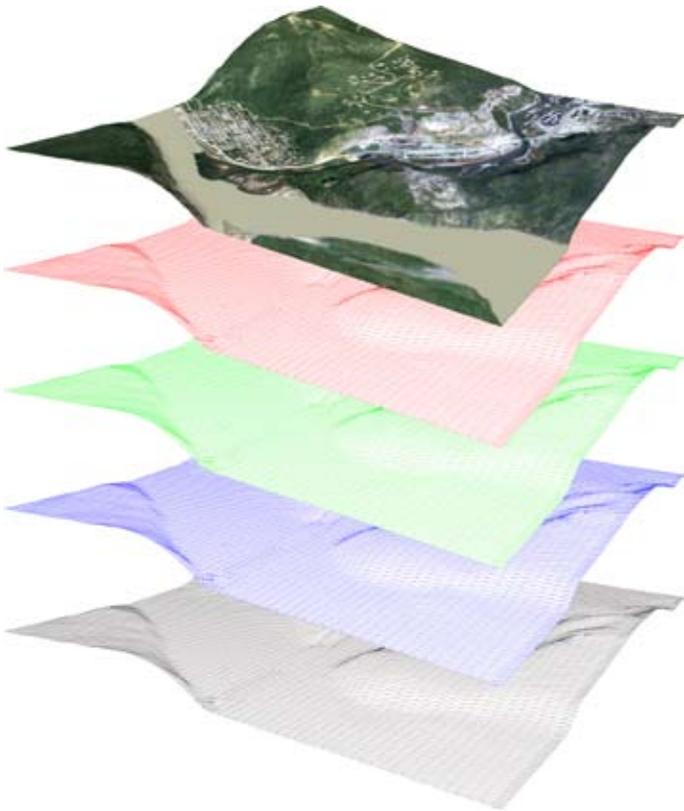


DAWSON CITY

MINING THE INTERPRETIVE REALM OF THE KLONDIKE

“The Center for Land Use Interpretation is interested in understanding the nature and extent of human interaction with the earth’s surface, and in finding new meanings in the intentional and incidental forms that we individually and collectively create. We believe that the manmade landscape is a cultural inscription, that can be read to better understand who we are, and what we are doing.”



For the 7th edition of the OVER THE WIRE series, the Yukon School of Visual Arts students collaborated with *The Center for Land Use Interpretation*. Under a guided project by *The Center*, the students specifically looked at the Klondike Region with a focus on Dawson City—home of the Yukon School of Visual Arts (SOVA). In order to carry out the project, SOVA students worked in interpretive teams which explored four overlapping layers of land use in the region by separating them into stratified layers:

First Nations + Mining + Historical Sites + Tourism

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Given the task to investigate these four issues and their accompanying geo-physical sites with a neutral voice, the goal was to provide a full spectrum of perspectives on the selected topics to better enter the complicated and persistent conversations between typically polarised viewpoints. Avoiding a direct association between individual and artwork, OTW #07 attempts to synergise focused but fragmented stories of places into a patchwork of collaboration.

INTERPRETIVE LAYER: FIRST NATIONS



TRO'CHEK

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MOOSEHIDE /
JEJIK DOLHA DENEZHU KEKIT

p.4



DAWSON CITY

p.5



40 MILE /
CH'EDA DEK

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BLACK CITY

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YUKON RIVER

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TOMBSTONE PARK /
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DANOJA ZHO
CULTURAL CENTRE

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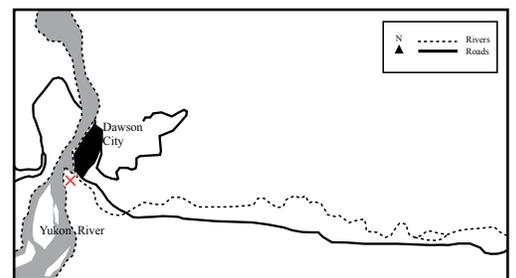
TR'ONDĚK SUBDIVISION
C-4

p.11



Looking across the water from Dawson City at Tr'öchĕk which sits at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers.

Tr'öchĕk is an ancient village that sits at the mouth of the Klondike River. It was used as a fish camp and base for hunting for the Hän speaking people known as the Tr'ondĕk Hwĕch'in. Prior to the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898 Tr'öchĕk was a home for these people for centuries. During the Gold Rush the Tr'ondĕk Hwĕch'in people's territory was invaded by hundreds and eventually thousands of prospectors and miners, forcing them to eventually leave their home at Tr'öchĕk and settle a few kilometers down the Yukon River in what is called Moosehide. On 24 May 1997 the Tr'ondĕk Hwĕch'in people reclaimed Tr'öchĕk in the land claim negotiations and began developing plans for the future of Tr'öchĕk.



In recent years Tr'öchĕk has been the focus of archaeological investigations under the protection and interest of the Tr'ondĕk Hwĕch'in and Yukon Government. The archaeological digs have uncovered artifacts that indicate at least four periods of occupation dating back 200 years. Artifacts such as bone, stone, metal and glass implements indicated the use of traditional and introduced technologies.

Today Tr'öchĕk continues to be a site under the protection of the Tr'ondĕk Hwĕch'in government where the Tr'öchĕk Steering Committee work together to plan the future of this historic site.



Onsite at Tr'öchĕk—once a fishing village now a Heritage Site.

