

# Walk Softly

Newsletter of the  
Yukon Conservation Society  
Winter 2020



photo: Lewis Rijfkind

**Inside:** • Land Use Plans • Electric Thermal Storage • Who pays to clean up mines?

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### A Change in Our Printed Cover

In order to maintain our standard of 100% recycled paper, we have switched to this more neutral cover page. The brown paper that has been used for some time as the cover for *Walk Softly*, is no longer available. All other coloured versions available only contain 10-15% recycled material. On the upside, photos will print better on this more neutral colour. Thanks for your understanding.

### Correction

In the previous issue of *Walk Softly*, Fall 2020, the article 'YCS's Electrical Thermal Storage Project' omitted the authors. It was written by Noah Sternbergh and Eric Labrecque.

## You Are Invited: Holiday Open House!



The YCS Holiday/End-of-Year party is fast approaching. Due to COVID-19 regulations we have decided to have an indoor/outdoor Open House event – to accommodate larger numbers of people in a safe manner. We have installed a new firepit for roasting hotdogs and marshmallows, and to provide a bit of warmth outside. We hope you will drop by and say hello, and enjoy a hot cup of cocoa. **Come by from noon to 6pm on Friday, December 11th.**

We will also announce this year's recipient of the Gerry Couture Stewardship Award at the event.

For planning purposes and COVID tracking, please RSVP to Debborah at [outreach@yukonconservation.org](mailto:outreach@yukonconservation.org) or 867-668-5678 x1.

### Walk Softly

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We welcome newsletter submissions and letters to the editor. Deadlines for submissions are Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, and Nov 1. Views expressed in **Walk Softly** are not necessarily those of the Society.

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Tanya Handley, Debborah Donnelly  
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## Out with the oil tank, in with the compost bin

### An ETS Project Participant Experience

The Yukon Electric Thermal Storage Demonstration Project had its first ETS installation in mid September; they have been enjoying their new ETS furnace for the past month and a half. Last week, I had the chance to visit our first participants and get their perspectives on what it was like to engage in the ETS project so far.

Long-time Yukoners, Norman Holler and Lyn Fabio have been active members of the Whitehorse community for more than 40 years. Both Lyn and Norman said that two of the things they value most about living up here are the strong community and the easy access to wilderness.

Although neither describe themselves as environmentalists, they felt that moving off oil was just something that was “morally appropriate” for them. This is why Norman’s interest in ETS home heating was piqued after his close friend and an expert in wind energy in the territory, JP Pinard, described to him the significant reduction in his carbon footprint he would see if he switched to heating with ETS.

Norman’s experience with the ETS project’s application process began with a typical intake call during which applicants can ask any questions they have about the project and YCS begins the process of assessing their eligibility and suitability for the project. During the call, he learned how ETS doesn’t just reduce the homeowners personal carbon footprint by reducing that of the home’s heating system but also can allow the electric grid to be more flexible in order to avoid large peaks in consumption and to integrate more intermittent renewables onto the grid. The potential positive impact that Norman and Lyn’s participation could have on the environment was their biggest motivator for participating.

Despite the uncertain times of COVID-19, they still felt that participating in this project and in the green movement more broadly was a priority. Now that Norman and Lyn have their new ETS furnace, they are happy they made the choice.

Lyn has a long list of positive reviews about her experience so far with the ETS project and with her experience during and after the installation of her and her partner’s ETS furnace. On the topic of her experience with the ETS project contractors – Solvest and Certified Heating – Lyn was “so impressed with everyone who participated.” She noted how “all the installers were efficient and polite and good natured”, and she “really enjoyed” their service.

Since her new furnace has been installed, she says that the basement has never been more comfortable, especially the mechanical room. She mentioned that she is interested in exploring the uses of the warm top of her new furnace – maybe to dry clothes or as a space for proofing bread. She has also noticed that compared to her old oil furnace, which blew cold air for a few minutes before really heating up, the ETS furnace provides “instant heat” (probably because the bricks are always warm).

