, the municipality had decided to market Clarksdale as a place to "come be a big frog in a small pond" (they've since awoken to its musical allure). I've often thought Yellowknife, however, could adopt that slogan.

This is a wonderful, small (mostly frozen) pond of a city where you can become a big, croaking, robust frog...should you so wish. Yellowknife is a place to start things. Things you might never have thought possible elsewhere become possible in this isolated, wintery land of opportunity. Jobs, sports, new businesses, artistic endeavours, Snowcastles, Longjohn Jamborees, all seem to cry out for people to take up the challenge because hey, you've got to do something when it's cold and dark and chances are good your efforts will be appreciated.

This issue is brimming with examples of Yellowknifers pushing their own boundaries. Jonathan Churcher writes of honing his musical chops at Javaroma Jams, Katie O'Beirne debuts her whimsical illustrations of alley cats, genetic engineer Alex Power discovers he's a freelance writer with his story about a new brew pub Fletcher and Miranda Stevens are opening in Old Town. Miranda says she's, "always wanted to open a restaurant."

For further proof of this pond's biodiversity, Janna Graham and photographer Fran Hurcomb take you on a tour of the many wonders in Kam Lake, and EDGE YK talks with Dene Chief Bill Erasmus about the city's special relationship with the other end of town, N'Dilo; and Dettah (one pond over). We anticipate Mike (Rug) Auge's take on who are YK's best male athletes will provoke some fierce discussion around the water cooler – but keep it clean boys.

So, as you give yourselves a pat on the back for making it through to February – winter's Wednesday; the hump month of the cold season – think about all the possibilities that lie ahead. For inspiration, take note of the welcome addition at breakfast time. Sun! As always, if you've got something you want to share, send an email to [editor@edgeyk.ca](mailto:editor@edgeyk.ca). The first five people to email suggestions about something they'd like to see in the magazine get a new EDGE YK toque! And look for us at our new downtown office across from Overlander Sports under the banner of Verge Communications.

Laurie Sarkadi  
Editor



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# CONTRIBUTORS



**MIKE  
AUGE**

Mike (Rug) Auge is a long-time Yellowknife resident and active participant in the local sporting community. When he's not excelling on the field, Mike enjoys poking fun at his competition through the online columns that he writes for the YK Fastball, Basketball and Football league websites. It's all in good fun though as some of his strongest friendships have been forged on the playing fields in our town.



**JONATHAN  
CHURCHER**

Jonathan has lived in the NWT sporadically since 1988, and continuously since 2005. He has worked on the Beaufort coast at DEW line sites; driven trucks on the Mackenzie River ice roads; taught at all school levels; and played music in Inuvik, Tulita, Fort Smith, and Yellowknife. He is a regular host of the Javaroma Jams (see page 21), and is writing tunes for his second music CD.



**BRAD  
HEATH**

Long-time Yellowknifer Brad Heath divides his time between his communications work, his volunteer role as Pipe Major of the NWT Pipe Band and enjoying sub-Arctic wilderness with his wife and their dogs at their cabin on Prelude Lake. Whether in the bush or in town, he enjoys watching the antics of trickster ravens (see page 15)



**JANNA  
GRAHAM**

Janna likes things. Rusted, old things. Things with motors. Things with wheels. Things that tell a story. Kam Lake has lots of things. Janna discovered them on her way to her storage space. At the same time she noticed how beautiful Kam Lake's gritty spirit is, she realized that it's on the cusp of change (see page 46). When not sorting through her own junk in her storage locker, Janna works at KCLB radio in Old Town and at the Northern Heritage Centre in the New Town.



**KATIE  
O'BEIRNE**

Previously latent, Katie's creative hues began to brighten upon arriving in Yellowknife 2.5 years ago, where she found herself called upon to contribute to an imaginative and inspiring community of musicians, performers, and visual artists. A dabbler in all arts, a master of none, she is excited to make her debut in illustration in this issue of Edge YK for Tom Parker's story about their cat, Juniper and her misadventures with the alley cats on page 33.



**Dennis Bevington MP**  
**Western Arctic**

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## Into the Spotlight 2013-2014 SEASON

**Elmer Iseler Singers (Touring)**  
February 15th-20th



**Africville Stories (Touring)**  
February 18th-22nd



**Gordon Bintner (Yellowknife)**  
March 5th, 7:30pm



**Vancouver International  
Mountain Film Festival  
(Yellowknife)**  
March 27th, 7:30pm



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# For once, let's save instead of spend

## Putting five per cent of royalties into the Heritage Fund is short-sighted and irresponsible

I've long felt financial success has less to do with how you spend your daily earnings and more about how you deal with a windfall. While it's always tempting to spend it, deep down we all know it usually makes more sense to save or invest it.

Starting April 1, through Devolution, the Government of the Northwest Territories will receive the money previously collected by the federal government on the territory's resource developments. Depending on the value of the rocks pulled from the ground and oil piped south, the government should end up with as much as \$50 million more every year.

This money can be spent on anything, though they've wisely decided it won't be absorbed by the seemingly insatiable beast that is program and service spending. This is good news, as is the fact the government already has a Heritage Fund. Established in resource-rich places such as Alberta and Norway, these funds are filled with some or all of the money collected by governments from non-renewable resource projects, which is then invested to provide long-term benefits.

During the upcoming February budget session of the legislative assembly, our leaders will likely decide what per cent of royalties to place in our own Heritage Fund. The fund works such that the principal (money put in) can't be touched. But starting in 2032-2033, interest or income earned can be taken out to a maximum of five per cent of the fund's total balance.

Instead of contributing a large amount of money to the Heritage Fund right now, the GNWT claims a massive territory-wide infrastructure deficit proves the need to invest in infrastructure today. Because of this, the early plan is to put a meagre five per cent of royalty dollars into the fund.

From roads to health centres to new schools, think of our infrastructure needs as a row boat filled with water. Now

think of the \$40 million we're going to spend on them every year as removing a coffee cup's worth of liquid. At the end of 20 years, the boat's still going to be filled to the brim. And, with some of the buildings we built with that money now obsolete, there may in fact be just as much water in the boat as before. If infrastructure really is a priority, why don't we just shift \$40 million from the GNWT operating budgets that seem to grow in lock-step with the amount of money coming in?

But the real question is if we spend the money now, what are we left with?

Let's say we put the GNWT's proposed five per cent into the fund every year and it earns a five per cent return. In 2032-33, this would leave us with grand total of \$68 million in the bank, of which we could withdraw a maximum of five per cent – about \$3.4 million every year. Does this strike you as, in the words of the GNWT, "A Resource Legacy for the Benefit of All Generations"?

Now let's say over the next 19 years the government places an average of \$42 million in royalty dollars into the fund, or all of the royalties. All things being equal, we'd have access to roughly \$66.5 million every year and, more importantly, more than \$1.3 billion, yes billion, in the bank.

For a government taking on new responsibilities that may come with unexpected future costs, having this money in reserve seems like a good idea.

When a windfall comes, whether it's a lottery winning or an inheritance, it's tempting to spend the money now. But when deciding how to spend resource royalties, I'd ask our political leaders to think about the future. This decision isn't about whether you sit on the left or right of the political spectrum. It's about what makes sense.

– Brent Reaney

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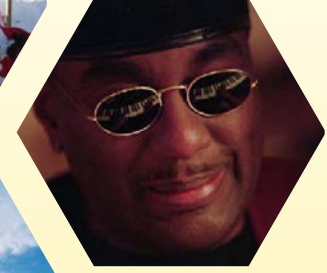
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# EDGE YK EVENTS

If you've got something going on that Yellowknifers need to know about, send your info to [events@edgeyk.ca](mailto:events@edgeyk.ca) and we'll try to include it in our calendar. If possible, let us know by January 1 for our April/May issue. Oh, and it's FREE!



Feb. 5 – 8

Ecole St. Patrick High School Presents **Fiddler on the Roof**, two acts for audiences of all ages, at NACC.

Feb. 10

The public is invited to the Fieldhouse as of 2:30 a.m. to watch Yellowknife speedskater **Michael Gilday's Olympic race** on the big screen. Starting with the 1500 m heats at 2:45 a.m., and hopefully all the way until 5:00 a.m. in the final. Breakfast will be served at about 7:00 a.m. to finish off the event.

Feb. 12

The City of Yellowknife is hosting its annual **Valentine's Skate**. Everyone is invited to this free public skate from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at the Multiplex Arena.

Feb. 15

The **Elmer Iseler Singers**, a 20-voice professional chamber choir based in Toronto, performs at NACC.

Feb. 16

It's **NWT Ski Day**. Come see the trails of the YK Ski Club. There will be prizes, a scavenger hunt and a tour to the 'ice falls.' Phone: 669.9754

Feb. 22

**Africville**, Soulful Jazz, by Joe Sealy and his band, along with jazz singer Jackie Richardson, at NACC.

Feb. 28, 2014  
March 1, 2014

**Banff Mountain Film Festival** presents a selection of mountain films and videos at NACC. Tickets will become available at NACC and Overlander Sports.

March 1-30

**The Snowking XiX Winter Festival** on Yellowknife Bay celebrates arts, drama and music in a castle made of ice and snow. Details at [snowking.ca](http://snowking.ca)

March 2

**Annual Volleyball Tournament** held on Yellowknife Bay next to the Snow Castle. Teams can sign up through email. Phone: 445-5527 [www.ykbeach@gmail.com](http://www.ykbeach@gmail.com)

March 5

**Gordon Bintner**, Canadian Bass-Baritone performs with pianist Michael McMahon at NACC.

March 8-9

The Yellowknife Ski Club hosts the **NWT Ski Championships**. Everyone is welcome to participate.

March 20-30

The Yellowknife Curling Centre is hosting the **Canadian Senior Curling Championships**. Volunteer registration and ticket information can be found at: [curling.ca/2014seniors-en](http://curling.ca/2014seniors-en)

March 27

**Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival** Society, presents outdoor and mountaineering films at NACC.

March 28-30

The **Long John Jamboree**, three days of fun, music, food and games on the ice of Yellowknife Bay. For a full schedule of events, check out [longjohnjamboree.ca](http://longjohnjamboree.ca)

March 29

The **Annual Frostbite 45**, a 1-day, 45km ski or run race, starts and finishes at the Yellowknife Ski Club. It follows a 45km loop onto Back Bay, Walsh Lake, Prosperous Lake and return via Hay Lake. Registration opens February 7 at [www.ykmultisport.com](http://www.ykmultisport.com) and follow the links.



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# Tips from the Property Guy

As Yellowknife's friendly neighbourhood Property Guy it is my mission to be a resource for home owners: current, future and potential. I am going to put you on the inside track of this real estate thing and do my best to demystify the process. I believe in trust and transparency in all things, and we are raising the bar in how real estate trades hands in this town. Bottom line: every day Yellowknifer (that's me) looking out for every day Yellowknifers (that's you) in the form of education, savings and fewer headaches.



Ryan Sawatzky

## Well, isn't that INTEREST-ing... it's good news whether rates rise or fall

Typically we see rates go up and house sales go down, and vice versa. But this year could be different.

*In 2014 rising OR falling rates will likely mean a busier-than-usual real-estate season from sea to shining sea.*

*The Bank of Canada (BOC) made a rate announcement in late January. Although I had to write and submit this before publication beforehand, here's how I thought it would shake down:*

*If rates fell further, I suspect we'll see a gaggle of late comers marching toward the low-interest-rate halapalooza, an event many of us have been enjoying for some time now. Seeing these sustained lows and only marginal increases in property value over the last couple years, people who weren't in a position to buy 24 months ago are now readying for their first mortgage. Knowing these low rates can't last forever, they want in while the going is still good. In this situation, I put my big-price-jump money on entry-level homes and income properties in high demand.*

*If the rate started to swing in the upward direction, I'm betting those sitting on the fence, waiting for that perfect property (investment or otherwise), will quickly find themselves leaping off the fence and settling before they get bit with higher carrying costs. I should know, I'm personally in a 'perched' position. In this scenario, I anticipate mid- to high-priced homes and investments will see the lion's share of buyers.*

*But whatever happened on Jan 22 and is going to happen during the second BOC rate announcement on March 5, I'm confident, from a lending and sales perspective, that 2014 could be one of the best years ever to buy. If you agree, or you happen to be one of those fence sitters, this issue's Tip is for you.*

## SPECIAL TIP:

Not sure if you're going to buy in the next three months or not?

Get pre-approved anyway!

Best case: you get approved, rates sink even further and your bank will concede the lower rate. **Win!**

Worst case: rate rise but you have already locked yourself in at the current rate. **Win!**

That's right, the rate given should be good for 90 days and it doesn't cost you anything. **WIN-WIN!**

As always, I hope this information will serve you well and further show PropertyGuys.com Yellowknife as much more than a sign renter or a YK Trader photo poster. It's our mandate to keep you on the inside track for all things real estate while giving you all the tools and connections to trade real estate like a Trump. So call us when you have questions. If we don't have the answer, we'll point you to the people who do!

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photo Joanne Stassen

## NORTHERN MACAROONS WITH BIRCH SYRUP AND CRANBERRIES

by Joanne Stassen

### Macaroons:

2 egg whites (60g)  
110g icing sugar and  
60g ground almonds  
sifted together  
40g caster sugar  
2 teaspoons birch  
syrup

### Butter-cream filling:

50g unsalted butter  
or margarine, at room  
temperature

25 g icing sugar

### Cranberry syrup:

1/3 cup cranberries  
1/4 cup water  
1 cup sugar – cooked  
to 250° F)

My winning Lime and Basil Macaroons at last year's Longjohn Jamboree bake-off was described by one judge as "a walk through a summer garden, in your mouth." I envisioned a Northern Macaroon tasting like a walk on the taiga on a sunny fall day. Macaroons are the devil cookies of the baking world. Making them is part science, part art, and part magic. There's little room to experiment with ingredients, which must be weighed to the gram. Success depends on the right balance of sugar and eggs, the perfect blend of almond flour and icing powder, and even the right humidity in the kitchen.

Then there is the timing. From the aging of the egg whites, to the number of strokes you use to fold in the almond meal, to how long you leave the piped macaroons out to dry before popping them in the oven. For these macaroons, I had the added challenge of trying to find fresh northern ingredients in the dead of winter. My visions of using spruce tips, rose-hip concentrates and fresh bursting cranberries are on hold, but here's a recipe you can try now using local Sapsucker Birch Syrup – available at Down to Earth Gallery or the airport kiosk – and some of your frozen cranberry stash.

### Instructions

Whisk the egg whites and caster sugar into a thick meringue, firm but not too dry.

Take a third of the meringue and fold it gently into the almond/sugar mix. Repeat until all the mixture is incorporated. Fold in birch syrup. Do not over-beat.

Pipe mixture into shallow disks, the size of a Toonie, onto parchment-lined baking sheets.

Slam the trays onto the counter six times to get out the bubbles. Be fierce!

Leave the macaroons out uncovered for at least 15 minutes before baking. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 F

To make the buttercream filling, beat the butter and icing sugar together until pale and light. Make the cranberry syrup by boiling cranberries, water and sugar on medium high, then reduce to medium, stirring constantly. Add to the filling.

Spoon a teaspoon of the cream onto half of the shells. Sandwich together with remaining shells.

Serve at room temperature.

Have a recipe that includes at least one local ingredient? Email [editor@edgeyk.ca](mailto:editor@edgeyk.ca).

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# Streetlight Strategies

How Yellowknife's ravens turn up the heat

by Brad Heath | illustration by Alison McCreesh

It was -52 (with wind chill) on a bitterly cold December morning when I noticed a frosty raven hunkered down on a streetlight shining on Franklin Avenue, even though the sun was visible through ice fog. I've often heard Yellowknifers speculate that ravens have learned to stay warm by perching on the streetlights – that they know how to turn them on. I wondered, could this be true?

A chat with Kevin Lailey, operations superintendent at Northland Utilities in Yellowknife, provided a definitive answer: Yes. It's true! Ravens (and gulls) are indeed turning on streetlights, and creating heat by manipulating the photocells on top of the lights.

