

Walk Softly

Newsletter of the
Yukon Conservation Society
Summer 2019



Inside: • Powering the Yukon • Goodbye from Julia • Trail Guides

Aishihik Dam Relicensing Update

We sit on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Aishihik Dam Relicensing. The Aishihik Dam is a 37MW capacity dam that has had significant impacts on Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' land and fish, including culturally important sites. The water license for the dam expires soon, and for the past several years, Yukon Energy Corporation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations have been negotiating what a new licence would look like.

In the fall of 2018, talks broke down; the parties have now agreed to extend the dam's water licence as is for 3 years to allow more time for negotiations. YCS submitted comments regarding the relicensing and would like Yukon Energy and Yukon government to take CAFN's significant environmental concerns into account. Here are some snippets from our comments:

“Currently, the mining license requires that the lake levels be kept at a certain average measured over multiple years. A long-term (1993-2017) monitoring study of the Sekulmun Wetland, led by YCS board member Dr. Dave Mossop, shows that in the late 1990s, Aishihik Lake was frequently at low enough levels that virtually all the basins of the wetlands dewatered over 95%; mastodon flower invaded and hundreds of adult fish were observed trapped and dying in the remnant water. Moose and muskrat disappeared almost completely in the same period but are now returning. The density of breeding waterfowl in lake controlled ponds (Sekulmun River and Tsusho Creek areas) also declines with lower lake elevation, particularly when lake elevations are below 913.7m during breeding pair formation (May).”

“Though the current water license allows it, these detrimental low water conditions have not been repeated in the last ~16 years due apparently to the need to bring the 10 year rolling average above 913.7m. As such, the environmental assessments and studies done in recent years (which are not as long-term as Dr. Mossop's study) are unable to assess the environmental impacts associated with using the bottom 0.7m of the lake draw-down allowance. Unfortunately, the baseline studies included in YEC's YESAB proposal provide information about the current state of the wetland habitat, but tell us very little if anything about the possible impacts if the water license is used at its limits.”

“The last 16 years of less extreme lake level fluctuations appear to be allowing the Aishihik ecosystem to recover somewhat. The Yukon Conservation Society is concerned that the most recent surveys and studies have observed this recovery, but the results are being misinterpreted to indicate that the current water license is directly responsible for this recovery. As demonstrated in this submission the current water license allows for conditions that have significant adverse impacts on the ecosystem. YCS' view is that if the Aishihik Generating Station (AGS) had been operated closer to the limits of the current license, the negative ecological impacts would have been far more significant than those observed recently. YCS supports a plan to gradually reduce the operating range of Aishihik Lake while YEC and CAFN deploy additional renewable energy to offset the reduction in stored energy. By reducing reliance on the AGS over time we can reduce impacts on the local ecosystem, avoid significant GHG emissions, and work towards reducing the long-term negative social impacts the AGS has had on CAFN communities.”



Let's Make Mining Transparent

The thirst for information on how the Yukon's mining scene works never ceases to amaze us here at the Yukon Conservation Society. When we offered a presentation on the Financial Aspects of Abandoned Mines, we weren't expecting 60 people to show up – in fact, we had to turn people away due to the capacity at the Whitehorse public library, and hold a second presentation the following month, attended by a further 40 people. A separate presentation was also done for 40 Yukon government employees. Don't worry, if you missed the presentation it's available online at www.yukonconservation.org (Programs > Mining > Royalties). We also presented in Dawson City on June 28 (a double feature on Abandoned Mines and Road Ecology).

Clearly, Yukoners like to know what is going on with their tax dollars. We heard that Yukoners are concerned about when and how our abandoned mines will be cleaned up – and how much it will cost us. Now that responsibility for new Yukon mines has been passed from federal to territorial responsibility, we're on the hook for future mine abandonments.

YCS believes that Yukoners want to learn more about mining partly because the Yukon government is not exactly transparent when it comes to mining information. Of particular concern is the Wolverine Mine.

It's unclear who exactly is in charge of the site: the company that got all the permits (Yukon Zinc), the company that purchased them (Phoenix Global Investment), or the Yukon government (who is enforcing conditions of the Quartz Mining Licence and the Yukon Water Licence). One thing we do know is that reports to the Yukon Water Board ceased in March 2018.