The only aspect of her new heating system that she hasn’t really enjoyed is the noise of the fan. Lyn noticed that the pitch of the old furnace fan was a bit lower and the fan a bit quieter compared to the fan on the ETS furnace (ETS furnace fans are typically larger and therefore slightly louder as the bricks present more air resistance than the combustion chamber of an oil furnace). After mentioning this, though, Lyn said that with her old furnace fan she eventually came to relate the sound of the fan to the idea of warmth and had positive associations with

hearing the furnace fan kick on. She anticipates that that will soon be the case with the sound of the ETS furnace fan too.

For Norman, the ETS furnace was a massively positive move. He says he is more than happy with its heat and is looking forward to exploring programming options in his new programmable thermostat.

But Norman was most excited to be reducing his carbon footprint. He compared his feeling of finally being off oil for his home heating to dropping off his final cheque to pay off his house. Norman said he felt “absolutely giddy” and “relieved” when he saw the oil tank taken away. He was happy to show off both the old furnace exhaust pipe that’s since been blocked off and the thick black cabling that he chose to run from his meter along the outside of his house to enter through the outside wall of his mechanical room to power his ETS furnace.

He was particularly pleased with the new look for his home and says he’s been showing off his “badass” new wiring whenever he has guests by. Finally, Norman pointed out what he calls his “corral” – a fenced off block right against the side of the house near the back door. He explained that this is where his oil tank used to sit and how he had put up the fencing to block off the unsightly tank from view. Now he’s put his City of Whitehorse compost bin there. He laughed when I suggested that he was making a statement, replacing his oil tank with a compost bin. While he was more excited about how cool his new wiring looked, he seemed to think that the oil to compost switch sounded pretty good, too.

*Noah Sternbergh,  
YCS ETS Project Assistant*

## Whitehorse snowmobile bylaw needs amending

City Council needs to amend the now eight-year old Snowmobile Bylaw to reflect the ATV Bylaw, and prohibit snowmobile operators from using non-motorized trails, greenbelts, and open spaces. Why?

Doing so would end the confusion surrounding the true meaning of the term non-motorized trail.

At present, only non-motorized trails that are listed in the Snowmobile Bylaw under Schedule “C” and “E” are actually non-motorized in both summer and winter.

As a result, many trail users are under the mistaken belief that all non-motorized trails are free from motorized use in winter. This creates confusion and may lead to user conflict.

Currently, in order to establish a trail as truly non-motorized (summer and winter), City Council and administration has to go through two distinct processes. First, it has to designate the trail as non-motorized.

Then, the Snowmobile Bylaw has to be amended in order to add that trail to either Schedule “C” or “E” of the bylaw, a time-consuming and costly process, and one that could be easily eliminated.

The lack of understanding of this requirement by City Council, the press, and the general public led to much confusion surrounding the Whistle Bend Perimeter trail, and resulted in additional costs to the City, needless public conflict, and much waste of everyone’s valuable time.

Amending the Snowmobile Bylaw as suggested would eliminate the need to go through such a time-consuming and costly process in order to designate a trail as truly non-motorized (summer and winter). In fact, designating trails as non-motorized (summer and winter) would become unnecessary. The only trails that would need to be formally designated would be those that accommodate both motorized and non-motorized users.

Amending the bylaw as suggested would bring clarity for all trail users. Any trail found on the City’s Motorized Trail Map would be open to motorized use: snowmobiles in winter, ATVs and dirt bikes in summer. Any trail not found on the map would be considered to be a non-motorized multiple use trail all year round.

It would also mean that whenever reference was made to a non-motorized trail, everyone would know that the term referred to a trail free from motorized use over the course of the entire year.

Changing the Snowmobile Bylaw as suggested would not stop motorized users including snowmobilers from asking the City to change the status of a non-motorized trail to that of a designated motorized trail.

The 2020 Trail Draft Plan talks about the need for all policies and bylaws associated with trails to be consistent.