Lailey showed me one of the photocells. It's a bit smaller than two hockey pucks stacked, grey in colour and attaches to the top of a streetlight with a twist-lock plug. It also features a small, clear plastic window on the side that allows light to reach the photoelectric sensor within.

When a raven perches on the photocell, its large black body blocks light from reaching the photoelectric sensor, and that activates a flow of electricity that turns on the streetlight – creating radiant heat for the ravens.

Lailey says ravens have also learned to peck through the plastic window and damage the photoelectric sensor, causing the streetlight to stay on 24/7 – until a Northland repairman makes a visit.

Alas, this free source of heat will be greatly diminished by the end of 2016. Northland Utilities is, at the request of the City of Yellowknife, converting all high pressure sodium (HPS) lights to energy saving light-emitting diode (LED) lights.

There's no need, however, to worry about *Corvus corax*. Yellowknife naturalist and Weledeh MLA Bob Bromley says the Common Raven has a high body temperature and great insulation – and they're so adaptive that they will find other sources of heat when needed.

If you are wondering why Yellowknife's streetlights are not crowded with ravens jostling for a warm perch after dark, that's because they fly to communal roosting sites for the night. And where are these roosts? Well, that's a question perhaps best explored in warmer temperatures when neither reporter nor ravens need worry about freezing feet.



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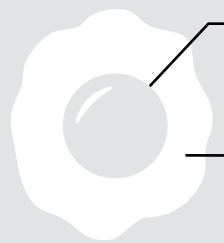
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“I’m expecting a lot of, ‘Oh, wow, where did you get those?!’ type of questions.”

# ROCKIN’ THE FUR AT SOCHI

## Michael Gilday’s unofficial Olympic uniform

If you follow sports in Yellowknife, you’ll be familiar with the amazing highs and lows of short track speed skater Michael Gilday. The 27-year-old – ranked 10th overall at the world championships and first overall in Canada – battled back from injuries to make Canada’s Olympic team! When he gets to Sochi, Russia, he’ll be sporting some pretty cool threads to show off his northern roots. Sewers in Deline (where his Aunt Cindy is from) were commissioned by the territorial government to bead the NWT crest onto moosehide moccasins and gloves, and a local elder blessed them. Michael’s father David topped things off with a beaver hat from Weavers. EDGE YK sent off a few questions to Michael in Montreal before he left for the biggest race of his life.

**EDGE YK:** What does it mean to you to have these hand-made gifts from Deline to take to Sochi?

**MG:** It’s really special. Since receiving them, I’ve done a bit of reading about the amount of work that goes into preparing fur and hides and I was blown away. These moccasins and gloves represent the support that everyone at home has provided me over the years.

**EDGE YK:** What’s your favourite wild meat?

**MG:** It’s a toss-up between caribou and moose. I’ve tried lots of different kinds including bison and muskox, but I think I’ll go with moose. It’s so lean and dark, and tastes delicious on its own. I wish I could eat more northern wild meat, but it’s tough to come by in Montreal where I train.

**EDGE YK:** Have you ever hunted anything other than a gold medal?

**MG:** I’ve seen caribou dressed at cultural camps that I attended when I was younger, but I’ve never been hunting myself. I’ve done lots of fishing though!



photo David Gilday

**EDGE YK:** Do you know any Dene words?

**MG:** I’m embarrassed to say that I don’t. Other than a few names of places and things, my knowledge of the Dene language is basically non-existent. Anybody want to teach me a few phrases?

**EDGE YK:** What do you think the reaction will be when you wear these Dene items at the Olympics?

**MG:** I’m expecting a lot of, ‘Oh wow, where did you get those?!’ type of questions. Traditionally made clothing is very unique and an art form that I don’t think many people get a chance to see in person. I hope people do ask lots of questions, since I will have no problem bragging a little bit about how and where they were made in my home, the NWT!

*Editor’s Note: Similar Dene gifts have been commissioned by sewers in the Dehcho for Hay River cross-country skier Brendan Green, who is also competing in Sochi. EDGE YK sends along its best wishes and support to both of the NWT’s athletes. Represent!*



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## What's Happening at Giant Mine?

The infrastructure at Giant Mine is close to 60 years old and deteriorating quickly. Until the proposed remediation plan is implemented, the site requires constant care and maintenance. The Project Team has already taken proactive measures to address many hazards at the site.

Since 2011, the Project Team has:

- taken down the covering from the main headframe,
- deconstructed the conveyor gallery (a large bridge-like structure that was used to transfer ore across the site),
- taken down 50% of the structures once comprising the roaster complex, and
- placed approximately 11,000 cubic metres of cemented paste underground near Baker Creek to strengthen the surrounding rock (enough to fill 4.5 Olympic-sized swimming pools).

Starting this summer, the Project Team will continue with measures to address immediate risks at the site. This will include:

- completing the decontamination and deconstruction of the roaster complex,
- monitoring air quality around the site and in the community, and
- continuing with assessments and strategies to mitigate underground risk.

The work to date has significantly reduced the potential impacts to the community in the event of a collapse or fire at the roaster complex.

For more information, follow us on Twitter or visit [www.giant.gc.ca](http://www.giant.gc.ca).



## Que se passe-t-il à la mine Giant?

L'infrastructure de la mine Giant a près de 60 ans et se détériore rapidement. D'ici à ce que le plan d'assainissement proposé soit mis en œuvre, le site nécessitera une surveillance et un entretien constants. L'équipe du projet a déjà pris des mesures proactives afin de faire face à de nombreux dangers présents sur le site.

Depuis 2011, l'équipe du projet a :

- retiré le parement du chevalement du puits,
- démantelé la galerie du transporteur (large structure similaire à un pont utilisée pour transporter le minerai sur le site),
- démoli la moitié des bâtiments formant le complexe de grillage,
- injecté environ 11 000 mètres cubes de pâte cimentée sous terre près du ruisseau Baker afin de renforcer le sol rocheux (suffisamment pour remplir 4,5 piscines olympiques).

À compter de cet été, l'équipe du projet prendra d'autres mesures en vue de gérer les risques immédiats observés sur le site. Cela comprendra :

- l'achèvement de la décontamination et du démantèlement du complexe de grillage,
- la surveillance de la qualité de l'air autour du site et au sein de la communauté,
- continuer avec des évaluations et stratégies pour atténuer les risques associés au sous-terrain.

Les travaux réalisés jusqu'à maintenant ont diminué de façon considérable les répercussions possibles sur la collectivité dans l'éventualité d'un effondrement ou d'un incendie au complexe de grillage.

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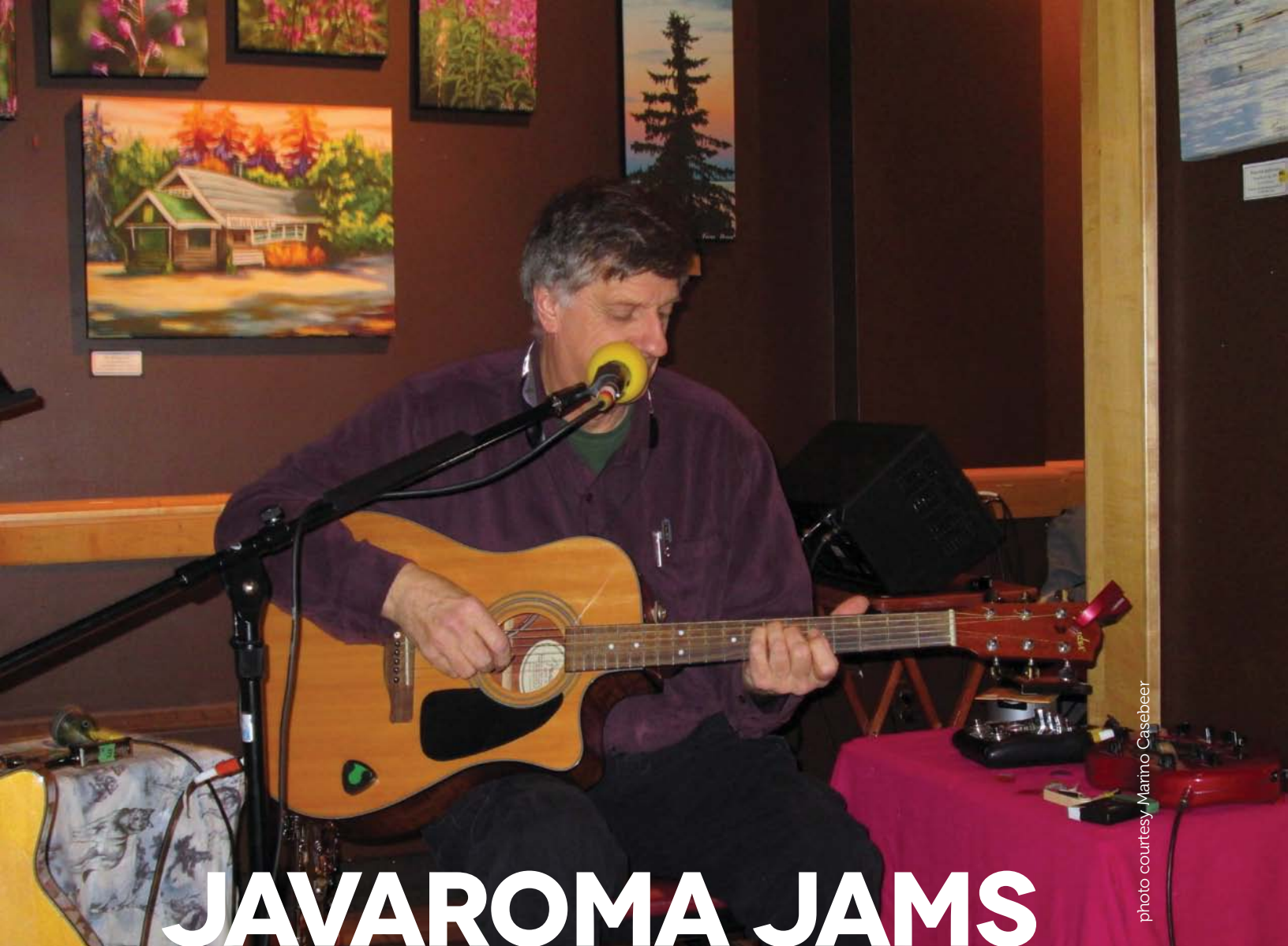


photo courtesy Martno Casebeer

# JAVAROMA JAMS

Releasing my inner gladiator at the mic | by Jonathan Churcher

Six years ago I was a newbie musician in YK. I was playing in various groups, learning a lot, and gradually merging my life with the music and arts community one way or another. For quite a while I was a sideman or session musician – helping out on stage with harmonica, keys, bass guitar, and vocals. But I wanted more. I wanted to do the solo singer/songwriter thing. As simple as that may look to some, it demands a whole lot of preparation and courage to carry off properly.

I needed a place to take those first few steps: to learn the basics, to deal with my nerves, to court possible disaster and humiliation; a place where I could hear my own unencumbered voice coming out of stage monitors and echoing off the walls, and feel what it's

like to stand naked – well, metaphorically speaking – in front of an audience.

When I heard about the Javaroma Jam, a free, open mic event that takes place every Saturday evening, it sounded like the perfect arena to challenge my fate (that's arena, as in gladiators, slaves, lions – you get the picture).

Javaroma, located in downtown Yellowknife, is a cafe that does not serve alcohol and provides light meals all day, seven days a week. It's a community-minded place with local art and photography on display, where non-profit groups can often be seen holding meetings in their makeshift 'boardrooms,' coffees and bagel sandwiches in hand. When the SPCA was raising money for the new animal shelter, Javaroma

management even made room for computers and volunteers during a special fundraising event.

While I was still in surveillance mode at the open mic sessions, not yet daring to offer up my talent, I noticed the same open-door attitude on Saturday nights. Performers came into the cafe and requested stage time. The host kept a list and allowed each person or group a turn at the mic – usually proportional to the number of acts weighed against the time available until closing.

Although the term 'open mic' conjures up images of a musician-only occasion, that is not the case at Javaroma. Poets, storytellers, and comedians have performed there, and mimes are also welcome.

I recall my first solo appearance as being somewhere between awful and really, really bad. The difference between what goes down in the privacy of one's home, (where anyone can become a legend in his or her own mind) and what happens in front of an audience, can be enormous. Although the audiences were not responding to my songs with thunderous applause and standing ovations, their body language telegraphed what could be interpreted as quiet appreciation – although tolerant patience may be closer to the truth. However, as the weeks went by and I did my two or three tunes at the mic, the delivery became smoother and my comfort level increased.

During this time, I was writing songs for my first CD and slowly putting together a repertoire of originals and cover tunes, so when the invitation came to actually host the jam, I was more-or-less ready. The challenge for the Javaroma host is to be able to fill the evening with songs, (something I could not do) which is necessary if musicians do not show up. So I furiously emailed every local musician, requesting (some would say 'begging and pleading') them to attend and play a few tunes. This got me through the first few hosting sessions, until I learned enough songs to do the whole gig solo, if it became necessary.

The Javaroma open mic is an incubator for new talent. It takes a lot of courage to stand in front of a room full of strangers and attempt to create music, recite poetry, and/or tell jokes. The good news is that the audiences are of the 'no harsh attitude'

variety. A performer whose dry throat, cracking voice, and shaking limbs sabotage their delivery, can get appreciative applause simply because they made the effort and did their best.

The open mic is also a meeting place where rookies can mingle with, observe, and learn from seasoned performers. I have introduced three-year-olds who charmed the patrons with short songs about the alphabet in French; talented teenagers ripping through high-paced, original retro-punk tunes; seasoned professionals showing the artistry that comes with years of experience, and elders dipping far into the past to share love songs in their native language.

From one week to the next, there's no telling who may appear or what energy they will bring to the room. Sometimes a group of fiddlers, in town for workshops or a show, will fill the place with jigs and reels, or serve as an impromptu backup band. I had such backing one night, and let me tell you, a bluegrass version of *The Thrill Is Gone* can be an exhilarating experience.

A young man – a singer with iPhone in hand for the lyrics and no backup music – charmed the room to absolute silence with an inspired version of *Hey, Soul Sister*. And there's the unusual and exotic, best exemplified by a didgeridoo-playing Scot who transported us all far from a 35-below, stormy northern evening with the rhythmic, haunting, eerily beautiful and earth-drenched sounds that no other instrument can produce. I've heard American flute melodies that tinged the room with a mystical presence and a Newfoundland kitchen band that got the audience laughing and dancing. And for a contemporary touch, you could watch a musician with headphones, foot-operated controls, keyboard, computer, and guitar produce sounds best described as cosmic disco.