That means for about a year now there has been no publicly available information regarding the quality of surface or ground water. This is despite what is clearly required in the water licence for this minesite. Yukon Water Board Licence QZO4-065 Wolverine Mine has the following sections:

Monthly Reports

14. Unless otherwise specified in this licence, the Licensee shall forward to the Board a copy of all data collected as part of the monitoring programs of this licence no more than 30 days after the conclusion of the month in which that data was collected

Spills and Unauthorized Discharges

16. The Licensee shall immediately contact the 24-hour Yukon Spill Report telephone number (867) 667-7244 and implement the most recent Spill Response Plan that has been filed with the Board, should a spill or an unauthorized waste discharge occur. A detailed written report on any such event, including but not limited to, dates, quantities, parameters, causes and other relevant details and explanations, shall be delivered to the Board no later than 10 days after its occurrence.

According to media reports from the beginning of this year, the Yukon government is now on site treating water (as per the CBC North 2019-01-11 article "Yukon gov't setting up water treatment for Wolverine Mine, despite not talking to new owner"):

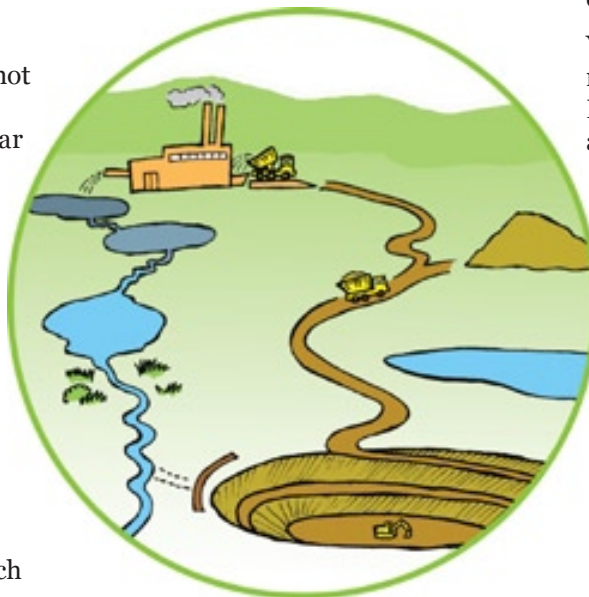
"The Yukon government is setting up a water treatment system at Yukon Zinc's Wolverine Mine, despite not talking to the mine's new owners... The government is putting in the treatment plant to process the toxic water in the mine's tailings pond, because they don't want it to contaminate any other water."

If the Yukon government has taken over the treatment duties outlined in the Water Licence, YCS submits that Yukon government should also be fulfilling the reporting requirements. If a private company is treating the water, they should be submitting monthly reports to the Yukon Water Board...and if they're not, Yukon government should be forcing them to.

YCS raised this issue with the Yukon government in spring 2019 and we have heard that they will soon be making water test results available online.

YCS supports mining if it is done right and in appropriate locations. But part of doing it right is ensuring all reporting associated with it, particularly when it comes to water treatment issues, is open and transparent – and carried out in accordance with the law. At the Wolverine Mine, this is not happening.

*Lewis Rifkind,
YCS Mining Analyst*



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302 Hawkins Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 1X6
PHONE: 867 668-5678

EMAIL: info@yukonconservation.org
WEBSITE: yukonconservation.org

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WORKERS ON THIS ISSUE

Tanya Handley, Julia Duchesne
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Thermal backup, or thermal backwards?

How did it come to this?

The year is 2019. The world's leading climate scientists have crunched the numbers and found that we have 11 years left to cut our CO2 emissions in half or face catastrophic climate destabilization. School children around the globe are marching in the streets with the mantra "You'll die of old age, we'll die of climate change".¹ Governments from Scotland to Old Crow are declaring climate emergencies.²

Meanwhile, Yukon's crown corporation electrical utility is planning more fossil fuel generators.

Now don't get me wrong, I get why Yukon Energy is taking this step. The territory's electrical loads are growing, and we would be in a bad situation if a major hydro power plant failed on a cold winter day.

Something needs to be done, and it's much faster to install a thermal generator than build a diversified portfolio of alternatives.

But we knew this situation was coming, and not enough was done – by Yukon Energy or by Yukon government decision-makers.

Yukon has had a surplus of hydroelectricity since the Faro mine closed in the late 1990s but the territory's electrical load has grown steadily and now the surplus is gone. Low snowpack this year means that in May our electricity was 26% fossil fuel derived, rather than 3% in May of last year.³ 2019 will be the year that Yukon drops below 90% clean electricity, and quite possibly below 80%.