Currently snowmobile operators (unlike ATV operators) are not restricted from using our greenbelts, open spaces, or non-motorized trails, as they “may drive their machines on a motorized multiple use trail and [in] any other area of the City that is not specifically excluded pursuant to section 15 of [the] bylaw.”

The suggested amendment would bring consistency to the two bylaws. It would also help protect greenbelts, open spaces, and non-motorized trails (particularly single-track trails) from snow machine use.

Such use can result in the widening of trails that leads to more Off Road Vehicle use, damage to vegetation, and disturbance to wildlife, non-motorized users, and City residents who have a right to the quiet enjoyment of their property. It would also lend credence to the City’s motion concerning the declaration of a climate change emergency.

Amending the Snowmobile Bylaw will not be detrimental to the responsible snowmobiling community. Both the City and the Klondike Snowmobile Association (KSA) ask responsible operators to stay on designated motorized routes.



*The Klondike Snowmobile Association says that its members prefer to involve themselves in snowmobile activities that occur outside city limits.*

The KSA also says that its members only use City trails once or twice a season, and that its members prefer to involve themselves in snowmobile activities that occur outside city limits.

This suggests that we have more than enough snowmobile trails in Whitehorse. Denying access to trails that have not been designed or designated for responsible motorized use should not pose a problem.

When the 2015 City Motorized Trail Map is updated, more motorized trails will be added to reflect the completion of the Porter Creek, Takhini, Whistle Bend, Range Point Trail Plan. Even more will be added when the Whitehorse North and Whitehorse South Trail Plan are completed.

As well, one must add all the non-motorized trails that are not found in Schedule “C” and “E” of the Snowmobile Bylaw, in order to get an idea of the potential extent of trails that are open to motorized use in winter, and this does not include the open spaces and greenbelts where snowmobiles are also permitted.

Amending the bylaw would create a more equitable and balanced trail network.

For all the reasons stated it is time for City Council to take the initiative and address these concerns by changing the bylaw as suggested. It just makes common sense to do so.

*Keith Lay*  
Active Trails Whitehorse Association  
[www.activetwa.org](http://www.activetwa.org)



## Editorial

Coral Voss

As we settle in for winter after our record breaking snowfall, I want to extend my gratitude to all those individuals who have made me feel so welcome in the short time I have been ED at YCS. My amazing colleagues, who encourage, challenge and inspire me each and every day. The board who offer their time, expertise and passion to ensure YCS’s success in the future. The volunteers, who devote tirelessly of their time and upon whose shoulders YCS was built. And last, but certainly not least our members, for whom without we would not be able to advocate for the world around us.

I would like to continue by sharing some of the exciting news from the past few months. The Electric Thermal Storage Demonstration Project has moved to the installation stage of the project, to date we have 10 participants. On September 22nd, YCS hosted the federal government’s announcement in Clean Energy Initiatives, one of which was “\$1.6 million to the Yukon Conservation Society to evaluate the technical feasibility and customer acceptance of utility-controlled electric thermal storage heaters that can provide reliable electricity capacity”. Sebastian Jones offered a well-considered presentation at the Placer Mining in Wetlands Public Interest Hearing. YCS has also developed a position paper on Grizzly bears advocating for further research on Grizzly populations and an end to trophy hunting.

Finally, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all of those who have reached out in these early days of my tenure to offer words of kindness, wisdom and humour.

## Thanks Noah!

The staff at YCS would like to thank Noah Sternbergh, our ETS Project Assistant, who has been with us since April, and will be leaving us on December 23rd, to go back to school. She has contributed a lot to the project and to YCS. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours!



## Protecting the Wild – Lifestyle Transition

# What About Dogs and our GHG Commitments?

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

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

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



We’ve been talking and thinking about Lifestyle Transitions in the changing world around us – not the ‘If’ but the ‘When’ to more aggressively address the Climate Crisis. Covid conditions kick-started the process for many Yukoners to appreciate more of what’s really important in life, to take the time to enjoy more of what is local rather than just consuming and fretting about travel restrictions, and in that process to start questioning what in day-to-day life is truly essential. One of those questions involves our pets.