So if you're looking for a place where you can relax in comfortable couches, bring your children, enjoy a nice tea or coffee and dessert, and be entertained by a totally impromptu lineup of entertainers, might I suggest you come to Javaroma on a Saturday night between 7-10 p.m. You may just discover Yellowknife's next greatest performer. Or maybe you'll be inspired to take a turn at the mic yourself. You never know, maybe someday you'll even be hosting the event. (E)

*To learn more about Jonathan Churcher's CD, "Acasta Island" and to hear some other tunes he has recorded, go to [pelagicwordandsound.com](http://pelagicwordandsound.com) and click on 'music.' You can also search for Jonathan Churcher on YouTube.*



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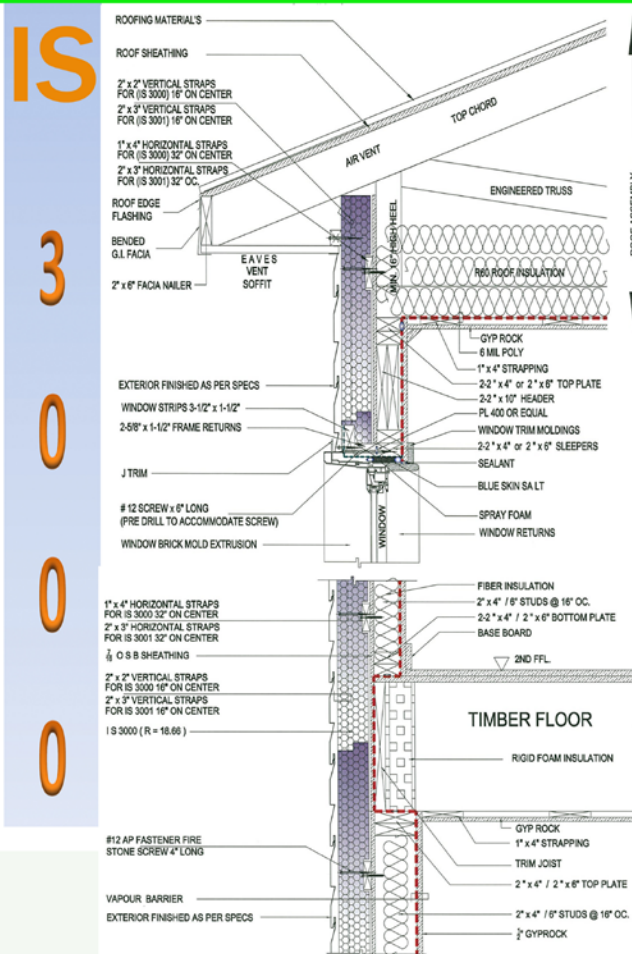
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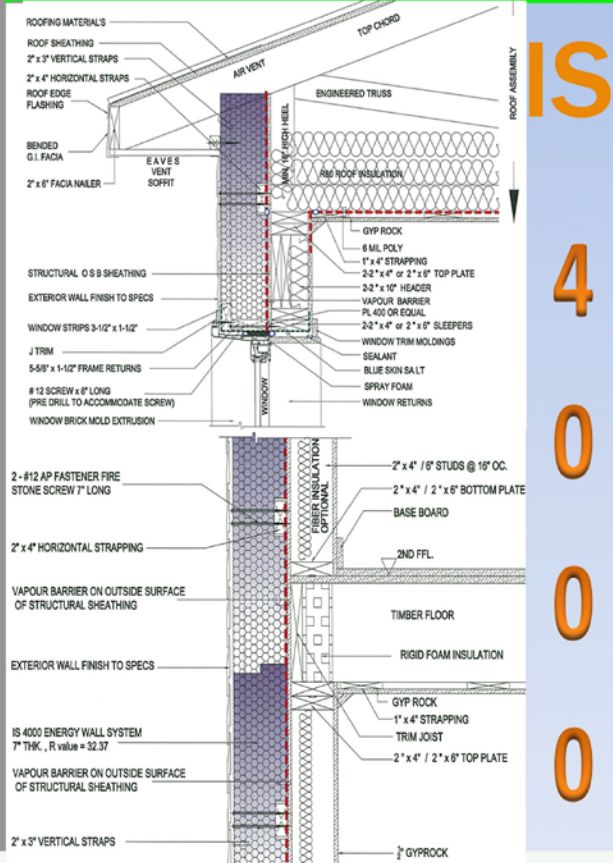
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# TEACHERS BY DAY MUSICIANS BY NIGHT

How two dudes are turning music into work

photo by Pat Kane

Stephen Richardson, band teacher at Ecole Allain St. Cyr, also teaches 70 guitar, bass and djembe lessons per week at Fiddles and Stix Music Centre; is part of the band 3-Across-Dee-Eye; and together with David Dowe, runs Double D Rockstar Studios. With two songs placed on the TV show Arctic Air, an international guitar endorsement and Neil Young calling their version of the traditional Americana tune, Tom Dula "Fantastic!," Stephen is on a roll.

Jack Antonio (otherwise known as Scott Roos, the high school band teacher for Yellowknife Catholic Schools), started a radio show off his iPhone called Do You Know Jack, which is now syndicated in the US, Europe and Canada. He's also Scotty the Rooster, who hosts a second web-based radio program, The Metal Factory Radio Show. Scott has interviewed Jann Arden, Metallica, Dee Snider and a host of other musicians under his two aliases. EDGE YK had an email chat with them both.

**EDGE YK:** What came first, the desire to teach, or the desire to play music?

**STEPHEN:** The desire to play definitely came first. I loved the sound of the guitar. I repeatedly tried to teach myself how to play guitar from a very young age. I was unsuccessful and came back to it many years later as an adult. When I was 27 my mother was staying with me in Halifax as she went through chemo treatments and during this period I left my banking job and decided to enroll in the StFX University Jazz Guitar program. Her

TEACHERS BY DAY

declining health situation is what made me decide that I didn't want to waste anymore of my time on things I didn't believe in. I believe in music. You can successfully start playing an instrument as an adult. I wanted to pass that on to others.

**SCOTT:** I have been around music all my life. So I would say the desire to play came first. I can remember writing silly songs at the age of five and having those dreams and aspirations to become a rock star. When I got to middle school I began playing the trumpet and saw it as a way of literally escaping from bullies. The more afternoons I did stuff with music, like sectional rehearsals or jazz band, the less I would have to face my tormentors. But the goal of being "famous" never left me. I have always thought that being in music means reaching people. I think teaching music has enabled me to reach MORE people in the end than performing would have anyway. It's a great profession and I happen to work at a great school (go St. Pat's Irish!!!).

**EDGE YK:** Yellowknife: Live music haven, or live music hell?

**STEPHEN:** My band 3-Across-Dee-Eye is now entering its eighth year together. Back in 2007 we played over a hundred shows (in just that single year alone) while we were also all teaching full-time. Some gigs were on the East Coast but the majority of them were here in Yellowknife. The local bar scene was fertile ground to be an "originals" band. We ended up with over 80 self-penned songs. We thought of little else but writing, improving and playing gigs. Since then the local live scene and the venues' wants have changed, and sadly our Manly Rock Star lifestyle couldn't possibly be maintained...its zenith reached, we now concentrate on studio writing, recording, producing and mass coffee consumption.

**SCOTT:** This is a tough question. I think in terms of opportunities for young musicians, it's definitely a haven. There's always non-profit organizations looking for entertainment and the phone rings here at the high school for our ensembles several times a year. I would estimate that in the nine years I have been at Ecole St. Patrick High School we have performed with different ensembles over 300 times.

However, if you play turbo-charged punk rock at high decibels, it can be tough to find anything by way of gigs. A lot of the young bands in the city in the past have just gone out and made their own shows in garages and various underground venues.

**EDGE YK:** What do you tell students who are thinking of pursuing music as a career?

**STEPHEN:** Often I have high school students who love playing but tell me there is no money in music so they will do something different when they graduate. I tell them that it's very easy to make a career in music if you aren't banking on only being a huge rock star. That

dream is basically like hoping to win a lottery jackpot. The approach of my business partner (David Dowe) and I is more in line with the trades person/entrepreneur running his/her own shop. We cover all the bases of what a "music business" can be. We teach, we play, we record, we produce, we write, we do posters/promotion, we license our songs to TV and radio, we pursue music grants and instrument endorsements, and most importantly we carry all the heavy gig gear to the shows ourselves.

**SCOTT:** I say go for it. In fact, if it's something they are truly passionate about then why not??? I try to encourage it as much as possible. My job can be stressful at times but at the end of the day, I have a lot of fun. I love my job because it's fun. That's it really. Music is fun. It's a fun career.

**EDGE YK:** This one's for Jack, where do you see yourself in five years?

**JACK (SCOTT):** First of all, show some respect! It's Mr. Antonio to you! When you have achieved the level of fame and success that I have - I mean I'm practically a household name in Fredericton for God's sakes - then you should be called "Mister" AND if you really know me then Jack will suffice. But you don't know me from Adam so "Mr. Antonio" if you please. HAHA! Just kidding! Or am I????

But, to answer your question, I would definitely like to continue on the trajectory I am now. I would like to have around 10,000 listeners tuning in every week and more and more high profile guests. And it's not really that far-fetched. A year ago, I thought it was amazing to crack 100 listeners on one of the stations I am on. Now I am usually doing over 900, so it seems as though I am on the right path.

**STEPHEN:** (Pssst! He's Yellowknife's version of Howard Stern.)

**EDGE YK:** Stephen, what did it feel like getting the nod from Neil Young?

**STEPHEN:** I love Neil's work. Back in Nova Scotia I briefly played in a Neil Young Cover band and once we got to open for The Trews. Placing in Neil's personal Top 10 with our version of Tom Dula in "Neil Young's Cover an Americana Classic Contest" was a definite win for our Double D Rockstar Studios. For a month straight Dave and I worked on our arrangement; the concept, the vocals, the harmonies, and we dug deep with our production process and the improvised lead guitar work. To have an artist with Neil's longevity and icon status truly appreciate that... It was true vindication that our band is musically on the right track. We weren't concerned with a prize; we only wanted to know what he thought of our work. Very proud of that single. Check it out at [www.reverbnation.com/3acrossdeeye](http://www.reverbnation.com/3acrossdeeye) 

To hear Scott Roos' programs, search "Do You Know Jack radio show", and "The Metal Factory Radio Show" on Facebook.

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# JIMMY JESUS

Long Dash for Freedom

by Jim Green | illustration by Alison McCreesh

(for Jimmy McLean)

Jimmy Jesus was running  
he was running just as hard  
as he could Goddamn well run  
    slamming out of the Gold Range  
    wheeling down the dark alley  
    humping up over the black rock  
    stumbling through Willow Flats  
    across Franklin Avenue by  
    Johnson's  
    keeping to the back roads  
    shying from the streetlights  
    hammering down the night trails  
    burning feet slapping the gravel  
*won't get me*  
*won't get me*  
*won't get me*  
*you bastards*

Jimmy saw them come in  
two uniformed Cops  
together in the bar  
He knew all day  
it had to happen  
after not showing up  
blowing the subpoena

He sauntered from the table  
like it was just another duty call  
headed for the can  
bolted out the side door  
busted into the October night  
made a bee-line for Rainbow Valley  
and his battered green canoe

So Jimmy was running  
just as hard as he could run  
Thirty days or thirty dollars  
ain't no choice at all  
when you haven't got a dime  
*no Goddamn way*  
*won't get me*  
*won't get me*  
*you bastards*

It was freezing some already  
and if he could just make it  
to open water and the river  
to the log cabin on the island  
he'd be safe for days  
the ice too thin for walking

So Jimmy's going for it  
he's running like hell  
fists cross punching  
the night air  
gaping mouth gasping  
throat rasping  
lungs blasting  
stomach heaving  
blood exploding  
in his head

But he makes it by God  
yanks canoe from green shadows  
shoves out onto the lake  
starts bashing ice with his paddle  
smashing a trail across Back Bay  
a quarter mile and he'll be free  
clear of the ice  
clear of the town  
clear of the Cops  
clear of the whole Goddamn works  
Jimmy's headed for open water

The river is still ice free  
so if he can just keep going  
crashing through the ice in the dark  
stabbing and smashing  
and pushing ahead  
he'll reach that open water

And he doggone near made it  
but he'd been on the sauce for two  
weeks  
hadn't eaten since he couldn't  
remember when  
the ice seemed to go on forever  
and he was so tired  
so damn dog tired

He caves in  
he gives up  
lays back in the canoe  
gives in to the cold  
hasn't the strength to go on  
gives up in the black night  
finished too tired  
to go on  
and nowhere to go

A few folks in the Old Town  
heard some hollering and carrying on  
thought the voice might be familiar  
but things quieted down after a while  
and they were able to get back to sleep

When Jimmy jerks awake it's first light  
the canoe is stuck fast in the ice  
and he's just a jumping  
my God has he got the shakes  
He breaks his paddle on the ice  
and when he's through cursing  
he starts in hollering for help

A Giant gold miner  
taking in some crisp air  
before a bunkhouse breakfast  
and going down for another day  
heard shouts across the bay  
spotted Jimmy way out there  
made a Good Samaritan phone call

And oh that coffee felt so good  
Jimmy gulping it down  
burning hell out of his tongue  
crouching against the vibrating wall  
way back from the yawning door  
of the Armed Forces helicopter

Guzzling coffee from a Styrofoam cup  
as the chopper rises over Latham Island  
above the dozing planes at the float  
base  
the smoking chimney on Jolliffe  
above Franklin Avenue where it climbs  
the hill  
over the Post Office the school and the  
hospital  
out over Tommy Forrest ball park  
the still spruce and gray granite  
and Jimmy is just about to ask  
for another coffee  
when notices they're touching down  
in the familiar parking lot  
of the  
YELLOWKNIFE  
CORRECTIONAL  
INSTITUTE

*you bastards* (E)



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# STREET-SMART CATS

## In a dog-crazed town

### Tales from the 45th Street Alley

by Thomas Parker | illustrations by Katie O'Beirne

"Yellowknife's a dog town," is a statement I've heard before. Most pet owners in this town have chosen the dog: the loop-tailed husky, the affectionate lab, and even the little lap dogs. Yellowknife has a dog park and dog poop bins, dog-sitting opportunities and dog-walking clubs. I was nearly convinced everyone had a dog in this town – until I spent time in the alley.

Amidst the bungalows, businesses, and apartments in downtown Yellowknife, there is an alley behind 45th street where cats roam. The alley is narrow and gravel, and each home has a different coloured backyard fence, a garbage bin, and string of wires leading to a hydro pole. Well, I've counted seven cats in this area, some are pets, and some are feral, and I've named them all. The core group consists of Red, Grey, Cow-cat, and my cat, Juniper. Other sightings include Halloween-cat, Calico-Kitty, Tango, and Mr. Patterson, a neighbour who kind of looks like a cat.

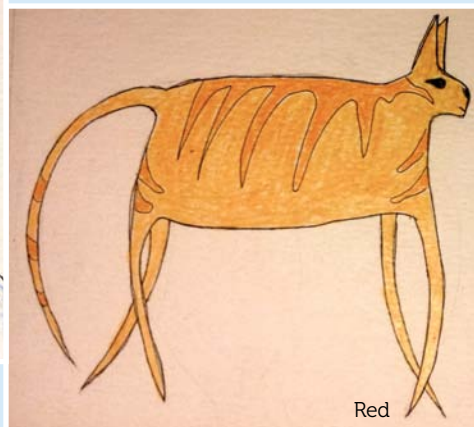
Alley life is tough for the cats and certainly not a place for dogs. Typically, dogs are supervised or contained to an area by a leash or fence. Alley cats don't have these restrictions and are free to explore territory and hunt unsuspecting birds and mice. They delicately roam the area with an upright tail and curious attitude, but make no mistake, these cats are killers and the alley is their turf.

One evening, back in September, I wandered the alley searching for my Juniper. "June! Joooooniper!" I hollered, but no response. The air was crisp as I strolled and rattled a plastic cup of cat food. "Where's Juniper," I shouted up to the shiny black ravens on the web of hydro lines, and again, no response.

After ten minutes of searching I gave up and headed home. That's when I heard the grumble. I froze. It was coming from the neighbour's fence, where Red lives. "Grrr...Murr." It sounded like two muffled engines, but I



Mr. Patterson



Red



Halloween



felt deep in my stomach that it was probably cats.

I crept towards the growling as the gravel crunched underneath my steps. "Juniper!" I gasped. Through my neighbour's fence wickets I saw her arched back, her tail poofed like a feather duster, and her little body turned sideways. Staring back at Juniper was a wolverine-type cat, 15 inches from paw to shoulder. It was Grey. His deep and golden eyes were glaring at little June. Suddenly, the cats sprung into each other, forming a fur ball that bounded on the concrete. Desperately, I began whipping cat food between the fence at the ball like a pellet gun, but to no avail. What happened next was weird and amazing: Red pranced into the scene and the cats quickly disengaged. Grey landed ready to pounce again, but Juniper kept rolling like a bad stuntman to an eventual stop. The three cats swiftly exchanged stares and then dispersed. With the quickness of an alley cat, I also dispersed, bounding after Juniper to my backdoor.

The next morning, I sat reflecting at the breakfast table. I wondered what provoked the catfight and why Red was able to defuse the situation. These alley cats are so unpredictable, I concluded, shaking my head. Maybe people in this town prefer dogs because they are predictable pets. Dogs will stay by your side, unless they see other dogs. Dogs will sit and roll over if trained, and will play catch even after everyone is tired of catch. These alley cats are different. They are precarious. They own their backyards, but will meander the alley looking for friends, or for trouble. As the cold and dark of winter settles in, so do the cats in their respective homes. Snuggling into their more domestic lifestyles, but perhaps dreaming of the spring and the escapades of the Alley. ☹



Juniper



Grey



Cow



Calico

"Alley life is tough for the cats and certainly not a place for dogs."

