

The Teslin Post

TTC Chooses Peter as Chief

Peter Johnston receives a mandate from the General Assembly



Peter Johnston of the Yanyedi Clan is the new CEO of the Teslin Tlingit Council. In a second ballot decision, Peter came out ahead of incumbent Eric Morris and former Chief Richard Sidney. This was a difficult decision as all three men were viewed as highly capable individuals.

Previously Peter served on the executive council for eight years. In 2005 he became Chief while Eric Morris served as Acting Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations. Most recently Peter was Deputy Chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council

JOHN PETERS JR ACCLAIMED NEW DEPUTY CHIEF

John Peters Jr. has become TTC's new deputy chief. The gentleman indicated that though there is much to learn--he is ready to get down to work.



Village of
Teslin

Gateway to the Southern Lakes



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Volume 1 Number 2

I think the "Post" is looking better. Along with some news ... there are a number of continuing features such as Recreation, School, Health Centre, RCMP, and School updates. Please note that some updates did not make this deadline. Shame. Each month there will be a "who are those guys" article. This issue it is Yukon College. Birgit Martens tells us who's there; what they do; and (what is most important) how they benefit Teslin.

Also ... can we please just look upon my typo's (this includes missed words and wrong names) as rustic charm ... so no more phone calls about my mistakes.

So ... Clara is still a Jules and has not become a Smarch; my picture apparently looked like I was digging in my nose ... so its gone. FYI the "Post" trying to cut down on using acronyms. Nobody knows what most of them mean anyway.

The Post needs pictures, news, updates and what ever you can offer. Give me a call or zip off an email. Anyway, read and enjoy. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Mike Hodgson

The collator

mhodgson@northwestel.net

PS. If you want to have "The Post" emailed directly to you (or to friends or someone you love) call Shawna at the village office. You (they) will be added to the email list.



Village Update

CLARA JULES RESIGNS



Clara Jules will, effective immediately, be stepping down from village council. Ms Jules was recently named the Kukhhittan representative on the Executive Board for TTC. According to Wes Wirth, the Municipal Act states that it is a conflict of interest for an individual to sit on both the

TTC Executive Council and the Village Council. A decision will be made at the next council meeting on whether to fill this vacancy or wait until civic elections this fall.

V.O.T. Calendar

Upcoming Council Meetings

March 9, 2009

March 23, 2009

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the council chambers at the village office. Spectators are always welcome and the floor is open for questions at the end of the meeting.

Those wishing to make a formal presentation to the village council should speak with the village CAO (Wes Wirth) well before the specific meeting.

Highlights of Village of Teslin Council Meeting Meeting # 03-09 February 9, 2009

Mayor and all councillors present

Delegations:

The Advancement of Excellence group presented their idea of planting trees or installing benches in memory of loved ones. Individual families would make the purchase and affix a plaque in that persons memory. The request was for the park to be the home for a number of these benches/trees. Once the proposal has been further developed they will present again to Council.

The Advancement of Excellence Group has decided against doing a large mural to doing a new sign for the community hall. However, before making the sign they would like to propose a name for Recreation Complex and that is the Tommy Dewhurst Memorial Recreation Complex. The mayor has requested public input. Wes Wirth will post a notice for public input to the next council meeting.

Accounts Payable

Resolved that the Village Council approve the Accounts payable for January 2009 in the amount of \$194,854.89

-carried-

Resolved that Council approve the transfer of \$100,000 from the equipment reserve account to the general account to provide for the ongoing cash flow to be transferred back on April 1, 2009

-carried-

New and Unfinished BusinessSite Plans and Well Logs for Teslin Solid Waste Disposal Site

CAO to request the possibility of more monitoring wells to be drilled at locations along side of the old road which would be downhill from the landfill.

18-03-09

Moved by Councillor Hassard;

Seconded by Councillor S. Smarch;

Be it Resolved that Village Council wishes to issue and RFP for the purpose of

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Village of Teslin

03-09

February 9, 2009

updating our Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw and to include a recreation master plan.

~~-carried-~~

YTG - Teslin Roads Transferred to Village of Teslin

CAO to contact YG to determining when we can discuss with YTG certain roads and the Building Canada Fund.