Today, let’s stick to dogs: This is important because “...41% of Canadian households include at least one dog...”. As of the data from January, 2019 that means 8.2 million dogs or a dog/human ratio of 1 to 4 in Canada. Statistics for the dog population of the Yukon are not available at this time.

Consider the popular Labrador as an example and realize that they live 10 – 12 years; males weigh in at 25-36 kg and females 25-32 kg. So at the average weight of 30 kg each one of those dogs creates per year more than 1 t CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (unless they become vegetarians that average is not likely to change before 2050, the target date by which we are committed to reduce in Canada GHG emissions to 0).

Hmm - just to project that reality ahead we looked at the comparison:

Human population in Canada (2018): 37,000,000

Dog population in Canada (2018): 8,200,000

Let’s be conservative and keep the condition that these population figures do not change for the projections below (even though we know the dog population in the last several years has increased every year by 5-10%; while the number of Canadians is more or less stable; but increasing in the Yukon about 2 % each year).

Each dog produces in each year: 1t CO<sub>2</sub>

Each Canadian produces in 2020: 18t CO<sub>2</sub>

All dogs in 2050 will produce: 8.2 million t CO<sub>2</sub>

All Canadians in 2050 will produce: 74 million t CO<sub>2</sub>

(Hopefully! IF we reduce to the target 2t/person)

That means that:

In 2020, the footprint of all dogs in Canada = the footprint of 444,000 Canadians

In 2050, the footprint of all dogs in Canada = the footprint of 4,000,000 Canadians

Assuming the same 1:4 ratio dogs/humans for the Yukon,

In 2020, the footprint of all dogs in the Yukon = the footprint of 550 Yukoners

In 2050, the footprint of all dogs in the Yukon = the footprint of 5000 Yukoners

Will we as Canadians meet the GHG target by 2050?

Do all dogs serve a function that warrants their role in the above environmental cost?

Maybe the answers are not as important right now as the questions we should all be asking about our future in the Yukon.

Canadians have risen to the task before. We suggest reading *A Good War* by Seth Klein and become encouraged! And hopefully engaged.

In the meantime, let's just think outside the box – er, outside the kennel – about our dearly beloved dogs.

*Walter Streit and Elizabeth Hofer*

## References

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- 5) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Canada <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/cesindicators/ghg-emissions/2019/national-GHG-emissions-en.pdf>
- 6) Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Yukon <https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-greenhouse-gas-emissions-yukon.pdf>
- 7) GHG emissions per capita by 2050 Business Council of British Columbia <https://bcbc.com/insights-and-opinions/per-capita-emissions-what-does-it-really-mean>

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## YCS Home Improvements: No More Bunny Slippers

The Parnell house has been the home of YCS since its purchase by the Society in 1984, which was made with the generous legacy gift left by the late Mr. Ted Parnell.

While Parnell house has historically provided a warm and welcoming space for YCS and its many volunteers, board members, staff and contributors to collaborate and work, lately it has been lacking a bit in the warmth department.

The building's trusty electric forced air furnace does a good job of keeping things from freezing and keeping the downstairs at an acceptable temperature for most, but unfortunately it just wasn't cutting it upstairs.

Joan Norberg, the YCS Administrative Manager describes the main floor conditions last winter as 'glacial'. This fall, two of the four staff upstairs have stationed electric heaters in their offices to ward off the chill, and they all come to work thoroughly insulated with sweaters, shawls, scarves, and wool socks.

So, when the opportunity arose through the Electric Thermal Storage project to install a new heater, it was something all the YCS staff could get on board with. A Steffes brand electric thermal storage (ETS) space heater was installed in mid-October and has been operational since last week.



The winter living conditions at Parnell house have never been cozier. Our Executive Director, Coral Voss, is particularly happy with the temperature adjustment, and that she no longer needs to wear her fuzzy slippers and fingerless gloves at her desk to work comfortably.