To be fair, Yukon Energy did build the 10MW Mayo B upgrade in 2011, but unforeseen flow restrictions meant the upgrade only added 7.5MW or less to our generating capacity.⁴

Since then, Yukon Energy's last major new generation project was the 'emergency backup' 8.8MW liquefied natural gas (LNG) power plant in 2015. In 2018 they increased its capacity by 50% to 13.2MW.

And now, in 2019, we are told we need another upgrade to our fossil fuel electricity "insurance plan". This time much larger, a full 20MW (that's half the capacity of the Whitehorse dam, Yukon's largest power plant).

The fact that Yukon Energy is even considering using LNG rather than diesel would indicate that they expect to run the new plant a lot. Diesel generators are significantly less costly to buy and maintain, and the fuel can be stored for long periods. LNG's primary advantage is cheap fuel – so if you are burning lots, LNG becomes more economical. If the new power plant is really for 'occasional use', diesel is the obvious choice.

Diesel fuel also avoids the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and methane emissions associated with LNG extraction and transport.

I'm not saying I like diesel, but it's better at backing up renewables. The higher capital cost and lower fuel cost of LNG make it more suited to baseload use, leaving less capital available for investment in zero-carbon solutions.

Yukon government needs to legislate that a high percentage of our energy comes from renewable sources.



And it's long past time for that investment – or we may never get back to the 98% renewable grid we were rightly proud of for so many years.

What can be done?

On the government level, one problem is that Yukon Energy has not been given renewable energy targets to hit. Yukon government should implement a 'Renewable Portfolio Standard' legislating Yukon Energy to obtain a high percentage of its energy from renewable sources.

Yukon government must also ensure that energy storage, conservation, and time-of-use programs become core tenets of energy policy in Yukon. Collectively known as Demand Side Management, these initiatives can directly reduce peak demand on the grid and provide a dependable substitute to fossil fuel generators.

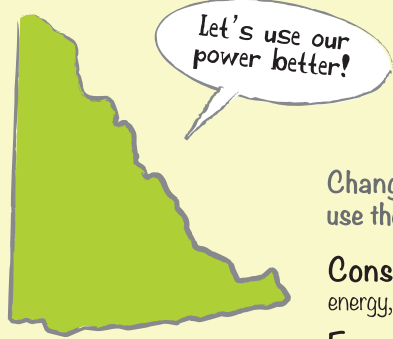
As for Yukon Energy, the utility needs more realistic electric load projections. Yukon's annual electric load grew from 257 GWh in 2002 to 448 GWh in 2018.⁵ The Yukon Bureau of Statistics predicts that there will be an additional ~5000 people in Yukon by 2030.⁶ Yet, Yukon Energy's models suggest the electric load 16 years from now will be the same as it is today.⁷

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2019/may/24/student-climate-strikes-around-the-world>
2. <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/>
3. <https://yukonenergy.ca/energy-in-yukon/electricity-101/current-energy-consumption>
4. Yukon Energy's Resource Plan, page 5-22. Additional information in Table 4.2 on page 4-40, and Appendix 5.6: May Hydro Future Facility Options Report
5. Historical data extracted from Yukon Energy's 2017 annual report on the Aishihik Generating Station, submitted to the Yukon Water Board.
6. <http://www.eco.gov.yk.ca/stats/pdf/Projections2016R.pdf>
7. Yukon Energy's 2016 Resource plan, pg 4-47, Figure 4-20

Other Energy News:

After submitting comments to Yukon government's "Climate Change, Energy and Green Economy" strategy, we are waiting to hear how this strategy will be developed. We want it to be a roadmap of how to reduce Yukon's carbon emissions 50% by 2030.

Demand Side Management



Let's use our power better!

Change how we use the energy

Conservation eg. stop wasting energy, think about how you use it

Energy Efficiency eg. led lights, energy star appliances

Demand Response eg. changing when the energy is used

The expectation that electrical load growth is only temporary is leading Yukon Energy to short-term solutions like fossil fuel generators. Renewables, by contrast, have no fuel cost, so the longer they operate the cheaper the electricity becomes. If the models predicted long term load growth, renewables would look more viable. If, for whatever reason, demand does end up falling, any excess renewable energy would enable us to electrify heating and transportation systems with clean energy. Considering the urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels, I would suggest the modelling should err on the side of more load, rather than less.