*Thomas Parker moved to Yellowknife in 2011 for work and has been trapped ever since. He enjoys cycling and writing, but not at the same time.*

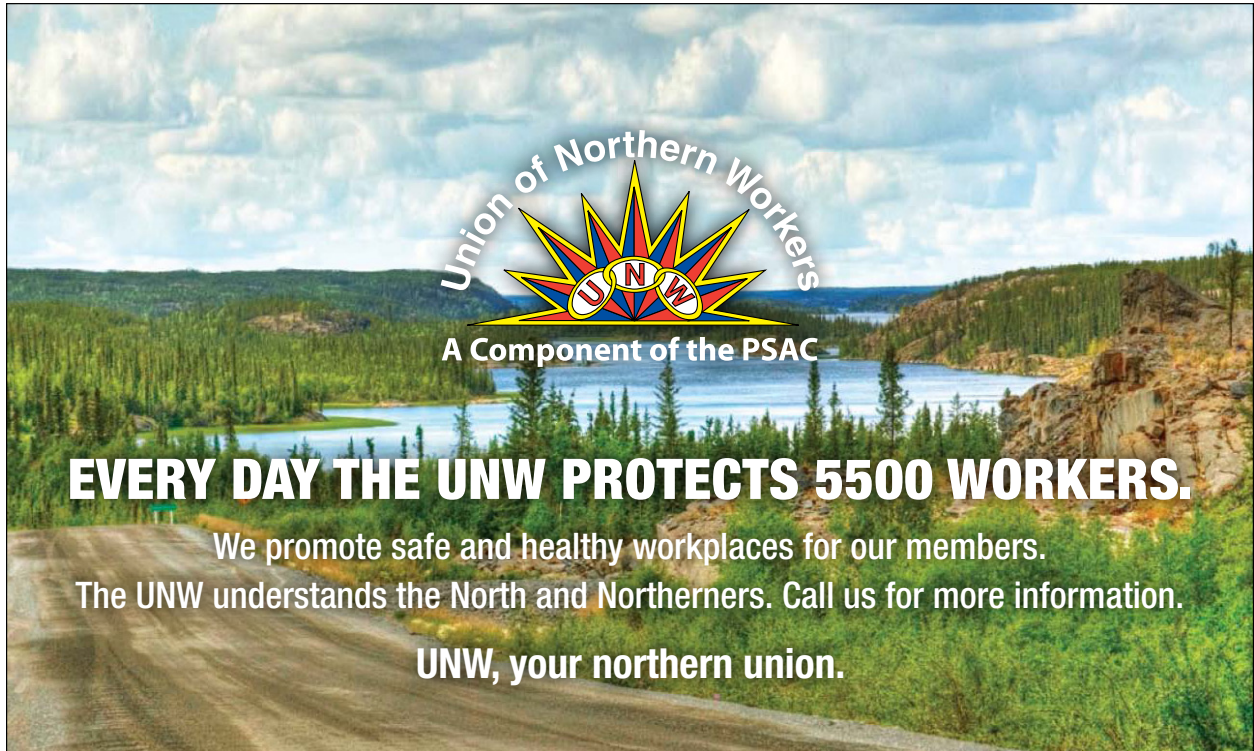


# Like a house of cards

by Brian Kinzie

This historic building near pilot's monument was demolished this past autumn with little fanfare or notice from the community. It was purely by chance that I took the first photo of the house before any work had begun. Once I noticed that it was about to be , I returned on several occasions to document the demise of the building, which was once known as the House of Horrors. Built in 1938, this building initially served as a rooming house and gained its name due to the parties and card games held there. The loss of the House of Horrors is indicative of the slow change of the landscape in Old Town.





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# PINT PAUCITY NO MORE

Yellowknife readies for its own brew pub | by Alex Power | photos by Pat Kane

Right before moving to Yellowknife I traded my air conditioner for a 25 kg sack of malted barley. If you didn't already know, this is the primary ingredient for making beer. While Yellowknife might be some kilometres shy of the Barrenlands, it's still a craft beer desert. So, while I wouldn't be needing an air conditioner anymore, I would definitely be needing more beer-making supplies.

Elsewhere in Canada, the craft brewing industry is in the midst of a boom. Small breweries producing high quality beer are opening faster than ever before. In 2009, Statistics Canada reported 209 breweries in Canada, and that number is growing. What's more, these small-scale brewers are capturing more market share from large national beer brands, as beer drinkers' pallets shift away from mass-produced factory beer towards the more complex offerings of craft brewers. It was against this backdrop that I realized I'd be moving to a territory with neither a brewery nor brew-pub. But that's about to change.

A Yellowknife couple is taking the city's pint paucity to heart. Fletcher and Miranda Stevens are preparing to open a new brew-pub in Old Town, marking the second time this has been tried. Legend has it that back in the early '90s Yellowknife had its own Arctic Brewing Company. Notwithstanding the geographic inaccuracies of its name and reports of mediocre beer, it was wildly popular, drawing scores of parched Yellowknifers to the deck of the old Canadian Pacific Airlines building overlooking Back Bay. The Stevens hope their brew-pub will be just as popular – but with better beer and more staying power.

Like many, Fletcher started homebrewing to offset the cost of beer. When Miranda agreed to move to Yellowknife with him in 2009 she was stunned by the exorbitant cost of beer, and told him he'd better start making some, and fast.

After getting some beginner's advice from Miranda's brother Devin, himself a long-time homebrewer, Fletcher bought a homebrew kit. So began the odyssey. Fletcher

and Miranda described his few batches as “drinkable,” but they got better. This progress hit a few bumps along the way; like the time he flooded the backyard and nearly lit the house on fire while trying out his newly upgraded brewing system.

Then one day Fletcher brought Miranda a glass of his most recent brew. After a few tastes, Miranda said, “This is good, where’d you get it?” This marked a turning point.

Three years later the back room of their house and the shed in the yard have been seconded to the beer-making effort. Carboys full of fermenting beer, laboratory equipment for growing yeast, an electric control panel, brewing kettles, pumps, silicon tubing and kegs. Lots of kegs. This is a house for making beer. Good beer.

But why a full blown brew-pub? As a homebrewer, I’ve know many people with borderline out-of-control brewing tendencies who’ve never taken the final leap into commercial brewing. When I asked the couple this question, Fletcher joked that opening a brew-pub was his way of keeping Miranda from leaving Yellowknife.

“I’ve always wanted to own a restaurant,” says Miranda, “and we really feel like there’s a market for this sort of pub in Yellowknife.” As an admittedly biased, craft beer lover, this author has to agree.

Currently, there is no liquor-primary establishment in Yellowknife showcasing an extensive beer list, let alone an emphasis on craft breweries. Even beer from the Whitehorse based Yukon Brewing Company is hard to come by. So much for territorial solidarity.

Fletcher and Miranda have selected an Old Town building at 3901 Franklin Ave., as the location for the brew-pub. Immediately north of Haks Auto body, the wedge shaped site sits behind the mural of Yellowknife Bay. The building

is currently being renovated and the couple plan to move equipment in as soon as it’s ready.

“We initially wanted to be in there by March,” says Miranda, “but it’s taking a bit longer, so we’re using the extra time to keep working on our plan.”

The couple have big plans for the brewery, and see no reason to confine their product to the North. “We already have two bars in the south that are willing to carry our beer once we’re up and running,” Fletcher says.

Sending their product south will represent a significant departure from the traditional economics of beer in the Northwest Territories. As it stands, all of our beer is brought in from outside the territory. Perhaps nothing better illustrates our longstanding dependence on southern beer than the annual Beer Barge Bash. What other city celebrates a historic dependence on beer shipped over long distances? If there were such a thing as a beer trade-deficit (and maybe there should be) we would be running one. Fictional economic indicators aside, I feel a new locally owned business meeting local demand can only be good for the city.

The proof, however, is in the pudding. Just because someone wants to open a brew-pub doesn’t mean the beer will be any good. For the sake of the community, I took it upon myself to try some of Fletcher’s most recent homebrew creations. So, under the auspices of writing a magazine article, I managed to sample both the India Pale Ale (IPA to those in the know) and the coffee porter. The IPA had a clean hoppy flavour and aroma while the coffee porter had just the right amount of sweet and roasted flavours. Suffice it to say, without turning this into a beer review, that the quality and drinkability of the beer was reflected in the circuitous path I walked home that night. With a bit of luck I hope to be tracing similar paths home from Old Town’s newest brew pub this summer. ☺

*Alex Power is a genetic engineer turned freelance writer. When not brewing beer in his kitchen, he’s usually brewing coffee.*



“Like many, Fletcher started homebrewing to offset the cost of beer.”

Miranda and Fletcher Stevens are moving their beer-making operations into a new brew pub in Old Town

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# Bill Erasmus

The long-serving chief gives a primer on Yellowknife's Dene roots

photo by Pat Kane

For 23 years, pony-tailed Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus has been the face of the Dene Nation. Whether it's fighting for aboriginal and treaty rights, marching down Franklin to protest fracking, or addressing the United Nations on climate change, Erasmus has been the voice of his people. A born-and-raised Yellowknifer, EDGE YK sat down with him in his office for a primer on aboriginal relations, and the changes he's seen in his city.

**EDGE YK:** If you were teaching a northern studies course to people new to Yellowknife, what would you like them to know?

**ERASMUS:** I would like them to know that as the First Peoples in this area, the Yellowknives Dene still have an interest in the land and the resources and everything we see around us. What that means legally is that they have underlying title to the lands and the resources. Yellowknife now has become home to a lot of other people, and the Yellowknives Dene are OK with that, and they in fact welcome – and their arms are open to – other people, they just want them to recognize that this is still their home. Even though you've got 20,000 people here, this is really originally the home of the Yellowknives and everyone that comes here needs to recognize that, and respect that, so that's what they ask for.

**EDGE YK:** How would you explain the relationship between N'dilo and Yellowknife?

**ERASMUS:** The Yellowknives Dene are from in and around the area of what is now present day Yellowknife. People who are part of the community are a whole mix of people. Myself for example, I live in N'dilo, my parents are originally from Behchoko, they moved into Yellowknife in the late '40s and most of us were born in Yellowknife so we didn't have to leave to residential school. N'dilo is called Lot 500, which really is within the municipality of Yellowknife, but it's federal lands that were set aside for Indian housing in 1959. So there are 55 acres that constitute N'dilo, and N'dilo in our language means end of the island. People originally were living in a whole number of places, and they were relocated to that piece of real estate. That's how N'dilo originated. Across the bay with Dettah it's the same designation of lands set aside for Indian housing –350 acres.

When you're in the Yellowknife municipality, and you go to N'dilo, you go up Morrison, I live in that

first house, then you're in another jurisdiction where the chief and council take over. So you have two municipalities, two jurisdictions, adjacent to each other and the trick is to make them mesh. For example, there are shared services. Water is provided by the City with an arrangement by the chief and council. Sewage is provided by a contractor from the Yellowknives Dene. There's a whole different set of rules when you come into N'dilo and I don't think a lot of people know and understand that. An interesting thing happened a few years ago where dogcatchers, the bylaw guys, were trying to get some dogs and they ran into N'dilo, so they had to stop until they got authority to go in. It's similar to when you drive towards Behchoko and you head into Tlicho territory. You hit Boundary Creek, and it's called Boundary Creek because it's a boundary between Treaty 8 on this side and Treaty 11 on that side, and when you get into Tlicho lands, it's incumbent upon us to find out what the rules are.

**EDGE YK:** The Yellowknives Dene are part of the original Treaty 8, negotiated in 1900. The Dene and the federal government can't seem to come to a shared understanding of what that treaty means, so today, the Yellowknives are negotiating another agreement, the Akaitcho Process. What's the status of those negotiations?

**ERASMUS:** The Yellowknives Dene are part of Akaitcho because that constitutes Treaty 8, which is part of what is now Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia and extends as far north as Yellowknife. So Yellowknife is the most northern community within Treaty 8. The communities around the lake include Yellowknife, Lutselk'e and Deninu Kue. They're at the table trying to sort out what the treaty rights and obligations are in relation to Treaty 8. I haven't been briefed lately, but I know they're still at the table and there's a time frame in place and a whole set of talks that continue to go on. There are negotiators, and then the leadership provide them the guidance, and the leadership then go to the membership for the approval.

**EDGE YK:** People, especially people new to here, often wonder why they can't buy or lease land around Yellowknife. What do you say to them?

**ERASMUS:** Well, the difficulty is that 40 years ago, in 1973, our chiefs took Canada to court on the issue of land ownership and Judge Morrow ruled in favour of the Dene saying we still have a legal interest in the land.

So what it means is that actually we're the landowners and the original treaties that we made were peace and friendship. The difficulty is, Canada has always insisted that they're actually the landowners so they call it federal land, or Crown land. So the whole debate now at the table is how to clarify that. So in the meantime, because Canada doesn't outright own the lands, there's no process like you would find in the south where lands can be bought and sold and so on.


**EDGE YK:** What changes have you seen in the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Yellowknife since you were a kid?

**ERASMUS:** Well, I think there's always been a close relationship. I was born in Yellowknife, and growing up here there was always a bond between the early residents, the long-term families who were here, because the climate dictated. For example, if it's 60 below and your neighbour needs wood, you just help them out. You don't ask questions and you don't expect them to do much in return because you know somewhere down the road they'll help you. Whether you have lack of food, or whatever it is, so people just always helped each other out and there was a mutual understanding

between the people that were here. And when I was a little guy there were maybe 1,000 people, 1,500-2000 people, and so everyone knew one another and people were hard working. And so that was the early days.

Now the town has grown quite rapidly and you'll find the permanent residents and then you'll find the whole transient population, and what has really changed is we've got a lot of people coming in from other places with a different world view. A lot of times we find that they have to adjust their thinking, because they're not used to being in a minority situation, they're not used to having aboriginal people have such a high profile. I think since the early '80s, the premier in the NWT has been aboriginal. That's unusual. The majority of the MLAs are aboriginal. You have organizations like the Dene Nation that is probably the longest standing political organization active in the North, so we're high profile and we're visible. I think that's all to the good.

But then there are some negatives. We're noticing all of the sex abuse charges, we're noticing that Yellowknife's number four in terms of the highest crimes in the country. That is huge. There's something not right and we have to correct it. Yellowknife only has 20,000 people. North Battleford is number one in the country



"Even though you've got 20,000 people here, this is really originally the home of the Yellowknives..."

continued on page 45




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continued from page 42

and they also have about 20,000 people.

**EDGE YK:** You think the crime situation's gotten a lot worse?

**ERASMUS:** Oh it's terrible, it's terrible, it was never like this. And I think we can attribute it to a number of things, including the mining. Diamonds bring in a certain kind of people. A certain kind of activity including drugs and alcohol and addictions and I don't know if the two week in and two week out rotation helped, but I think we need to assess where we're at and improve on it. We certainly can't get any worse.

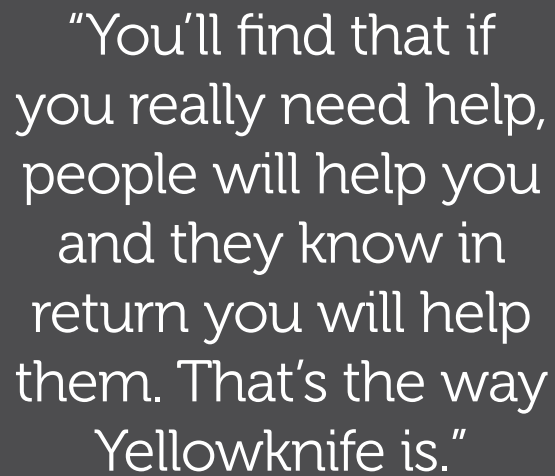
You know? So yah, there's been changes.

**EDGE YK:** The chief in Deline was talking about trying to help his people from the community who have hit hard times and find themselves on the streets of downtown Yellowknife. I wonder what your view is on how the city as a whole can address that?