*Noah Sternbergh*

## Dawson and Beaver River Land Use Plans

Two very different and very important land use planning processes are underway in the Yukon at present, and YCS has been participating as fully as we can in both.

The Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (LUP) was set up in Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and after a false start a few years back, it is at the stage of producing a Draft Plan, expected in late winter.

This plan will be a great opportunity for the Yukon to make real steps towards meeting the national commitment of setting aside at least 30% of representative areas for conservation by 2030, in fact we can likely easily achieve the much more desirable 50% plus called for in this recent paper: *The State of Conservation in North America's Boreal Forest: Issues and Opportunities*.\*

A major driver of considerations for which land is to be set aside is the Caribou, the species least able to withstand development pressure of all our ungulates. The 40 Mile Caribou Herd needs unimpeded access to its summer range in the Dawson Range, between Carmacks and the White River, from its winter range along the Top-Of-The-World Highway near Dawson. Protecting this access and summer range will benefit the Klaza and Nelchina herds as well; all these caribou herds will be diminished by too much development of the mining district around the Coffee project.

The swathe of land North of Dawson, bordered by the Yukon and South Klondike rivers is mostly intact, bisected only by the Dempster highway and buffered by Fishing Branch and Tombstone Parks in Canada and by Yukon Charley Park in Alaska. This area will be an obvious candidate for conservation, and will also provide space for the 40 Mile and Porcupine Caribou.

A much more complex, but equally vital conservation area will be the Yukon River Corridor which runs through the heart of the region. The Yukon supports industrial access, significant tourism, major harvesting and some of the lushest forests in central Yukon. Managing these potentially conflicting interests may require further planning in a Sub-Regional plan, again as laid out in the Final Agreements.

The Beaver River plan however is not driven by Regional Land Use Planning, but rather by the desire of an exploration company which wants to build a road north of Mayo 65km into a roadless watershed on the border of the Peel, so they can develop a mineral property to the point that they can sell it.

Very little was known about this area, so when YESAB assessed the road proposal, it approved it, subject to some mitigations, including road and land use plans. Since the planning began, we have learned a lot more about this rich complex of salmon streams, wetlands and caribou, moose and grizzly bear nurseries. The more we have learned, the more special we realize the area is. From the perspective of YCS, had this area been considered in the context of a regional land use plan, as was contemplated in the Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement, it would have been a shoe-in for a protected area.


We are expecting a draft plan for this area in late winter as well. YCS shall be carefully examining these drafts and will be providing extensive comments. Stay tuned!

*Sebastian Jones,  
YCS Wildlife Analyst*



\* Found in [www.frontiersin.org](http://www.frontiersin.org) (search the title)

### The Boreal Forest:


80% intact primary forest



- ★ massive stores of carbon and ecological functionality
- ★ the highest densities of trees on earth
- ★ millions of lakes and ponds with clean water
- ★ large undammed rivers, which play an important role in ocean currents and health, weather patterns and the productivity of global ocean fisheries

- ★ home to long-distance mammal and fish migrations
- ★ one to three billion birds nest here
- ★ capable of maintaining healthy populations of large predators
- ★ increasingly important as a place of refuge for species forced northward by inhospitable climate





# Winter Gardening

*(Previously printed in What's Up Yukon – Nov. 14, 2013)*

Years ago, I was asked by a Japanese helper what kinds of plants grew here in the winter. I laughed and said nothing grows, it is all frozen solid. She was amazed.

In many places they rotate their crops based on the season. Heat-loving plants like tomatoes and peppers can be followed by crops that do better in cooler weather like lettuce and peas.

Thus, it is possible to get two or three crops off the same piece of land each year. Even in most of Canada it is possible to plant shorter season crops one after the other in the same garden row.

One of my seed catalogues from the west coast actually has a planting chart for direct seeding of some vegetables as early as February and as late in the year as November.