If we must add fossil fuel generators, I hope we at least minimize the damage. This means a low-cost (diesel), and temporary (rental) solution to meet the immediate capacity shortfall. Meanwhile, we need Yukon government and Yukon Energy to invest their effort and dollars strategically to tackle Yukon's CO2 emissions in a major way. This includes ambitious Demand Side Management, inspired clean energy policy, and a focus on community-centric renewable energy projects.

A 40-year commitment to a fossil fuel power plant isn't the only option. Yukon Energy has a choice. Yukon government has a choice.

Please choose well.

This op-ed appeared in the June 27 2019 edition of the Yukon News.

*Cody Reaume,
YCS Energy Analyst*

Free Guided Nature Hikes

It is that time again – our free guided hikes from Miles Canyon to Canyon City are underway! Every summer, more than 1000 people enjoy an interpretive walk through the canyon with us. Join our fantastic trail guides for a fun and informative walk in one of the most beautiful places in Whitehorse.

When: 10am & 2pm,
Tuesday through Saturday,
June 8-August 17

Where: Meet at the Robert Lowe Suspension Bridge below the Miles Canyon parking lot

The two-hour, easy walking hikes are fun for nature enthusiasts, hikers and families alike. For visitors, it's a great way to learn about the area – and for locals, you just might learn something new too! Twice-daily hikes run rain or shine and cover topics such as local geology, plants, and animals – and the rich human history of the area.

To keep things interesting for repeat hikers, we frequently host special events such as Yoga in the Canyon and themed hikes on topics such as Mushrooms, Northern Adaptations, Art and more. We also hold shorter lunchtime walks on Fridays.

Check our website, www.yukonconservation.org, for the latest list of special events and themed hikes – or contact Katie Woodstock, our Trail Guide Coordinator, at hikes@yukonconservation.org or 867-668-5678 x 6.

Meet our Trail Guiding Team:



This year's trail guides: Sylvie, Wyatt and Katie

Sylvie Kramer

Hi, my name is Sylvie Kramer, and I was born in Whitehorse Yukon! I am very excited to be working with the YCS and getting you out on the trails this season! Summer is my favorite time of year and there are so many great things to see! I grew up in Marsh Lake in remote community so the whole world was my backyard! I love learning new things and hope you learn from me just as much as I learn from you! I would spend all my time in the water if I had gills so holding my breath for a personal record of 1 1/2 minutes was close enough. :D :D I've always loved movies and music and picked up the guitar when I was little and the flute in high school. I currently study Theater at Acadia University. Look forward to seeing you all on the trails!

Wyatt Risby-Osborne

My name's Wyatt. I'm a local-born sourdough. My hobbies include painting, hiking and conjuring new worlds in a game of Dungeons and Dragons. I enjoy long walks on the beach, and the sound of my enemies as I roll a critical success. I hope to see you on the trail and I hope we don't run across any hobgoblins!

Katie Woodstock

Hi, my name is Katie! I have always loved hiking and exploring, so I am stoked to be a part of YCS' trail guiding program this summer. I studied Geography at Queen's University and recently became a certified hike leader. I've spent lots of time in the back-country in Ontario, and am absolutely loving the stunning landscapes that the Yukon has to offer. Can't wait to see you all out there!

Kids' Ed-Ventures:

Our regular hikes are great for people of all ages who are capable of walking 5km over mostly gentle terrain, including children. Additionally, we offer nature and conservation themed drop-in activities and games for children of all ages at our YCS tent at the Fireweed Market at Shipyards Park every Thursday until August 22 from 3-7pm. We are happy to book tailored Kids' Ed-Ventures as well. Do you know a group of kids who would like to have a special Ed-Venture tailored just for them? YCS is happy to accommodate theme, location, and special time requests for your group!

We Take Requests:

Do you have a larger group that would like to join us for a hike?

Do you have a specific theme you would like to hear more about?