Snow Removal

Councillor Jules pointed out that additional snow removal was required at various corners. A discussion was held regarding the Village responsibility to only remove snow on the corners of the intersections and individual driveways. CAO and Public Works would review intersections that require removal.

A second discussion revolved around when the snow removal contractor was called out and it was determined the existing practice of calling out the contractor when there was 3 inches of snow on the road was an acceptable standard.

Mayor Smarch wished to have the snow removed from in front of the Recreation Complex especially in front of the windows.

Question PeriodDitches and Drainage

Mayor Smarch requested that administration take a closer look at the situation on Sawmill Road where the water pools. Is there a way to re-ditch this area so the water drains away.

Curling Rink Entrance

Mayor Smarch had some concerns about the curling rink entrance. CAO advised that we seeking quotes on getting this entrance upgraded but the work would not be done till spring. In the interim staff will do what they can to keep steps clear of ice and snow. We do not wish to use salt in this area as it then gets tracked into the curling rink and onto the ice.





Early Learning & Childcare Centre

8:00 a.m. till 5:30 p.m.

This place does it all! Head start, prenatal, after-school, literacy and day care programmes are all under one roof. Right now, there are openings in the nursery and pre-school groups.

For further information contact:

Patty Wiseman

390-2532

ext. 421

RECREATION UPDATE WITH NATASCHAA CHATTERTON

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the sunshine; with the longer days there is much more time for playing in the outdoors. Why not go out and try the great tracks that are set at Hermit Lake or the George Johnston Trail? If you need equipment there are sets of skis available at the church basement sale. Try a stroll on the lake; the snowmobile tracks make the perfect walking trails. I have found that waking up and going outside for even 10 minutes, makes such a difference to how I approach my day.

There have been some great events happening in Teslin. The Valentine's Tea was impressive and fun. Great job students and teachers! There were many people out eating the delicious treats and trying their luck at the raffles.

The Youth Dance was also very fun for those that attended. The Youth Motivators did a great job of setting up and organizing. Way to go Dustin, Autumn, Nathan, Patricia and Leslie. Also a huge thank you to Tess Lambertson, Sharon Sterritt, Jenny Baker and Monique Chatterton for volunteering. With a special thank you to Rob & Shawna Anderson who have been volunteering for many youth functions and events. It has such an impact on the outcome of a program when parents and community members are involved.



The Curling Club would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that helped make the bonspiel a huge success. What a great event!

I hope everyone has the opportunity to get involved in one of the many things that have been taking place. Remember we have Mini Rendezvous coming up on March 6th to the 8th with a Much Music Video Dance on Saturday night. We need many volunteers to make the event a success. Please get in touch with me to help out on the weekend.

A reminder that next Wednesday the 25th there is an Open Microphone night at the Rec. Plex at 7pm. This is an opportunity to come listen to live music, eat yummy deserts or play music yourself.

Looking forward to seeing you out there!



ASK ROBIN:
CITIZENS GET THE FACTS

Robin, why did the village build a large shed right in front of the Community Hall?

The shed was constructed in front of the Recreation Complex to house a backup generator for use during a community emergency. The plan is to use the hall as a shelter when required. You will recall the power outage that the community had a couple of years ago during the winter. Had this outage gone on longer it could have resulted in a more severe situation. The contract for the emergency generator project was awarded to Thomas Electric as the successful bidder.

We would also like to supply the Recreation complex with water from the town well. Town well water provides for better drinking water. Town well-water also makes better ice for the curling rink. It does not have the colour or odour of the water coming from the well at the Recreation Complex. We were able to put the water storage tanks in the other portion of the building. This contract was awarded to Deadman Creek Enterprises as the only bidder.

This building was placed in front of the Recreation Complex as a result of the difficulty we had with the soil type and water saturation that exists behind the arena. Additional costs would have resulted had we tried to put the building at the rear of the recreation complex due to the amount of site preparation required.

The emergency generator was a three way funding project between the federal government (JEPP funding), territorial government and the Village of Teslin.