With this in mind, I decided to experiment with some of the more hardy plants in my garden. I thought, if they can handle some below zero temperatures and snow on the west coast, maybe they could handle some of our late fall/early winter temperatures. I tried broccoli first.

It didn't take much work at all. I just didn't pull the plants out of the garden before freeze-up. But I did keep checking on them, and to my surprise I was able to harvest a small amount of broccoli florets (one cup) on a weekly basis.

The last harvest was the first week of December. I was chatting with a fellow farmer a month or so after this, and discovered he was also able to harvest kale until early December.

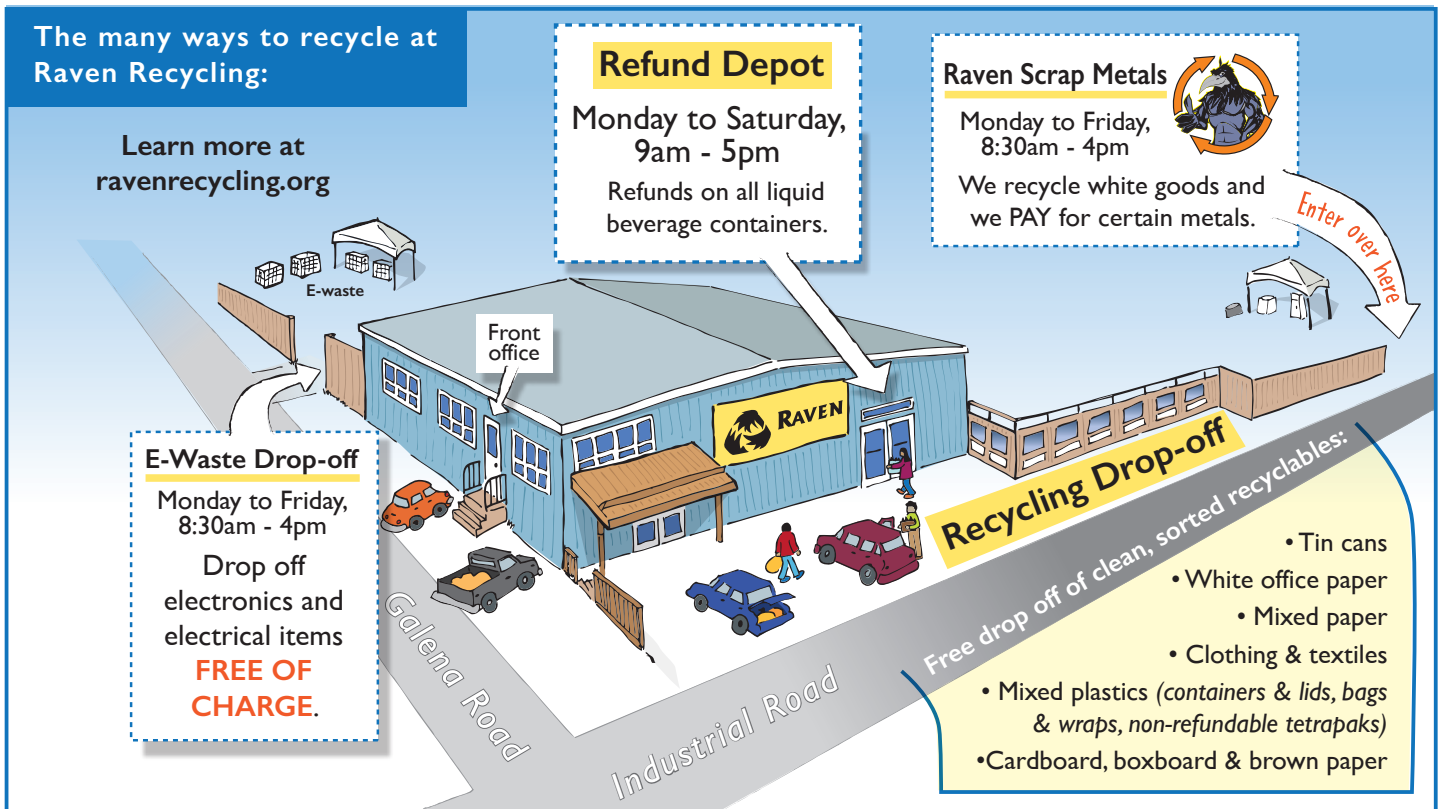
Of course, everything depends on the weather of the particular year. If we get an early snowfall before the ground freezes, the plants will continue longer into the winter. It is possible to insulate the ground before it freezes by piling deep mulch over plants.