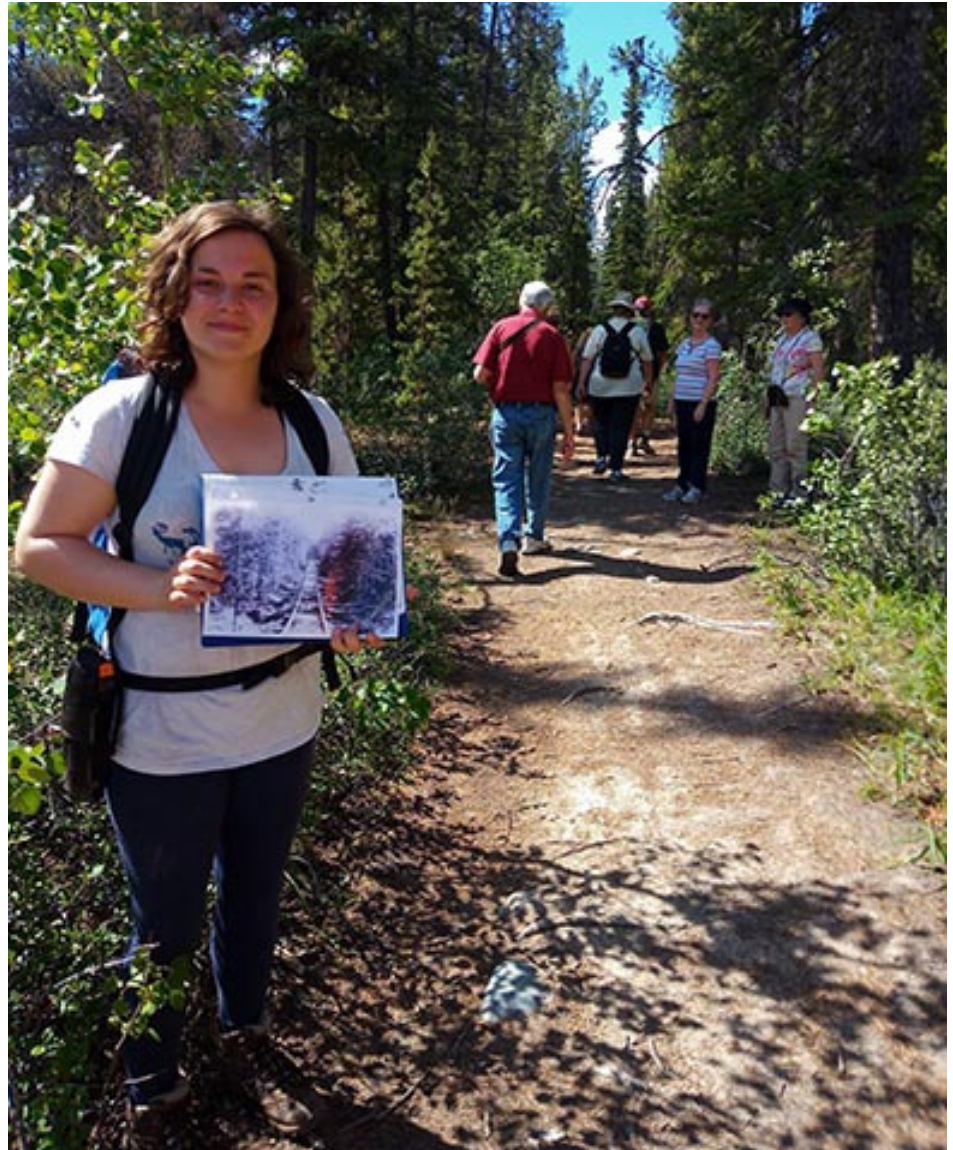
Would you like to schedule a specialized Kids Ed-Venture Program for your camp, daycare, or other kids' group?

Help out our trail guiding team! We're looking for guest guides with knowledge to share!

Do you have specific knowledge and passions that you want to share? For example, are you a mushroom expert, passionate birder or Yukon history enthusiast? We are looking for guest speakers from all walks of life to join our guides at Miles Canyon and Canyon City on special themed hikes. If you have knowledge that you want to share, contact us!

For more information contact our Trail Guide Coordinator, Katie Woodstock, at hikes@yukonconservation.org or 867-668-5678 x 6.

A morel mushroom found on the trail to Canyon City.



Trail Guide Sylvie Kramer 2019 with a photo of the horsepowered tramway that once ran along this trail.



Our interpretive programming is made possible by our supporters including the Government of Yukon Department of Tourism & Culture, Yukon Summer Career Placement Program, Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program, Yukon Arts Fund, City of Whitehorse Recreation Grant – and of course, YCS members!