**ERASMUS:** Well, I congratulate Chief Kenny for his comments of assisting his citizens that are in urban areas, it's not only Yellowknife. But as you know, the theory's still out there that our cities are paved with gold, so it's common all over the world that people from smaller places will migrate to the huge cities, or to the larger areas.

Growing up in Yellowknife there was no such thing as homeless people, so that whole concept is new to many of us and I don't think we know how to deal with it. Years ago if someone didn't have a home, normally their relatives would take them in. I think the majority of these people that are homeless have relatives, but they outplay their welcome because of the addictions and there's behaviour that goes along with it. If they were just people without a home and there was no alcohol and drugs involved, there wouldn't be a problem. My understanding is many of them in their home communities, they have a home, they have a place to stay, but when they come to Yellowknife they get messed up and they have a difficult time going back.

There are agencies that were set up specifically to help urban people, like friendship centres. Also the Healing Drum. I think what we need to do is bring all of the social entities together and come up with a solution because it's getting unlike any other time in our history. There used to be a provision within Indian Affairs where if you were destitute they would help you. If you were travelling and you became at a point where you didn't have any money left and you were on the streets, you could go to Indian Affairs and they would help you get home. I don't know if that still exists. It's part of the treaty provisions because it's to help people in time of need.



"You'll find that if you really need help, people will help you and they know in return you will help them. That's the way Yellowknife is."

**EDGE YK:** Is there anything else you'd like to say to our Yellowknife readers?

**ERASMUS:** Speaking as someone who was born here, Yellowknife is a wonderful place. There are so many people here with skills and varied backgrounds and the good thing is it still has a small town atmosphere. We find sometimes that people come from other places and they want to make it something that it's not, and that's OK, but please recognize and support the way people are because people are the way they are for a reason, and the reason really is to support each other. And you'll find that there are people here for 30-40 years, they don't know the other person's name but they know them to see them and they'll say hello. And that's the beauty of this place. And you'll find that if you really need help, people will help you and they know in return you will help them. That's the way Yellowknife is and I think it will always be that way. I don't know anyone that has come here and really doesn't like the place. There may be some people from smaller communities who feel they're in competition with YK, because I know when I used to live in Fort Simpson, for example, I was there for 5-6 years in the '70s, and a lot of people would complain about Yellowknife because of the structure of government and so on, but really when it comes down to it Yellowknife is not much different from other communities in the NWT. So I think that's important. 

# Is Kam Lake Yellowknife's new Old Town?

A look inside the city's eclectic industrial park

Story by Janna Graham | Photos by Fran Hurcomb

When Jo Kelly arrived in Yellowknife, she came with a dog team. In 2001, almost everyone who kept sled dogs lived in Kam Lake. It was a no brainer. Kelly rented a property on Curry Drive and loved the access to wide open spaces to run her dogs. Back then, the neighborhood was the kind of place where it was just as likely to see the Debogorski's pig roaming the roads as it was to see a team of dogs heading towards the lake or a dump truck lumbering by with a load of topsoil.

It wasn't the kind of property most people would lust after, but it was perfect for Jo. There was a kind of 'do your own thing' coexistence between industry, animals and people.

"Our friends who live in the south with dogs on nice acreages and properties come here and they see all these dogs in a little industrial lot and they think its sounds horrible," says Jo, sitting behind the desk at Qimmiq Kennels, a large dog-boarding business she started once



she purchased and settled on her lot. "It does sound horrible but I tell them that we can literally cross Curry Drive and get out onto Great Slave Lake and I can go right to the Arctic Ocean and never pass a street or a power line."

In fact, Jo joins a long list of adventurers, like American explorer Will Steger, who have set out for Arctic expeditions off Curry Drive, in Kam Lake.

On a good day, Qimmiq Kennel has between 30-50 doggy boarders. Since her house is next to the kennel, Jo and her neighbours have a soundscape that includes howling dogs, blasting, drilling and diesel engines. "We're all tolerant and I think that's great."

Kam Lake, located in the city's extreme southern limits, is an industrial park – at least that's what it was supposed to be. It was zoned for commercial and industrial use. Yellowknife historian Ryan Silke notes that when, in 1971, the city advertised the first 10 lots at the new Kam Lake Industrial Park, Yellowknife's core reached only to the intersection of 57th Street and Franklin Avenue. Past that was Tommy Forest Ball Park, McNiven Beach and the dump (located where William McDonald School track and field is now) and the jail (where the Multiplex is now). If Yellowknife ever had an outskirts, Kam Lake was it.



◀ Beck's Kennels give winter tourists a taste of northern reality. ▲ Winter woolies at Artic Farmers. ▼ Alex Debogorski, "The Ice Road Trucker."





Before the 1970s, not much was happening in Kam Lake. Once, in 1936, Cominco built a prospecting camp on the east shore so that planes could land on ice-free Kam Lake, which thawed before Yellowknife Bay. When Yellowknife Bay thawed later that spring, the camp was relocated. Then in the 1940s, the Department of Transportation cut what's now Kam Lake Road to build a radio transmission tower on the south end of the lake. That tower is still in use for airport traffic.

Families started moving into Kam Lake after lot owners were permitted to build 'caretaker residences' beside their businesses. Many of the founding families still live and work there. Nolting, Eggenberger, Beck, Debogorski are a few of the family names that made it so much more than just an industrial zone. It became a scrappy, somewhat eccentric community of trades people, dog mushers and heavy machine operators.



Alex Debogorski figured the city would want people like him to move out to a more industrial area after he filled up his yard on Bigelow Drive with cars. In 1981, he registered Eagle North Contracting and sat on the steps of city hall for 26 hours to get his first lot.

It would be fair to say that Alex, who has raised a family of 11 children in Kam Lake, is of Yellowknife's old world order. He says the original residents of his neighbourhood are "stick in the mud right-wingers here to make a dollar," and that the value of being in Kam Lake is that he can do what he wants without by-law officers slapping tickets on him. There's space to roam and to expand.

Alex has reserved one of the lots he owns for his collection of vintage vehicles and equipment. There's construction trucks, classic American cars and '50s pickup trucks. There's an '80s Suburban tucked in beside what looks like an Oldsmobile.

▲▲ A hidden treasure from the old Rayrock Mine ▲ Dermot O'Neil teaches drumming in a converted storage unit. ▼ Mid-May at Boreal Gardens.

continued on page 51







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L'École Allain St-Cyr, la seule école à Yellowknife qui offre un programme d'éducation en français langue première, ouvre ses portes aux parents et aux élèves qui visent un bilinguisme durable, un environnement culturel enrichi, la diplomation et l'employabilité.

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- personnel dynamique et en développement continu ;
- programme de soutien qui répond aux besoins de tous les élèves ;
- partenariat école/parents/communauté sans pareil.



- Depuis 2009, la population a augmenté de plus de 30 élèves.
- En 9<sup>e</sup> année, chaque élève reçoit un ordinateur portable.
- La Commission scolaire francophone offre des bourses d'études de 3 500\$ à tous les finissants qui poursuivent des études supérieures.
- À chaque année, un groupe scolaire fait un voyage d'envergure :
  - 2013 – Voyage au Sénégal
  - 2014 – Voyage-échange aux Iles-de-la-Madeleine
- À chaque année, les élèves du secondaire font un voyage en canot
- Des équipes de l'ÉASC participent à tous les tournois sportifs et réussissent très bien.
- En franchissant les portes de l'école Allain St-Cyr, on ressent la fierté de tous ; élèves, membres du personnel, parents et communauté.

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Pour inscrire votre enfant, ou si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec la direction d'école,

Madame Yvonne Careen

(867) 873-3223

Yvonne\_Careen@learnnet.nt.ca

“Hell, in 15 years, this will all be residential and there will be none of us here.”



continued from page 48

They are rough, rusty and, in a few cases, well on their way to composting. Yet, there's a sense of entering a curated space of living monuments chronicling colourful chapters of Yellowknife industry and leisure.

“Some of this stuff that I save, people think it's an eyesore but they don't realize it's the history of the city,” says Alex, pointing to a green Dodge that appears to be sinking into the ground. “That's the first City of Yellowknife building inspector's car – a 1952 Plymouth.”

Perhaps, he muses, there's a market to bring tourists out here to see some of these old machines. A fire truck from Pine Point from the 1960s, a cable ripper from a 1940s cat train, a wooden boat (a 'barrel back runner') rumoured to have been owned by Al Capone. It's a graveyard for old vehicles and machines that were destined to be smashed at the dump.

Of course, Alex is not alone in his eye for collecting beautiful junk in Kam Lake. A cruise down Curry Drive and up around Coronation reveals mysterious and

▲ Jo Kelly owns Qimmiq boarding kennel. ► A 1948 Chevy Fleetmaster is one of dozens of vintage vehicles in Kam Lake.





▲ The twinkle in Alex Debogorski's eyes is a good indicator of his exuberant personality. ▼ Ron's Auto, the gateway to the Kam Lake.


wonderful relics on display in lots and storage yards. A decommissioned truck cab here, a sleeping Volkswagen van there. Trailers, RVs, buses, boats piles outside a wooden shack puffing smoke, presumably housing a 'caretaker.'

As with any old world order, new order has come calling; some of it in the form of the extension road to the airport and a new residential subdivision being built at Grace Lake. And then - there's Homes North blasting rock next to the Yellowknife Correctional Centre for a mixed-use facility.

"Hell, in 15 years, this will all be residential and there will be none of us here," grumbles Alex.

Jo Kelly says the biggest change she's seen is the huge influx of traffic from new businesses and housing, which hasn't been great for her dogs.

That said, there's been an increasing interest in Kam Lake by people who want to experiment. Arctic Farmer's foray into northern farming has brought chickens, donkeys and sheep into the mix. Musicians and actors have discovered buildings like the old YK Dairy make for great rehearsal spaces. Bands can rock out without worrying about noise complaints. Dermot O'Neil, who teaches drum lessons there, says, "You can't get spaces downtown or in the malls for what we're doing. It's out of the way, I can make all the noise I want and nobody bothers us."

It's been said that Kam Lake is a bigger, bolder version of what 'Old Town' Yellowknife once was. Take a drive out and see for yourself. Once you hit the bump on Kam Lake Road, right around Ron's Auto Service & Equipment, you're crossing the border into a wilder, rougher place. Yellowknife's industrial zone carries something of the heart of what our city once was --the grit, steel and rusted junk, along with tenacious, creative and hard-working characters – that form the backbone of the town. 



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Using an electric blanket to keep you warm at night can save you enough money to buy **40 cups of coffee.**

Contact your local customer service advisors if you have questions about your electrical bill or would like more information on how to manage your own consumption.

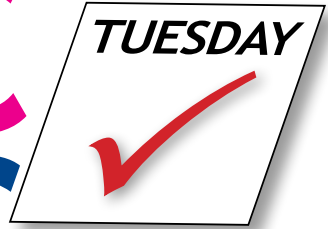


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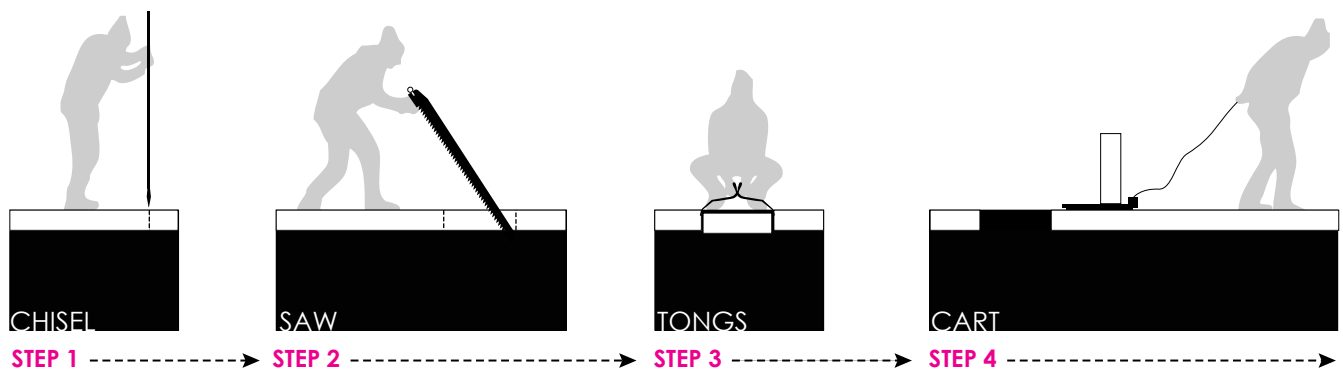


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# FINE FORM

How to build a castle out of snow and ice | by Kimberly Fuller



## ICE CUTTING

Once the lake is frozen to about 4 to 6 inches, ice cutting begins. Tools are used to cut and remove the ice blocks. The ice blocks are used for windows, stairs and tables in the snow castle. The level of opacity is dependent upon the conditions of the water. Once the ice block is removed from the frozen lake, the water freezes again and more blocks can be removed from the same location.

Building the spectacular snow castle that graces Yellowknife Bay during the Snowking Winter Festival each March is a big undertaking. Sketches are developed with the crew in early January to begin each season. Once the design is settled, the plans are hung on the wall at headquarters. The Snowking had been collecting the sketches from each snow castle over the years, and was looking for someone to compile the images. I had a look. As an intern architect and graphic artist, the floor plans didn't really interest me. I wanted to understand HOW the crew built a snow castle from the sketches I was looking at. These diagrams are the result of many hours hanging out in headquarters

with the snow castle crew advising me on the how-to's of their formwork. Joel Maillet and I also photographed all the tools that the crew used. A little exhibition in last year's snow castle (with help from Mel Pigat) was an opportunity to share this work. That small study opened my eyes to a greater local vernacular that I am just beginning to understand and plan to further explore. But for now, I hope this tells a bit of the story behind the incredible work done by the castle-building crew: Joel Maillet, Byron Sawatzky, Ryan McCord, Chris Pyke and of course, Tony Foliot. (special thanks as well to Jeff Dineley for modelling on the ice blocks diagram).

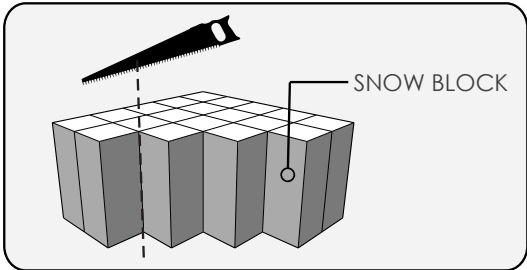
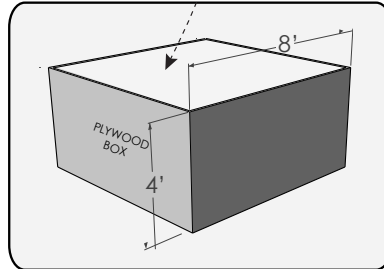
"I wanted to understand HOW the crew built a snow castle..."