I have had parsnips survive the winter this way; they were crisp and crunchy the next spring. Although, because it wasn't something I planned, they were discovered while we were working up the garden with the tiller.

While gardening in the winter usually involves indoor plants or a heated greenhouse, being able to harvest outdoor plants is a treat. Not only is it good to get outside into the crisp air, it is also nice to have fresh food at a time of year when most vegetables have to travel so far they resemble cardboard more than food.

Broccoli is usually all there is out there in the winter, but it is a favourite vegetable of mine and I like how it sweetens from the cold.

*Joan Norberg,  
YCS Administrative Manager*



**The many ways to recycle at Raven Recycling:**

Learn more at [ravenrecycling.org](http://ravenrecycling.org)

**Refund Depot**  
Monday to Saturday, 9am - 5pm  
Refunds on all liquid beverage containers.

**Raven Scrap Metals**  
Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4pm  
We recycle white goods and we PAY for certain metals.

**E-Waste Drop-off**  
Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 4pm  
Drop off electronics and electrical items **FREE OF CHARGE.**

**Recycling Drop-off**  
Free drop off of clean, sorted recyclables:

- Tin cans
- White office paper
- Mixed paper
- Clothing & textiles
- Mixed plastics (containers & lids, bags & wraps, non-refundable tetrapaks)
- Cardboard, boxboard & brown paper

Locations: Galena Road, Industrial Road

## Mine Sites Messes

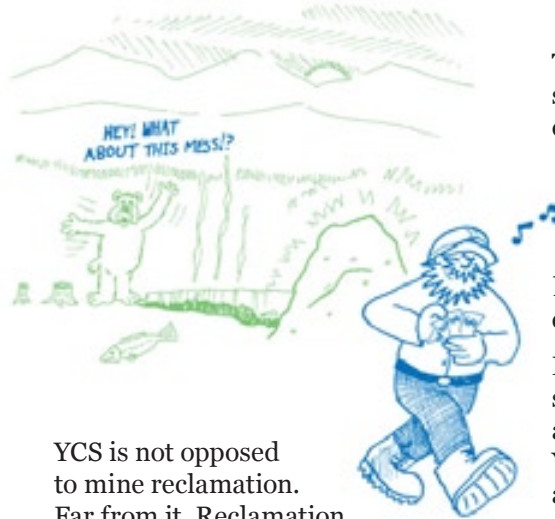
When is a mine project finally over? Well, in a Yukon context it never really is. It has come to light that the former Wellgreen Mine, considered closed and remediated by one and all, actually isn't former at all because the mill and tailings area need fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) of taxpayers' money pumped into them to prevent environmental harm today and tomorrow.

The mine site in question is located in the south-west Yukon, within the Kluane Game Sanctuary. It's close to the Alaska Highway, just north of Burwash Landing. It's an unusual geological deposit because there's some rare earth metals in it. Back when the mine operated in the early 1970s, the concentrate coming out of the mill included varying amounts nickel, copper, platinum, palladium, gold, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, osmium and rhenium.

Getting all those metals out meant the mine required a mill crusher, and somewhere to put the leftover tailings from the crushing operation. At the end of the mine operations, the owner cleaned up these two areas to the standards of the day. Those standards, compared with today's, were pretty lax and not that great. There is concern that contaminants could leach from those two areas into the environment. The Yukon Government has decided to do a modern-day cleanup and remediation. This is being done at taxpayers' expense.