The water replacement project was completely funded from gas tax revenue through the Federal Government and is really part of the tax that each of us pays on our fuel. This tax is currently being returned to the community for infrastructure projects.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER UPDATE

Sustainability Planning

The sustainability planning group has met and we are including roads as an addition to our plan. It appears that the Building Canada Plan may be funding road projects and may do it through the gas tax process. Economic development has provided some funding so that we can move ahead with an RFP for this project with regard to a joint economic development plan for the community as part of our sustainability plan. They have appointed Peter and Juanita with Alex to attend as an observer – a copy of the proposal and RFP has been forwarded encouraging them to advise if we can proceed or meet to discuss.

Landfill

We have advised Yukon Electrical and Thomas Electric to provide power to the Landfill. Yukon Electrical is out this week to provide power to the site. Thomas Electric has yet to complete their work.

An application has been sent as approved by Council for improvements to the Recycling center.

We are exploring some composting options for the community and will provide a report in due course.

YTG has installed the monitoring wells at the landfill (promised in 2002)...this will meet a requirement for landfill closure in the future and for dealing with our YESAA application for a new permit for the operation of the landfill after December 31.

Community Recreation Complex

We are working with Cimco to come up with solutions to our heating issues and more effective use of the waste heat recovery system. Some new chairs and tables have been ordered for the hall.



Teslin Film Director Duane Gastant' Acoini and Atlin's Gord Lovrin will premiere their new documentary MY OWN PRIVATE LOWER POST at this years Available Light Festival in Whitehorse. MY OWN PRIVATE LOWER POST is the story of Duane, a two-spirited Tlingit, as he seeks to understand how his mother's experience at resident school influenced his life. As Vicky Bob shares her story, Duane comes to understand how he too is a survivor. Haa Koosteyi (Our Tlingit Way) is where mother and son find the strength to overcome and truly survive.

In January there were two 'sneak' previews in Teslin. Duane saw a positive response to his work. However, he is very aware that old wounds were opened.

Teslin School
The Drum Is Back!
Kerrie Paterson

Ms. Paterson's grade 6/7 class recently visited Watson Lake for their second annual Ski/Stick Gambling trip. The students spent the afternoon skiing and snowboarding at Mt. Maichen. The snow was powdery and the sun was shining. We were very excited to have such a perfect day on the mountain. Many of the students had never skied before and did a fantastic job at learning. Others had experience and were off like rockets. We left the mountain to be served dinner at Johnson Elementary by Mr. Slager's grade 7 class. After our delicious meal the games began. The tow Stick Gambling teams set up and chose their callers. The deal was that it would be the best of three. The first two games were played and we were tied up at one a piece. The final game was upon us. It was do or die. There were four sticks left and all of Teslin's players had been caught, all except for Freedom Grant. The Watson caller couldn't catch her. We were down to one stick left as Freedom confidently waived her right hand showing that she again, was not caught. The Teslin students proudly picked up the drum to show off their victory.

We slept in the gym that evening, had breakfast, watched a movie at the Northern Lights Centre and then headed home with our victorious drum which now sits for all to see in the Teslin School's display case. The fight is not over, however. Mr. Slager's class will be visiting Teslin in the late Spring to try to win the drum back. We will likely need at many of you there as possible, cheering us on!

-A special thanks to Eric Morris for joining us on this trip as a chaperone and for being the referee during the games-

Watson Lake



Fun

The Road to Teslin

Hart Bezner

In 1967 I joined the Physics Department at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario. I retired in 2003, after 36 years. They were satisfying years because I thoroughly enjoyed my work and my students. Marilyn, a registered nurse, and I were married in 1966 and we were blessed with four children.

Marilyn and I drove to Mexico on our honeymoon, and it soon became a family tradition to pack the children into the car and to head for Mexico or Central America during Christmas breaks, and Mexico became an integral part of the family psyche.

In June of 1995 Marilyn and I decided to visit Alaska for the first time. We were stunned by the beauty that greeted us in the Yukon and we were intrigued by the long hours of daylight. On the way back to Ontario I tried to imagine how things would be in December, because I naively imagined Whitehorse to be wrapped in 24 hours of darkness. When we stopped for food at Toad River, I suggested to Marilyn that we return in December. She said that if I wanted to drive up, it was fine with her, but she would prefer to spend Christmas in Waterloo.

My 1995 Christmas break was unusually long. I had finished marking the exams by Wednesday, December 13, and had managed to get my trusty 1992 Honda Civic ready for the journey. The preparations included a new fuel filter, plugs, air filter, oil filter, synthetic oil, an engine-block heater, and four new Blizzak snow tires.