# SNOW BLOCK BUILDING

Walls and arches for the snow castle are built with snow blocks. Below is a diagram of how these snow blocks are formed

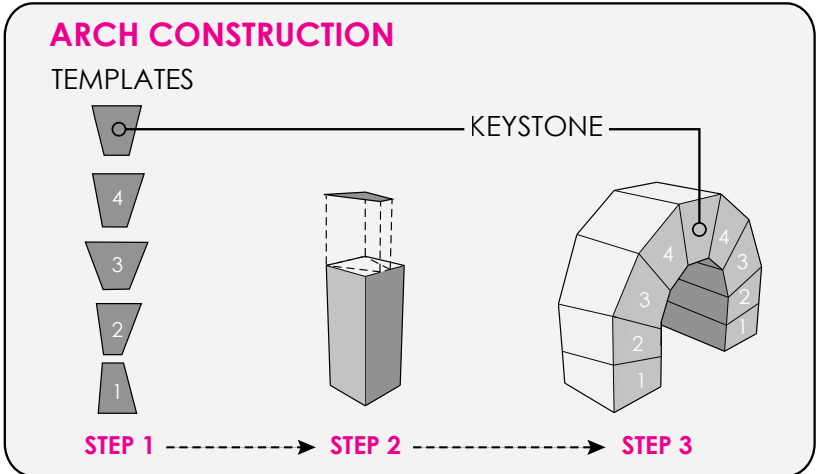
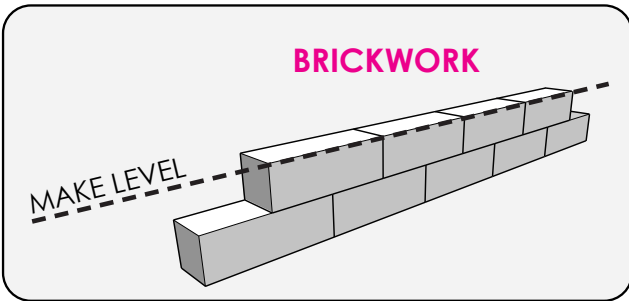
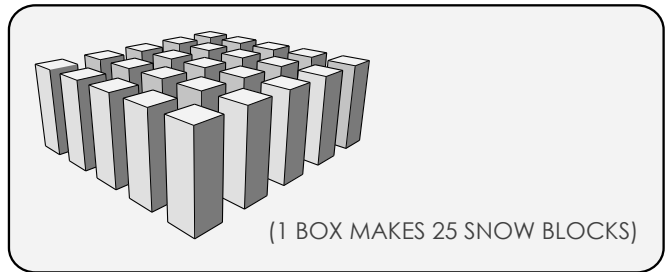


BLOW SNOW INTO PLYWOOD FORMWORK **STEP 1**



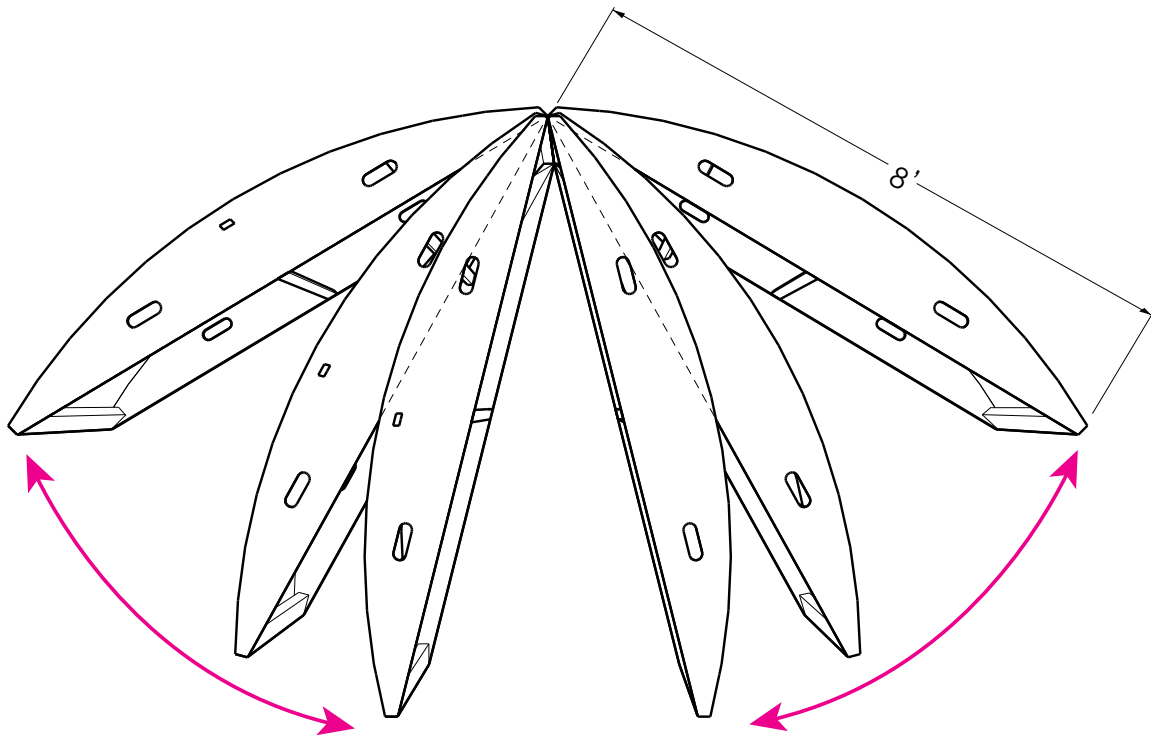
**STEP 2** CUT SNOW BLOCKS

ASSEMBLE SNOW BLOCKS FOR USE **STEP 3**



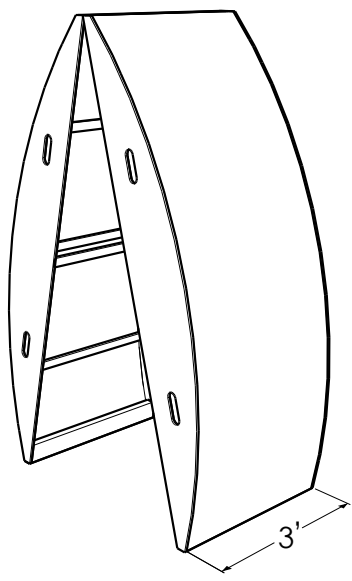


# "THE BEETLE"

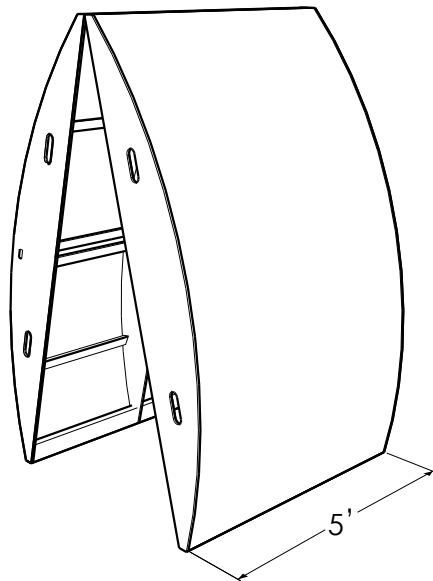


## HINGED FORM-WORK OF THE BEETLE

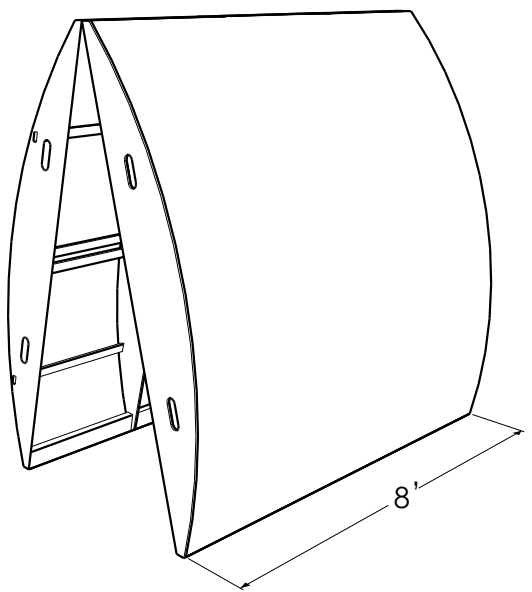
The Beetle was developed so that formwork could adjusted more easily. "The Beetle comes in three lengths and is commonly used for ceiling forms.



**3 FOOT BEETLE**



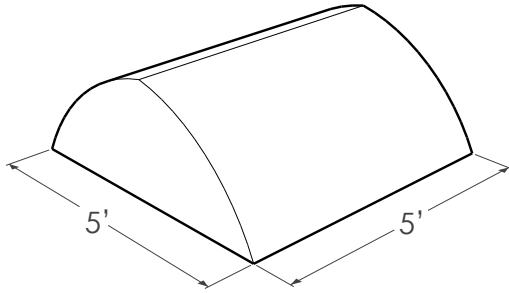
**5 FOOT BEETLE**



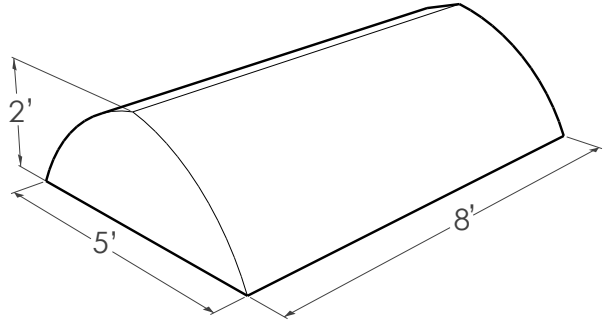
**8 FOOT BEETLE**

# “THE PIANO”

This formwork got its name from the time it took to build two simple forms.



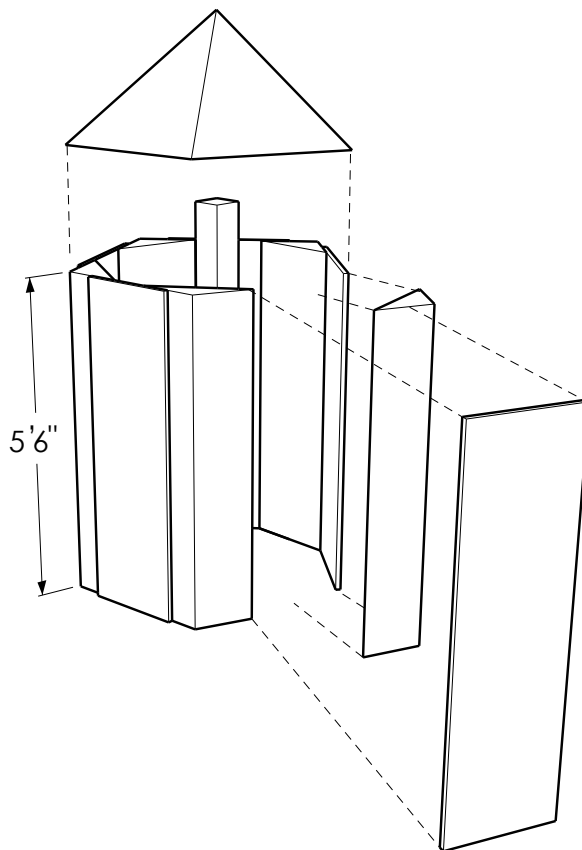
**5 FOOT PIANO**



**8 FOOT PIANO**

# “PENTAGON”

Formwork for the five sided room.



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### *Clean-Air Duct Cleaning*

Over time, dust particles settle in the vents of your home, affecting the air you breath. Having your air ducts professionally cleaned can **preserve the air quality in your home by eliminating dust from your ducts and preventing mold and rodent infestations**. Your furnace works hard during our long Northern winters – clean air ducts can help ensure it isn't pumping dust into your home.

### *Car Detailing*

While simply washing your vehicle keeps the exterior looking great, detailing is crucial to the maintenance and preservation of your car's interior. By thoroughly cleaning every crack and crevice, Commercial NDS' detailing **removes harmful germs and allergens, while retaining your vehicle's value**.

### *Chimney Cleaning*

During Yellowknife's long winters, soot and debris accumulate in your chimney **potentially causing cardiovascular problems or chimney fires**. Have your flue swept at least once a season to **remove these blockages and increase your chimney's efficiency**.

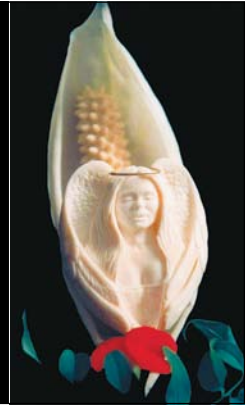


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## 2014 Extended Stay Campsite Draw Prelude Lake and Reid Lake Territorial Campgrounds

The ballot draw will take place Sunday, April 6, 2014 at St. Pat's High School Gym. Doors open at noon, the draw starts at 1:30 pm.

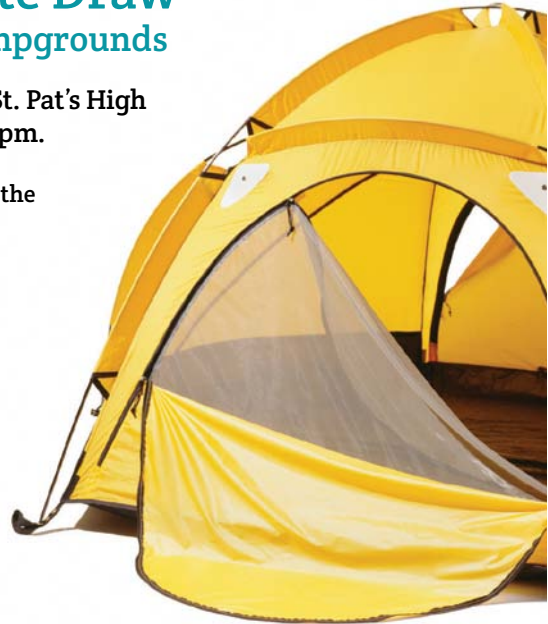
Camper trailer registration from Motor Vehicles in the name of the applicant is required to get a ballot.

**Prelude Lake** 20 permits ... May 15 to July 15 ..... \$500 each  
20 permits ... July 16 to September 15 .... \$500 each


**Reid Lake** 20 permits ... May 15 to July 15 ..... \$500 each  
20 permits ... July 16 to September 15 ..... \$500 each  
10 permits ... May 15 to September 15 ..... \$1,000 each

Watch for future information about the Extended Stay Campsite Draw, including eligibility and payment

at [www.nwtparks.ca](http://www.nwtparks.ca) and search "Extended Stay Draw."



[nwtparks.ca](http://nwtparks.ca)



Session Begins February 5.

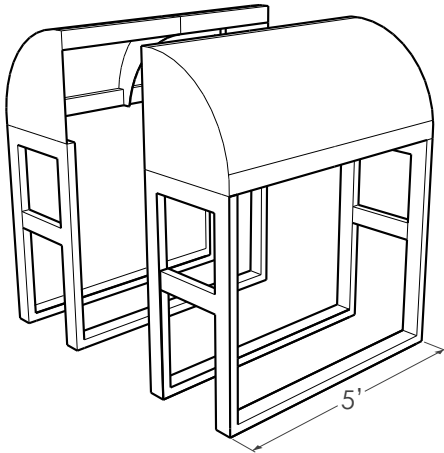
If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact me.

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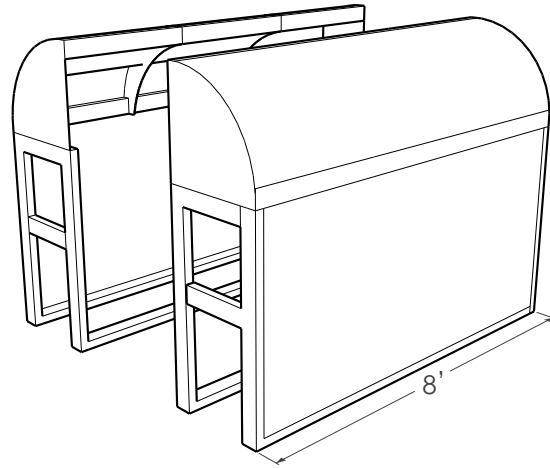
# “HALF ROUNDS”

This form-work is built out of lumber and plywood to be moulds which will become the 'rooms' of the snowcastle. The “Half Rounds” formwork can be assembled into various configurations to create different spaces as seen below.



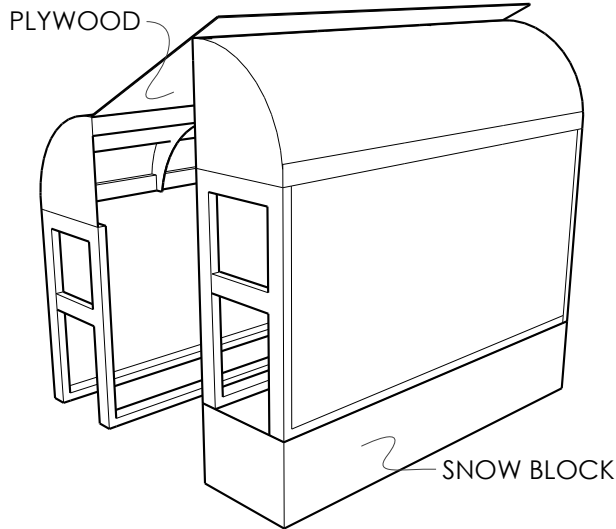
## 5 FOOT-HALF ROUND

Two “Half Rounds” fit together to form a complete space.