The Peel Watershed: What We Heard Report released, now we wait for the Plan!

The long-awaited public consultations for the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan finally occurred in fall 2018, re-establishing the democratic process that we went to the Supreme Court of Canada to protect. The ‘What We Heard’ report for these consultations was released in February 2019 and thanks to you, the results were amazing. Yukon government received a huge number of submissions from the public, the majority of which supported the Final Recommended Plan or asked for more protection than the FRP. (The FRP would protect 80% of the watershed – 55% permanently protected, 25% interim protection that would be revisited at a later date – and open 20% to development).

The parties (Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, Vuntut Gwitchin, Gwich’in Tribal Council, Government of Yukon) are now considering these results while making the decision on the Final Recommended Plan for the Peel, which could be released anytime now.

After the parties agree on the land use plan, it will be signed off and approved as the official land use plan for the Peel River Watershed.

After the plan is approved and signed off by the parties, the next steps will be the creation of an implementation plan (a How-To Guide for management of the Peel Land Use Plan), and legislation (or legal designation) of the protected areas.

We hope that when the plan is approved for the Peel Watershed, the current moratorium on staking and development will be extended until these important next steps have been completed. We will keep you updated! Updates will also be posted at our website www.protectpeel.ca.

Dawson: Getting Started

The Dawson Land Use Plan is next up. The Land Use Planning Commission has held two public meetings so far, the latest in June 2019. Our wildlife, fish and habitat analyst, Sebastian Jones, lives in Dawson and is attending these meetings. YCS is keeping track of the process and speaking up for conservation in the Dawson region, particularly for important fish and wildlife habitat like the Indian River wetlands.

Here are some quick facts:

- 2,674 submissions (questionnaires, emails, letters) during the final consultations
- 40% of total comments expressed a desire to have the full 80% protected through permanently removing the Interim Protection and changing the Wilderness Areas to Special Management Areas
- 64.5% of the total public comments received expressed a desire to have more protection of the watershed
- 32% of questionnaire respondents did not recommend any changes to the Plan (which calls for 55% permanent protection and 25% interim protection)
- Only 3.3% (approx.) of the total comments received would like to see more area opened for resource development
- More details can be downloaded at the official Peel consultation website, www.finishthepeelplan.ca.

Beaver River

The Beaver River watershed is in Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation (NND) territory, just south of the Peel Watershed. This is a wild place full of salmon-bearing streams, moose habitat, and other key ecological and cultural values. It’s also extensively

staked with quartz mining claims, and a company called ATAC Resources Ltd. wants to put a 65-km access road into the heart of the claims, potentially opening up a huge swath of land to exploration and development.

The road can’t go in until land use planning is completed, so NND and Yukon government have signed an agreement to complete a sub-regional land use plan for the Beaver River watershed. An initial consultation took place in early 2019. YCS and CPAWS Yukon both submitted comments raising concerns.

Particular concerns include:

- **Lack of baseline data.** The access road would cross 73 streams and rivers, including Chinook salmon spawning streams; it also cuts through winter moose habitat. But the area is under-researched. We don’t have adequate baseline data on moose, grizzly or Chinook salmon populations in the area, so it’s hard to plan how to protect them.
- **Short timeline.** The plan is supposed to be finished by March 2020 – we don’t think that’s long enough to plan well.
- **Backwards approach.** It’s important to understand the region’s cultural and ecological values, and develop a land use plan that takes these into account – then decide if a mining road should go in. The road has been approved pending land use planning; we’re concerned this creates an assumption that the road is a done deal.

We are now waiting to see the ‘What We Heard’ report on what people said in the spring consultations. We are keeping a close eye on this planning process!

- Julia Duchesne
YCS Outreach

Spring Cleaning

Cleaning the Bathroom

Here's a fun fact that's actually completely horrible.

Every plastic toothbrush ever made is still in existence.

How so? Because plastic doesn't decompose, and your toothbrush, once you're done with it, goes straight in the trash where it occupies space at the depth of a landfill for the next millennia.

But it's not just toothbrushes. Go into the bathroom and take a long look at all the plastic things in there. Then, consider how many are to be recycled. The toothpaste? Odds are, trash. Floss? Not only the dispenser, but the floss itself is usually plastic. The aerosol shaving cream can? The liquid soap dispenser? The myriad of squeezable shampoo bottles? So on. So on. Some bathroom items are recyclable, but many are not.