I left Waterloo around lunch time on Wednesday, December 13, 1995. That evening I hit major snow in

upper Michigan and began to worry that worse might lie ahead. By Friday I reached Edmonton, and I drove into Whitehorse Sunday afternoon. It was a little disappointing because it wasn't at all dark, and the 5,000 km had been remarkably uneventful, and I had hoped for some real adventure. Standing between McDonalds and Tags I decided to head further north, possibly as far as Inuvik. I called Marilyn from the pay phone outside Tags to let her know. I reached the Dempster junction in the wee hours, had lunch at Eagle Plains, and drove into Inuvik Monday evening. So here I was at Inuvik, and the entire drive from Whitehorse had been utterly uneventful.

I had heard that it might be possible to drive on the Mackenzie River all the way to Tuktoyaktuk, but was informed that the ice road had not yet been officially opened. Thought I would check it out the next day and drove on to the ice. Although it was pitch dark, it was obvious that there had been plowing, and the ice was smooth. After driving past some dark, hulking ships, solidly moored in the ice, it hit me forcefully that I was really on a river. The signs had not yet been installed, but I continued on, following the right berm left behind by the plow. I met one pickup and a lone dog team, and 195 km later I climbed ashore at Tuktoyaktuk, where an amazed resident scratched his head upon hearing that I had come from Inuvik. After enjoying a lasagna supper at the Tuk Inn, I turned around and headed back to Inuvik. It had been a magic experience, created by the wind and the drifting snow, and the cracks in the ice, and the utter solitude. Before leaving Waterloo, I had heard that the Dalton Highway, the road that leads north from

Fairbanks to the oil fields at Prudhoe Bay had been recently opened to civilian traffic. The Top-Of-The-World Highway is closed during the winter months and to get to Alaska, I would have to backtrack the 1220 km to Whitehorse to meet the Alaska Highway. I crossed the border Friday morning, filled up at Fairbanks Friday evening and rolled into Deadhorse, near the Arctic coast, on Saturday morning December 23. It too was relatively uneventful, although at one point I had to shovel a path over a blocked bridge before I could get across in my little Civic. I was grateful that I had brought a shovel! That night I witnessed some of the most spectacular and colorful northern lights, as they silently rippled across the sky.

In Deadhorse I checked into the Prudhoe Bay Hotel. The hotel is really a bunkhouse for the oil workers. It cost \$65 a night, and that included three lavish meals and all the food you wanted in between. There was a warm, peaceful, and friendly atmosphere and it felt strange to eat tropical fruit, roasted meat, fresh milk, six kinds of pie, and fresh salads, all in a world that looked like a moonscape, without a single stick of growth, with the winds howling outside in the 24-hour darkness, and with temperatures low enough to take your breath away. I left early on Monday, Christmas Day, to begin the journey back to Ontario. The hotel staff had packed me a wonderfully generous lunch for the road and saw me off with handshakes and hugs. It would be a completely empty road, just me and the Alaska Pipeline, for the next 244 miles to Coldfoot, a service center similar to Eagle Plains on the Dempster.

(continued on the next page)

(The Road to Teslin con't)

I was back at Haines Junction early on Wednesday, barely two weeks after leaving Waterloo. On impulse I drove down to Haines and there boarded the ferry to Skagway. The crossing was smooth and restful, and I sat there trying to digest the incredible events of the previous two weeks. It all seemed strangely unreal. On Monday, January 3, 1996 I was back in the classroom in Waterloo, a changed man.

And this is how our annual Christmas trips to the Arctic began. Marilyn would sometimes fly to Grand Prairie, or to Anchorage, where we would meet up to continue north to Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, or Deadhorse. Whenever near Teslin, we would always drive into the village to use the pay phone at the RCMP station.

Over the years we had become acquainted with Val and Barry Smith at Johnson's Crossing, and Val invited us to the annual Teslin Seniors' Dinner in 2004. At the time we had no idea that nine months later we would move into the Catholic rectory, but life takes interesting and unexpected turns. After that Christmas dinner we drove up to Tuktoyaktuk. It was an exceptionally exciting journey with lots of adventure.