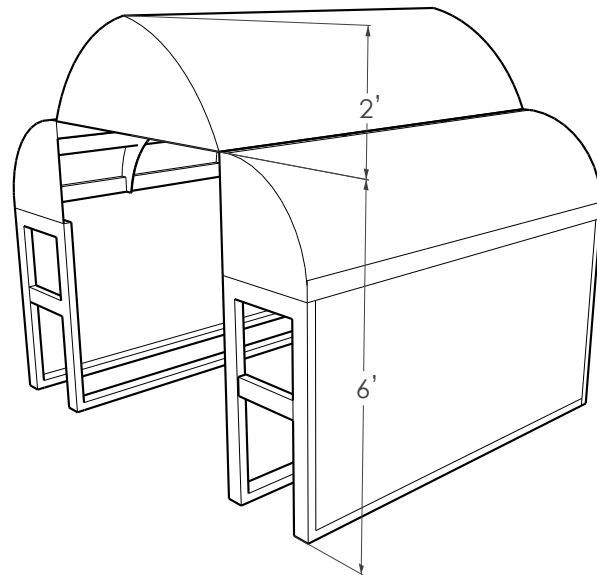
## 8 FOOT-HALF ROUND

There are 5 foot and 8 foot lengths of this formwork.



## SUPER-SLOPPY

Other shapes and heights are made with plywood or placing the “half round on a snow block to achieve more height. This never worked.



## HALF ROUND WITH PIANO

Other formwork shapes can fit together to make new shapes. This never worked either.



The first time Kimberly Fuller met the Snowking he read her his poetry and drew some lovely diagrams of snow castles. She realized at that moment that there was something very special about Yellowknife that would have a significant impact on her life. She's just completed her first tiny, off-grid houseboat on the bay and is interning as an architect.



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# SNOWKING XIX

## WINTER FESTIVAL

### Festival Schedule

March 1 - 31 Open daily - Closed on Mondays

#### Saturday March 1

12-5pm ARCC presents SubARCCtic II  
1-3pm The SnowKing Photo Booth

#### *The Hottest Show in Town*

9:00pm Brrrlesque

#### Sunday March 2

1pm Kalemi Dene School Choir  
1:30pm The Fiddle Cats  
2pm Bow Valley Fiddlers

#### Sunday March 2-7th

Kalemi Dene School Art Show

#### Wednesday March 5

8pm *Dead North* - short horror film competition  
presented by Artless Collective

#### Thursday March 6

#### *Winter Frolic*

8pm Mary Caroline  
9pm Dana Sipos

#### Friday March 7

#### *The Shiver-n-Shake*

9pm 3-Across-Dee-Eye  
10:30pm Wake up Hazel

#### Saturday March 8

#### *Hot Music for a Cold Day*

2pm Yellowknife Choral Society followed by  
Fireweed Childrens Choir

#### *Spicy and Icy, Sizzlin' Night*

9pm Bem Galada  
10pm Performance by YK Salsa  
10:30pm La Luna de Santiago

#### Sunday March 9

1pm Frosty Children's Theater presents Bug Off!  
1:30pm Peek-a-boo Kazoo sing along  
2pm Bella Dance  
3pm NJ MacPherson Art - Clay n' Play  
presented NJ MacPherson School

#### Sunday March 9-14th

Clay n' Play Art Show

#### Wednesday March 12

8pm *Frozen Dog Film Festival* presented  
by Western Arctic Motion Pictures

#### Thursday March 13

8pm Sinister Oculus

#### Friday March 14

8pm *The Royal Rave* with the Bushleague  
DJs and friends

#### Saturday March 15

12-5pm Iceolation Art Exhibit

*Nuit Blanche* - presented by L'Association  
Franco-Culturelle de Yellowknife

9pm la BIG différence - Theatre  
10pm Daniel Roa

#### Sunday March 16

*Sugar Shack Brunch* presented by  
L'Association Franco-Culturelle de Yellowknife

10:00-11:00am First seating  
11:00-12:00am Second seating

#### *A Musical Afternoon in the Castle*

1pm Nick Jackson and Friends  
2pm Hindsight  
3pm Jonathan Churcher

#### Wednesday March 19

8pm Chilled Minstrel Hastilude III Poetry  
Slam with Bipolar and Bouge

#### Thursday March 20

#### *Howl at the Moon*

8pm Maigan van der Giessen  
9pm Jay Gilday

#### Friday March 21

*The Snowdown* sponsored by First Air  
9pm The Old Town Mondays  
10:30pm The Jerry Cans

#### Saturday March 22

*Snowy Family Day* presented by Century 21/  
Greenway Reality

12:30 - 230pm Ecology North Fish Fry  
12:30pm World Water Day Family Fun activities  
1pm Ty and the Fly book reading  
1:30pm Peek-a-Boo Kazoo Sing-a-long  
2:00pm *Fractured Fairy Tales* presented by  
Miranda Curry and Curious Connections Puppets  
3:00pm AFCY presents la BIG différence

#### *The Royal Ball*

9:00pm Angus Beaulieu  
10:30pm JJ Guy and Gordon Stobbe

#### Sunday March 23

12-5pm Snowy Craft Sale with Yellowknife  
Arts and Crafts  
11am-4pm SnowKing Cup Hockey Challenge

#### Sunday March 23-28th

Cold Gold Skyline photos by Gawain Jones

#### Thursday March 27

8pm Jasmine Netsena CD Release with  
Andrea Bettger

#### Friday March 28

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10:30pm Willie MacAlder

#### Saturday March 29

*Miranda Curry and Curious Connections  
Puppets*

1pm Anna and the Bear  
1:30pm Casey the Bear

#### *The Great Meltdown*

9pm Showtime

#### Sunday March 30

#### *The Long and Short of it*

1pm Storytelling with SnowKing and friends

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# SETTLING SCORES

## WHO IS YK'S TOP MALE ATHLETE?

Story by Mike Auge | Photos by Fran Hurcomb

It's a barroom debate that often rages on during post-game conversations at the Monkey Tree, Black Knight or Coyotes; who is the Bo Jackson of Yellowknife? Who is the best that this town has to offer when it comes to athletic exploits? This is a list that friends and I have discussed ad nauseam over a few late-night beverages throughout the years, and we can never seem to come to an agreement on who is the top dog. Therefore, I've decided to put a little research into the matter and settle the debate once and for all (or for the year 2014 at least) on who is "The Best of the Best."

Before we get into the athletes that make up Yellowknife's elite we need to set out a few ground rules:

**Rule #1** We're talking YK rec athletes. Sorry Michael Gilday, Molly Milligan and Devin Hinchey, I know you're competing at world class levels in your respective sports but you are just a tad too good for this conversation. Also, this rule eliminates any of the athletes attending school down south and playing for their varsity teams.

**Rule #2** With my sincerest apologies to all the female athletes in town, I'm limiting this list to males for this go

around. I know there are some spectacularly athletic ladies in this town (heck, I've seen it firsthand when players like Alyssa Bird and Mel Kornacki school me on the football field on Friday nights), but I'm just not familiar enough with who are the elite in the female sporting circles to include them on the list.

**Rule #3** This is perhaps the most important rule. Both quality and quantity count in this discussion. This means that a couple of groups of people aren't making the list. Athletes like Mirsad Mujcin and Bruce Waugh may dominate the one or two sports they play, but they just don't have a broad enough resume to make the list. On the flip side of this, an "athlete" like Damien Healy plays pretty much every sport this town has to offer: basketball, football, fastball, slo-pitch, hockey, golf, squash, soccer, broomball, but his quality of play leaves a lot to be desired in every single one of them. That's not going to cut it.

Now that we've got our basic rules laid out, let's dive right in.



### 3RD PLACE

Bryan Laserich – Despite his nearly incomprehensible accent and lingo, this Aussie import is an absolute beast in every sport he plays. On the basketball court it's nearly impossible to stop him when he lowers his head and drives the lane, and on the volleyball court his power is devastating, but where he really shines is on the football field and rugby pitch. Despite his overpowering appearance, Bryan has an uncanny nimbleness in his game. While he is more than capable of bowling people over, he often chooses instead to embarrass them with a quick little "How's she going" move that causes them to trip over their own feet and end up watching him from the ground as he saunters into the end zone. He's amongst the elite at the games he plays and if he adds a couple more sports to his repertoire, he could soon challenge for the top spot.

### HONOURABLE MENTIONS:

Here are a couple of guys that definitely would have been battling for the top spot on this list a decade ago, but unfortunately for them, it's 2014 and they are on the downside of their athletic careers and have slipped a little in the rankings.

Mike "The Wiz" Mathison – Mike has long been one of the very best basketball, volleyball, badminton and slo-pitch players in town. Unfortunately, age and parenthood have slowed him down a little and while he remains above average in all the sports, he's no longer the dominant force he once was.

Ryan Strain – The former WHL star is another victim of father time. Rhino is still among the elite on the ice and on the fastball field, but his skills and participation in other sports have dwindled as he's entered his 40s. If you ask him, he's still the man to beat, but those of us who play the games know better.

And now for the real winners...



### 2ND PLACE

Kyle Kugler – Simply put, Kyle excels at any sport he chooses to play. He was a member of Yellowknife's victorious Northern Hockey Challenge team last year which clearly places him among the best of all northerners on the ice. He played an integral part in the Slades Expos' return to championship form in the YK Fastball League last summer by injecting some new life into the squad of aging has-beens. Over on the football field, his speed and sure hands have left many defenders in his wake, begging for help. Excellent in any sporting arena, Kugler is one of the best in town... but he's not quite #1. That honour belongs to...

continued on page 69

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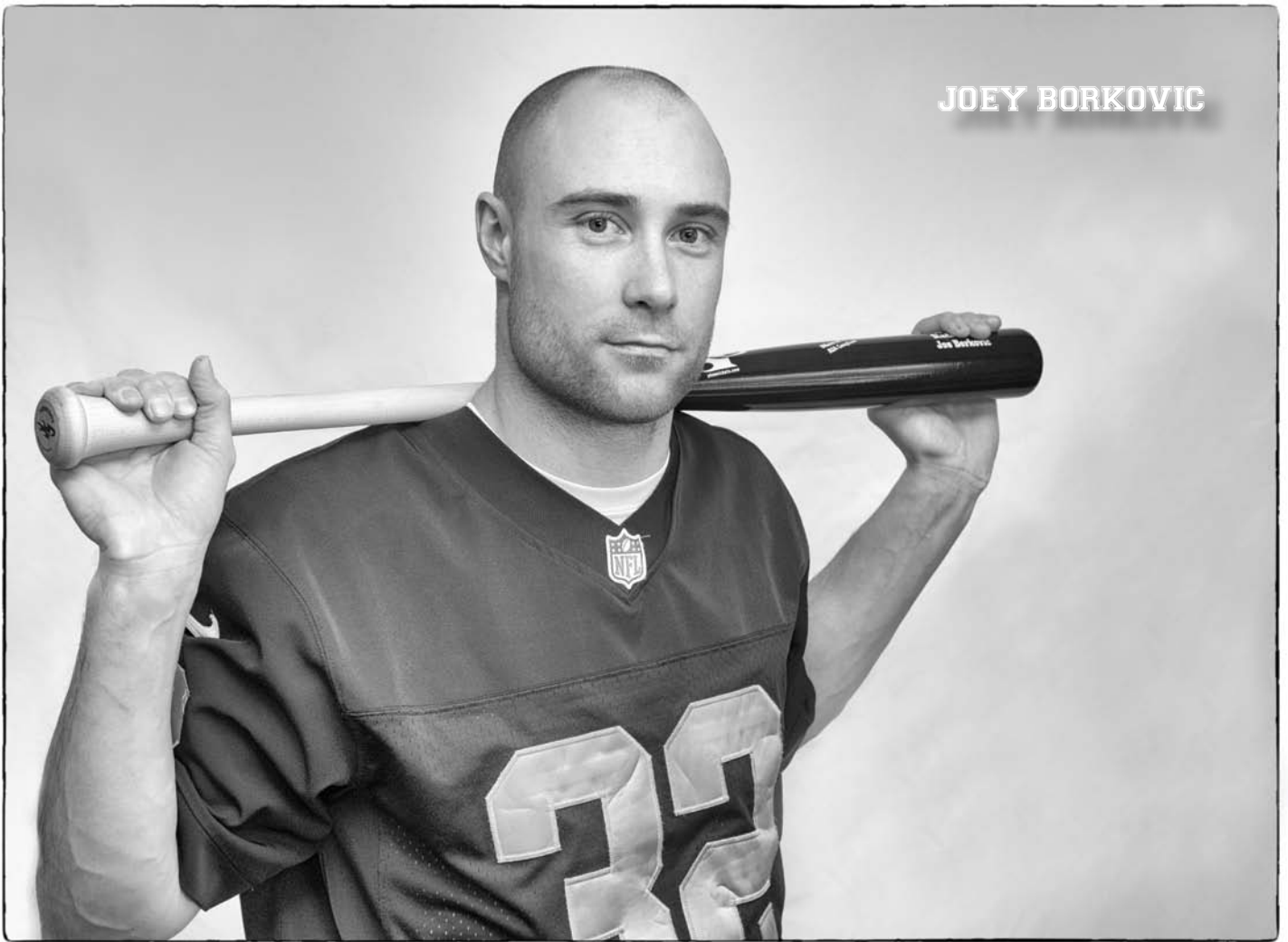
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continued from page 66

### 1ST PLACE

Joey Borkovic – The best of the best, Mr. Borko is without athletic equal in YK sports. He's got the quantity covered, as he plays hockey, football, fastball, slo-pitch, volleyball, soccer, golf and probably a couple of others that I'm missing. And he's got the quality covered as well as he is at or near the top in every one of those sports (except when he moves away from wide receiver and tries to play quarterback, then it gets ugly). Joey is one of the fastest players in every sport, he's got an absolute rocket for an arm, and he's got some of the best hand-eye coordination around. It doesn't matter which playing field you choose, the odds are overwhelming that Joey's better than you. By far.

There you have it, the best of the best. If you play any sport in this town, you've undoubtedly been embarrassed by one or more of these guys on a few occasions. In fact, if you gave me these three all-stars and a couple of scrubs off the street I'm pretty sure we'd win in every sport this town has to offer. And now that that's settled we can move on to more important debates, like who is the YKFL's top QB?

*Growing up in Yellowknife, Mike (Rug) Auge developed his sporting skills under the tutelage of local legends like Quinn Groenheyde, Andy Tereposky and Burly, and as such, feels he is more than qualified as an authority on sporting excellence in this town.* (E)



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Showing a friend the town from Pilot's Monument. Photo courtesy Colby Martin



# SAILING INTO THE WIDE OPEN AND SILENT SPACES OF YELLOWKNIFE

by Bronwen Livingston

In June of 2011 I returned to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia after spending 11 months circumnavigating the world as Purser on a Tall Ship. To this day I have no words to truly describe that experience, but I can say that upon my return I neither knew where to be, nor what to do. My brother, who introduced me to sailing in the first place, understood well what I was feeling, and offered me some appropriately remorseful words. "You're going to be screwed up for a time now, I'm sorry, but I needed someone else in the family to understand." Of course, he was right. I dreamt of endless ocean, of tropical islands, of whales playing off the bow, of steering by the stars, of this incredibly romantic life at sea - and might well have stayed at sea forever, if another intriguing option had not been proffered.

At the beginning of September that year I received a call from my father. He had just recently moved down to Yellowknife (he and my sister had lived further north in Nunavut for seven years), and wondered if my brother and I would consider sharing his double-wide trailer.

It was not the first time my father had tried to cajole us into moving north. In a letter written during his first summer in Cambridge Bay, he told me: "I recently took a canoe into the bay and by the light of the midnight sun chipped some candle ice from a floe for my glass of whiskey." Meanwhile, my sister talked of taking Russian delegates and Prime Ministers on tours of the town, playing winter golf at the Many Pebbles Golf course with celebrities, and nursing baby musk ox.