This is nothing new. Other projects that taxpayers are paying for reclamation activity include:

- Faro Mine Remediation Project, YESAB 2019-0149, estimated costs in excess of \$1 billion
- United Keno Hill Mines Reclamation Project, YESAB 2018-0169, estimated costs \$ 111 million
- Mt Nansen, YESAB 2018-0087, estimated costs \$150 million



YCS is not opposed to mine reclamation. Far from it. Reclamation of abandoned mine sites is essential in protecting the environment. However, Wellgreen is not an abandoned mine site.

Part of the site overlain by an active claim, and it is immediately adjacent to other active mining claims. The claimholders apparently have intentions of developing a new mining operation in the immediate area. How this will impact the taxpayer funded cleanup of the old site is unknown.

The site operator at the time the Wellgreen mine ceased operation is still apparently in corporate existence. YCS is of the opinion that the concept of 'polluter pays' should be exercised and the past operator that created the current situation should pay for the reclamation. From what YCS can gather the costs associated with the Wellgreen reclamation will be substantial.

An examination of the Yukon Government's online registry shows that over the past decade approximately \$895,203 of taxpayers' money has already been spent. It has been reported in the media that Environment Yukon estimates the future costs of this particular project could be in the neighbourhood of \$15 million.

The socio-economic implications of spending approximately \$16 million dollars of taxpayers' money on a mine reclamation project raise serious issues. For every taxpayer dollar spent on this project, it is a dollar less that can be spent on housing, social services, education, community infrastructure, etc.

It also calls into question the security amounts that have been applied to mining projects in the Yukon (whether past or present), and the standards to which mining companies had to reach in order for a mine site to be declared closed and the company allegedly freed from all future obligations in regards to reclamation.

This reclamation project must serve as a wake-up call to the mining licensing and regulatory authorities in the Yukon that the system in the past in regards to mine closure, site reclamation, and determination and retention of security was definitely broken, and the current system needs to be examined to ensure that this never happens again.

The Yukon Government must attempt to recover all costs from the corporation that created this mess. They must also investigate if there are any other mine sites in the Yukon that have been declared closed and remediated in the past but could be future environmental liabilities that could require taxpayer dollars to reclaim. The security currently being applied to present and future mining projects must be examined and, if need be, increased so taxpayer dollars are not required for reclamation at some future date. The Wellgreen site must be the last mine site in the Yukon that taxpayers have to spend money on.

*Lewis Rifkind,  
YCS Mining Analyst*

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

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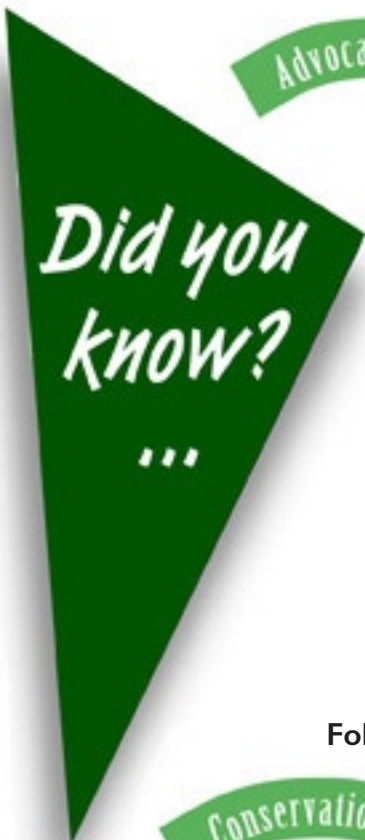
Thank you to all our volunteers on the various committees for the work and expertise you provide to YCS.

Thank you to Tanya Handley who has tirelessly designed and illustrated our newsletter 4 times a year for 24 years.

And thank you to our members, supporters and partners who make the work YCS does possible!

Here is hoping you have a safe and happy Winter!

**Thank You Volunteers!**



**You could be reading this newsletter online and in colour!**

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