I had retired the previous year, and Marilyn several years before that. After we began to spend Christmases in the north in 1995, we would, during the summers, spend three or four weeks camping in the desert in Baja California, Mexico. It was always at the same spot, miles from nowhere. It was a place to read and to regenerate, and it allowed me to prepare lectures for the Fall classes. I had visions that we would spend a lot more time there after retirement, and we even considered some sort of permanent move, but the north also attracted us strongly.

After returning from Tuktoyaktuk in early 2005, we dropped in on Father Jim Bleackley at the diocesan offices in Whitehorse and offered to serve in one of the Yukon parishes. The rest is history. We arrived in Teslin September 8, 2005.

Marilyn and I share an interesting past:

While young, and long before we met, we both had the strong desire to serve in some form of mission work, but it seemed that it was not to be, because schooling and family obligations started to obscure the vision. After we offered to serve in the Yukon, it suddenly became clear to us that God was honouring our earlier desire.

It is somewhat easy to look back over the years to recognize how all the interlocking pieces fit together. It is much more difficult to gaze into the future, but looking back gives us the assurance that the road ahead is also paved and benevolently provisioned.



Hart, Santa and Marilyn at Teslin's
Elders Christmas party.

RCMP REPORT

Please welcome the newest member of the Teslin Detachment. Constable Dean Compagna has just transferred up the highway from Watson Lake. The constable has seven years experience with the force and is very familiar with small town life. Previously, Dean has policed in Hope and Boston Bar B.C. Constable Compagna has also worked as a park warden in British Columbia.

The final member of the detachment, Constable Terleski, will be arriving by the beginning of March.

Corporal Pike reminds drivers of the bridge construction and traffic control. Please obey the traffic lights.



Constable Dean Compagna
Teslin Detachment

A Visit to Yukon College Teslin Campus

Birgit Martens

In case you are not one of the frequent flyers/visitors to our campus, let me give you a brief tour of what you could expect when entering through our doors.

First you will meet our highly qualified flight crew. Birgit Martens, Jimmy Lynn Dobson, and Matthias Liniger can answer most questions, supply treats, and point the way to our convenient washroom facilities.

In the computer lab, you'll find students buckled to their chairs, puzzling over Excel formulas, improving their typing speed, or perfecting the art of Solitaire. In the Video Conference room, it might look to you as if someone is watching a TV show--but the student is not only watching, but actively participating in a class that is being held in Whitehorse, Dawson City or anywhere else in the country.

In the main area of the Campus you see our reception as well as classroom space where upgrading students work through their manuals.

Agencies from Whitehorse, like Dana Naye, LDay, and others are thankful for a chance to land here and connect with their target group. We work closely with TTC and VOT on professional development options and community programming. The Family Learning Centre, in partnership with the College, offer Nobody's Perfect Parenting programs, Parent Child Mother Goose Groups, and other workshops to improve learning skills and student development.

We always welcome individuals from the community to come in if they need help with reading a letter or understanding their digital camera. We are always happy to have the opportunity to direct individuals to courses and programs that suit their needs and likes.

We try to offer monthly "fun" courses as well, like our World of Cooking or Arts, Crafts and Music events. That is when we appreciate the chance to partner with Nataschaa (our Recreation Programmer). Thanks to her calendar, you can always see what is happening at the campus as well. If you have not entered our web address to your favorites, here is another chance:

HYPERLINK "<http://dl.yukoncollege.yk.ca/tcc/>"
<http://dl.yukoncollege.yk.ca/tcc/>

On the side bar you can find an event calendar and the DL (Distance Learning) options as well as the Video Conference Bookings which are telecast from Whitehorse.

There are days when you can witness students learning First Aid as they apply their knowledge to fix multiple injuries on dummy victims; people trying to draw squiggly stars while looking into a mirror; students standing by their desks pretending their arms are elephant trunks--always a good reason to visit!

This is the time when air miles are available... (just joking) and the peanuts are distributed (it might actually happen). But seriously, we can help you find the tools you need to soar (academically and/or socially - emotionally) but no air line promotions intended or available.

Have a good flight!!!!



Birgit Martens

Closing Shots

Curling Trophies from Yesteryear



Carling Trophy Winners
Teslin C.C.
1959 - 60



804 Motel Trophy
Teslin Spiel
1980