The unknown, the harshness, and, yes – the romance, of the Arctic had intrigued me for years, but I could imagine only going for a visit.

Yellowknife, on the other hand; Yellowknife had always been a possible curiosity to me. It seemed to have those qualities one imagines of a northern frontier town: creativity that can be spurred only by the cold - a do or die attitude, and a sort of desolate type of freedom. To my mind, it had an aura that was bound to attract some eccentrically adventuresome people. Well, I too felt a little crazy.

And so I thought about it – a lot – while lying in my bunk on the ship, listening to the harbour water lap at the hull.

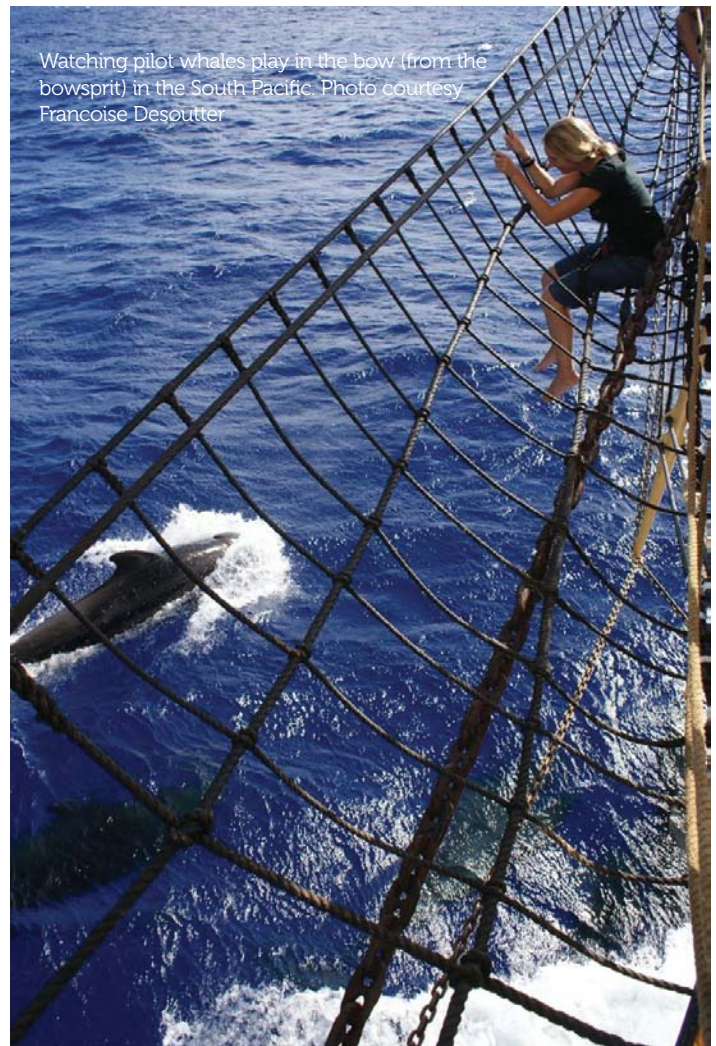
In the end, the idea of being close to my father and sister for the first time in nearly a decade tipped the balance in favour of Yellowknife, and my brother and I accepted the challenge. Also, where else are you going to go after experiencing a voyage in a square-rigger around the world? The moon seemed my only other choice. I needed somewhere extreme.

In October of 2011, I packed my bags and flew to Yellowknife.

Since my father had just arrived in town the month before, the trailer at first lacked both furniture and personal homey touches. Shortly thereafter we discovered YKea, the Yellowknife dump, and picked up some sweet furniture and odds and ends. Before I knew it I was living classic bachelor style with my family. We had an air hockey table as a kitchen table, a carpenter's bench as the kitchen island, old sheets for curtains, and assorted fuzz-balls from a shedding Labrador Retriever.

I was unemployed for the first six weeks I was here, fishtailing through the frozen streets in our \$900 Ford truck, but I made connections through friends of friends I met at the pubs, dinner parties, cabins in the woods, and late night houseboat jam sessions that proved fruitful. Since that stint of unemployment I have worked at the Black Knight pub, the Visitors Centre, Blachford Lake Lodge, the Snowking Festival, and for the GNWT. My brother found me a sweet blazer (at the dump) with large impressive shoulder pads to wear to my first important government job.

I did discover that Yellowknife can be a land of employment opportunity, but it is so much more than that. My first winter was a 'mild' one, but still harder than any I had ever experienced; and yet I did not get sad like I used to during winters in Montreal. It's hard to translate but the winters here are alive. You have to experience the crisp clear nights when the northern lights dance across the sky, or how it feels to dog mush through moonlit trails, or the way the hoarfrost and snow sparkles, or the deafening silence when you walk across the frozen lakes at night. Yes, the winters are tough here, but consequently I have felt both tough and useful. This



Watching pilot whales play in the bow (from the bowsprit) in the South Pacific. Photo courtesy Francoise Desputter

town has offered me the silence and wide open space I sometimes need, while presenting the social connections I just as equally desire.

When I told people that I had come for six months to a year, they smiled at me, and winked. "I came here for six months as well, that was 35 years ago. You just wait. I bet you're here to stay."

As of last October I have lived in Yellowknife for two years. This is now officially the longest I have lived anywhere consecutively since I left home when I was 18. I've got potential opportunities on the horizon, but I am enjoying my life here, my new roommates, my family close by, and the random craziness this community continuously offers. After two years I still feel like I have so many firsts, so many quintessential Yellowknife moments to experience, and I am looking forward to it. Sink or swim is indeed the mentality here, and so far I am managing to swim, and sometimes even sail, in Yellowknife. I am not fishtailing as much as I was in the beginning and I love my connection to this great white northern town of ours. 

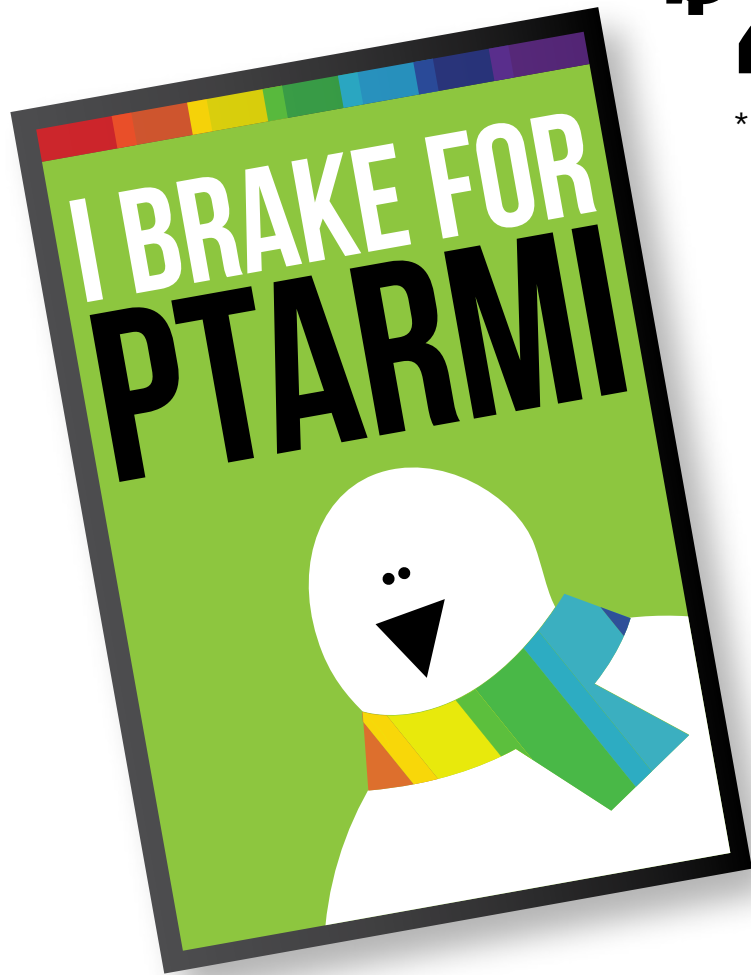
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## Project management tips for non-profits

In Yellowknife, we have many non-profit organizations trying to accomplish a variety of projects. Sometimes it can overwhelm an organization, but it doesn't have to, and good project management can be the difference between success and disaster.

With nearly 20 years of varying project experience, I have discovered effective project management is the same no matter the "type" of project. It's also largely the same in a for-profit company and non-profit organization.

Let's start by providing a little clarification on what a project is. Projects have a specified beginning and end, as well as clear and achievable objectives relevant to Time, Cost, Scope and Quality. Ultimately, a project creates a unique product, service or a deliverable result, unlike operations, which are continually in progress. An example of a simple project could be creating a website or Facebook page to collect donations. On the other hand, a project like the future Betty House would be multi-faceted and very complex.

I've delivered various projects from multi-million dollar infrastructure developments for the mining industry to numerous housing projects for the NWT Housing Corp. to cart paths and artificial greens for the Yellowknife Golf Course to the entire site set up, operations and tear down for the Long John Jamboree.

Now that we understand what a project is, what is project management? When you take knowledge, skills, tools and techniques and apply them to meet the project requirements, you are now managing a project. It doesn't have to be difficult, honestly, on the most part it's fun!

You may not think so, but even the smallest project will benefit from developing a simple plan before getting started. Here are some observations and tips on the basics of project management for non-profits unfamiliar with the project-management process.

- Projects need a plan that identifies goals, defines scope and assigns tasks with measurable outcome criteria. Non-profits are eligible for free or low-cost project management software. Tech Soup at [www.techsoupcanada.ca](http://www.techsoupcanada.ca) is an example.
- The project must further the strategic goals of the organization, which means it should tie-in with some organizational objectives.

- Projects need a schedule with task details, dependencies, assignments and periodic reviews and reporting. This can be as simple as setting up an Excel Spreadsheet listing who will do what and when.
- How much the project costs really does matter and may be the deciding criteria for whether it is undertaken. Therefore a cost/benefit analysis is a MUST! You can do a simple one by outlining on a Word document the "benefit" of a particular item or service and then identify the "cost" of having that benefit, both in dollars and time spent to realize it. You can then present this to your Board or Committee for discussion and approval.
- No matter how elaborate or simple a project, tools for planning, costing, scheduling and resource management will be required. Some of these tools are Microsoft Project 2010, some form of spreadsheet and, ideally, access to database storage such as the new "clouds" so that all members of your Board or Committee can access and share information.
- Effective communication with key stakeholders is essential. This can mean using old classics like phone calls and emails to communicate when need be, but don't be afraid to branch out and make use of social media. It's simple to use and has minimal cost.
- Risks must be identified and managed. Don't go overboard; identify the most likely and greatest impact risks and outline the preventative measures. You can do this by using a technique that's an oldie but a goodie called a SWOT Analysis. Take the time to identify your organization's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.
- Projects change during execution. Expect to have to change the plan to accommodate changes in the environment or organization. This is especially important for non-profits where board representation can change often but projects may be multi-year. Be flexible!

And there you have it. All the best with your organization's project!

*Cory Vanthuyne is a Consultant specializing in Project Management, a member of the Project Management Institute and owner of CORVAN Consultants Ltd.*

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## The garden gnome, the fox and the cagey dog

We didn't mind our husky pulling so hard on her leash. After all, we'd trapped her in the Trailer all day, and there really isn't much in the Trailer for an animal like this except that big plush couch, and admittedly she wasn't too upset about that, until the prospect of her going outside and rolling in a pile of mystery poop presented itself -- and that's just what she was off to do.

We didn't even mind when she broke free from the leash at the front door and crawled under the deck frantically chasing nothing. Dogs get excited about weird things; Blueberry hates balloons for instance. I'm sure at least one hamburger missed the plate on the deck this summer and ended up under the Trailer, so be it; lots of things end up under the Trailer, it's our open concept basement. "Enjoy the Pattie Blue! And could you grab the tongs?"

We didn't even mind when we started noticing smaller footprints, like a sprinkling of raindrops in the snow, leading out from under the deck and past our compost bins to some green space behind the neighbour's place. I mean, we felt a little silly at first for thinking that the dog was chasing historical burgers -- I guess we could have assumed there was something living under there. It certainly wasn't little house leveling gnomes walking back and forth with some extra insulation for the sewage pipes, though these are the sorts of things you think about in weak moments as a Trailer owner in Yellowknife.

We didn't even really mind when the Environment and Natural Resources official showed up with the trap, and the cans of spam, and promised that he would catch the fox building a den under our deck, because, well, you can't have that!

And we didn't even mind when he caught it. It smiled even. And this time an ENR lady showed up and put the cage in the truck, and I even helped her carry it there. And the fox smiled again at me, and it was clear that SHE was eating spam for more than just herself.

And it was all fine and dandy until the ENR lady slammed the gate on the truck and I asked where she'd drop the thing down the highway, and she said there would be no dropping, and that it would be killed just as soon as they had a chance.

And I thought, do I mind?

And she said I shouldn't. The fox would have had kids, and they could have dropped it past Behchoko and it would have made its way right back under my deck. And they're cute, sure, but they're none too friendly with dogs, and since I wasn't about to give up my poop-covered husky I'd better cage any awkward emotions around this little episode. Cage 'em good.

But I did mind, eventually, and briefly, because someone said: "You could have done that yourself." And it's true, I guess I could have, if I had a trap, and didn't mind breaking the law, and I guess I could have leveled the house too, and wrapped the pipes, only sometimes we think these things are harder than they are, especially in this land of Trailers.

And it took that little fox to remind me of this. She'd done more around here getting ready for the winter than I had. I was sitting around dreaming about garden gnomes, with their sacks full of insulation, and jacks, and, well, you can't have that!

*Peter Sheldon is a writer, snow fort aficionado and faithful producer for the public broadcaster. He took a lot of heat for declaring himself a "philosopher" in a previous bio for Edge YK. In truth, he doesn't know the first thing about being a philosopher. He had a friend who called himself a "philosopher" once, and he thought it sounded kinda' cool, so he stuck it in there. He apologizes for any trouble this has caused.*



# *The Valentine's Day Tea*

## *Old Town 1960s*

Verse by Anthony Foliot

The Liquor Store, the Government Building, and the Rex Cafe  
Could easily be walked to, along the new Causeway.  
And so I set out walking, all jaunty and carefree  
Then found myself in the Rex Cafe for their Valentine's Day Tea.  
There was Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Smith, there's Mrs. Murphy too...  
There's sure a lot of Mrs.es, for sure there's quite a few.  
Then glancing 'round the room I was quick to observe...  
A bunch of pretty Misses with all their special curves.

There was Miss Taken in a tizzy, Miss Understood complains,  
Cynical Miss Anne Thropic, and a few I could Miss Name...  
Like Miss Feasance, she's a gangster, with her brother Mal  
I only sort of knew him, but I wouldn't call him pal.  
Over there sits dear Miss Fortune, she seems a tad distressed...  
There's Miss Communication and scattered Miss Cellaneous  
Old Miss Hap and Miss Conduct, tried to enlighten me  
How I had fallen to the spell of Miss Ology.  
Then Mrs. Plank and Mrs. Plane, commenced to raise a fuss  
While I danced with grave Miss Givings, and the pretty Miss  
Terious  
So I quit with the dancing, and I moved to the side  
For some punch and baked goodies, that the Mrs.es supplied.

Well, trust Miss Trust and Miss Treat, to exclaim when they  
perceived  
Miss Appropriation, slip something up her sleeve.  
And the holy Miss Ion and the proper Mrs. Primm, blamed  
Poor Miss Guided-Justice and said stealing was a sin.  
So I stole a few more glances at the lovely Misses there  
Again I loaded up my plate and went and found a chair.

Then in walked Miss Nomer, who's actually Miss Ter  
And then, a hush fell all around the room...  
She was wearing a new gown, borrowed from his sister  
So I figured I'd be leaving pretty soon.

Then to all the Misses and the Mrs.es, I gave them hugs and  
kisses  
I told them the cakes and pies were delicious, and headed out to  
do some business  
And thought to myself how curious this is.

# The moments we cheer together



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