It's a bit daunting at how completely disposable plastic has invaded our lives. Filling that little niche of convenience so thoroughly we don't even think about it. After all, what else can we do? We can't just not use it.

Well, in some cases, we can't. We need to brush our teeth. Shave. What have you. But do we have to do it in a way that stresses our natural resources and pollutes so thoroughly? Not really. There are options. Compostable toothbrushes are now available. Using shaving soap rather than cream not only gives you more, but isn't nearly as damaging to produce and use. Buying floss made of silk rather than plastic. Using locally made soap and shampoo bars. It's worth thinking about not only how we can use less, but use what we do have to in a more conscientious way.

After all, just because this is the way we do it now, doesn't mean we have to keep doing it the same way forever.

Hair of the Dog

Do you like birds?

Have a hairy dog or cat?

Then there's some great news for you and your furry friend! As your dog sheds their winter coat, you can help birds build their nests with Fido's cast-off hair. Pet fur is an excellent insulator, and quite prized by birds. So next time you feel the need to give your pet a brush, take them outside and do it, and leave that fur for the birds to collect. Not only will you save yourself the trouble of cleaning up after, but that hair will be invaluable for birds building their nests for the coming year. Soft underfur (or cat fur) is preferable to the coarser guard hairs found on some dog breeds.

There is a precaution, however. Do not do this if you recently shampooed your dog or applied flea/tick treatments. Those chemicals are toxic to wildlife and birds. Birds are highly susceptible to chemicals like pesticides and the like, and if they use treated dog hair it's like they're living in a chemical bath. So be careful, and remember. Everything we do, the world around us has to live with.

Car Wash Etiquette

Why, one might ask, should I go to the car wash when I can do it at home?

A number of reasons, as it turns out. The chemicals and toxins that your car accumulates while you drive it are often poisonous to plants and animals. Not normally a problem, aside from the obvious. That being said, when you wash it off in, say, your driveway, you get what's called urban runoff – contaminated water running directly into storm drains.

Remember the pond up in Whistle Bend? The reason it became so polluted was, among other reasons, that people were washing their cars, and that water has to go somewhere. And quite often, it spilled over into the grass and foliage around the buildings, poisoning insects, animals, and making their way into the pond. This caused algae bloom and toxins filled it.

The solution is really quite simple. A car wash is specifically set up to capture that runoff and filter it into the sewage system, which is then dealt with at the treatment plant. A simple solution, but just another thing that can be done to help keep the Yukon healthy.

- Jason Lane, YCS Volunteer



Outreach Director Julia Duchesne says goodbye to the Yukon

It's been a wild and wonderful ride since May 2015. I arrived at YCS having visited the Yukon in 2014 for my M.Sc. research on Final Agreements and land governance. I had learned a bit about the ongoing challenges of government-to-government relationships, implementation of UFA tools, environmental impacts of resource development, and especially the Peel Watershed. I was excited to jump in.

I was soon fully immersed in YCS, including the Peel Watershed campaign – talking about the Peel at Dawson City Music Festival and Moosehide Gathering, learning a water ceremony song at -30C in Ottawa with the Kitigan Zibi Anishnaabeg and a crowd of Yukoners, and celebrating a victory while prepping then-ED Christina for CBC's Power & Politics! One funny memory is being in charge of printing out the 32-page Supreme Court ruling as soon as it dropped. I printed it on normal paper, as you do, and delivered it to the Chiefs, EDs, and lawyers – and then they started asking why bits were missing at the bottom of each page. Oops! I had to sprint back to the printing centre and re-print it on legal-size paper – because if a judgement from Canada's highest court isn't legal, what is?



The strongest memories I've made here, though, are of YCS' people. At four years I'm only just getting started compared to many of our members and volunteers, who have kept this ship sailing for decades. The total depth and breadth of knowledge held by the Yukon Conservation Society is astounding. Here are just a few of the things YCS members and volunteers can do:

- Identify myriad birds by the sound of their call in a walk anywhere in the Yukon.
- Remember the names of all our current members – and who needs to renew their membership!
- Recall the multi-decade histories of water quality, bureaucratic bungling, and various owners' misdeeds at abandoned mine sites across the territory.
- Grasp how the Yukon's entire energy system fits together, and see how it needs to transform.
- Know the history of a dam's environmental impacts better than the government's own consultants.
- Bike, hike, hunt, fish, ski, swim, dogsled, recycle, reuse, grow food, and build community – as a way of life and an everyday practice.
- Fly a small plane over Faro to record our own footage of the minesite with 6 GoPro cameras (and me on board as a lucky passenger/photographer!).
- Know their favourite trails and routes and happily share decades of knowledge and maps.
- Dance until midnight at the year-end party and still have energy to kicksled home.

Which is to say, I'm constantly struck by how much passion and commitment exists here. It was a pleasure to work with YCS staff and supporters new and old, an honour to help YCS celebrate its 50th birthday, and it's a wrench to leave. Saying goodbye to the Trail Guide program is especially hard. Every day I get to be on the trails is a joy, and reminds me of the power of outdoors education and outreach – and the incredible enthusiasm, passion and talent of the young people who are our guides.

I'll be in Toronto for the next two years, writing up a storm in Ryerson's Master of Journalism program. I'll always be a YCS member and I'm so excited to see where we're headed in the next few years. If you've been thinking about getting involved with YCS, please do! YCS needs you, and the Yukon needs more YCS.

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

DONATIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP

- Student \$10
- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
(2 or more people)
- _____ Total amount

*Both donations & memberships are tax deductible.
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- I want to volunteer, please send me information.
- I would like to receive a twice-monthly email with YCS news and events.
- I would like to receive my copy of the *Walk Softly* quarterly newsletter by email, not a paper copy in the mail.

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Cheque # _____ \$ _____

Cash \$ _____

Visa / Mastercard Expiry /

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Signature _____

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Thank you to Joshua Hunt who has been keeping the YCS computer systems running for years and is now taking a well-deserved break!

Thank you to Mary Amerongen for her work making sure YCS members are kept informed and involved in the life of the organization (and her baking skills)!

Thank you to Tanya Handley for her work on Walk Softly and posters for our mining and roads event!

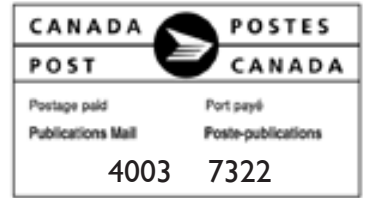
Thank you to all our garden volunteers who keep the plants weeded and watered!

Thank you to the volunteers who lend a hand with all our summer events!

Thank you to Jason for his fantastic work at the market this summer!

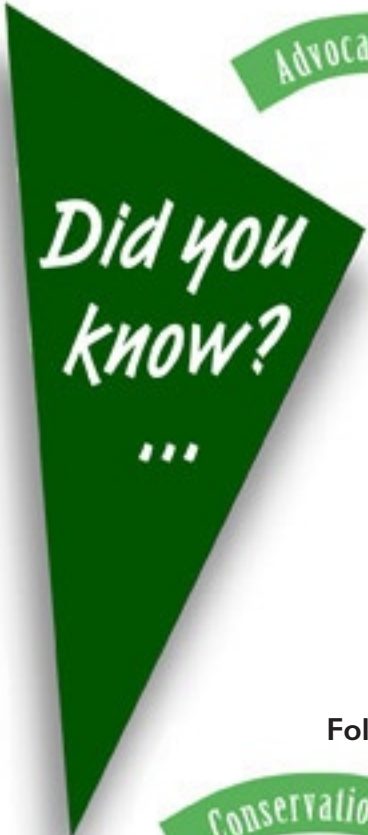
And thank you to everyone who contributes time and energy to YCS committees, projects and work!

Thank You Volunteers!



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Free Guided Hikes are underway!

Did you know that YCS offers guided hikes in the Whitehorse area? Learn about nature, history and conservation with our trail guides Wyatt and Sylvie! Our main hikes run from Miles Canyon/Kwanlin to the historic Gold Rush site of Canyon City, leaving from the Robert Lowe Suspension Bridge at 10am and 2pm, five days a week (Tuesday-Saturday). We also run special extra hikes on Friday lunchtimes, fun events like Yoga at the Canyon, and kids' programming. Visit www.yukonconservation.org (Programs > Get Outside > Miles Canyon Hikes) to learn more.

The Mining Committee Needs You!

Interested in volunteering for YCS? Concerned about mining issues in the Yukon? Then being on the mining committee could be for you! Contact Lewis at [mining@yukonconservation.org](mailto: mining@yukonconservation.org) or 867-668-5678 to discuss.

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