MOOSEHIDE / JĒJIK DOLHÄ DĒNEZHU KEKĪT

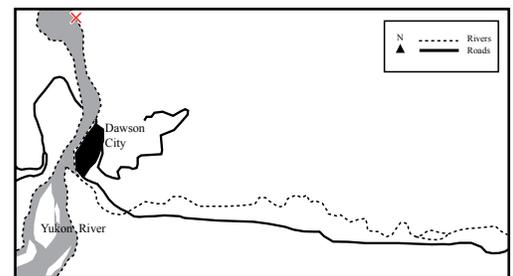


Moosehide settlement 5km downriver from Dawson City and at the mouth of Moosehide Creek.

Due to the Klondike Gold Rush, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in were forced to relocate to another traditional camp five kilometers down the Yukon River just below Moosehide Creek. The site known as Moosehide became the new home for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in throughout the remaining years of the Gold Rush and is currently a traditional site for the First Nations community.

Although Dawson City is the main home for the First Nations; Moosehide is still home to some year round. It still contains many remnants of the past and holds the infrastructure of the present. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in use Moosehide for many celebrations and gatherings.

The first Moosehide Gathering was organised in 1993, and due to its great success another gathering was held the following year. Currently the Gatherings are held every two years because of the amount of volunteers and organising efforts. During this four-day event, First Nations from all over the Yukon and Alaska gather to take part in workshops, entertainment, storytelling, dancing and feasts of traditional food.



Food cache with cemetery in back right of image.

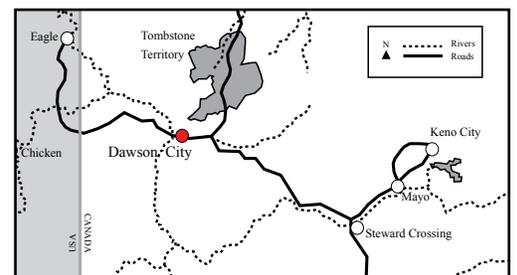


Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nations Administration Building and Community Hall on Front Street in Dawson City.

Dawson City is a town that shouldered the mouth of the Klondike River and rides the bank of the Yukon River. From 1898 until 1957 the site used to be the capital of the Yukon Territory, Canada. Before becoming a city by the standards of the municipal act it was a valuable piece of land for the Hän speaking people known as the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Prior to the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898, the location of Dawson City was used as a base camp for hunting moose. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people used this site for ages while living in their native village of Tr'ochëk across the Klondike River. Due to the soft ground and swampy environment Dawson was not a favourable place to camp in comparison to Tr'ochëk. Dawson City was clear-cut, staked and established when foreign prospectors and miners arrived during the Gold Rush. First Nation Peoples in the area were forced to leave Dawson as a hunting ground, and Tr'ochëk as a home, due to the ever expanding infrastructure.

In modern times Dawson City is a small town home to people from all over the world as well as the main home for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people. Here they are stationed as a self-governing First Nation Community with traditional rights to the land surrounding the town. Dawson City is still considered an important First Nations site due to the tradition and heritage of the land.



Welcome sign on Front Street: handpainted like all signs in town.

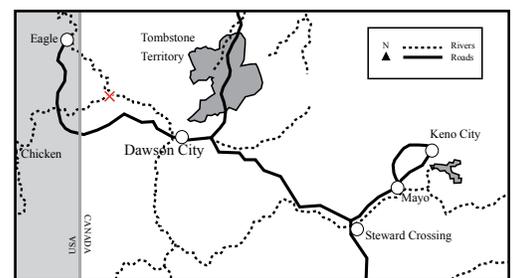
CH'ÈDÀ DĚK / FORTY MILE



Confluence of Fortymile River + Yukon River: home to both Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's Ch'èdà Dëk settlement and the ghost town of Forty Mile.

Most popularly known as Forty Mile, this site is located 43 miles down river from Dawson City and was established in 1886 as the first town in the Yukon after gold was discovered along the Fortymile River (one of the greatest tributaries to the upper Yukon). However, the area is believed to have been used over the past 7000 years by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Tanana and Northern Tutchone peoples. Considerable archeological work has been done in the area and many hearths have been uncovered which date back 2300 years. Across from the Fortymile River is one of the best fishing spots along the Yukon River and it was used extensively by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people whose livelihood depended a great deal from harvesting fish, especially Chinook salmon. Not only did the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in sustain themselves on fish but the area around Forty Mile was also chosen because of the two Forty Mile Caribou herds which migrate up the river and spanned across an area of 220 000 kilometers. Close to Chicken, Alaska, the First Nation people used caribou fences with snares, bows and arrows to harvest the caribou. Afterwards they would float the caribou down to Forty Mile on mooseskin boats. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in used every part of the caribou including the hooves, which were often dried and then boiled to make jelly. The First Nation people stayed in the area until the 1930s and many people were faced with choosing citizenship by either moving to Eagle, Alaska, or up river to Dawson City, Yukon.

Today the site is co-managed by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon Government. The area is also used for a stopover during dogsled races such as the Percy de Wolf.



First Church in the Yukon located at Ch'èdà Dëk / Forty Mile.



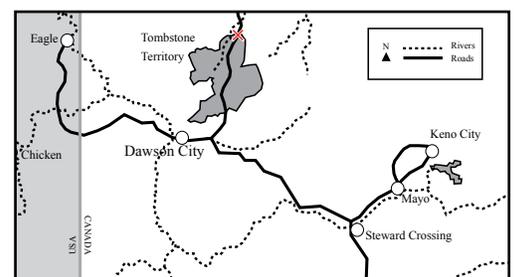
Historic site of Black City along Blackstone River (technically referred to as S-145B).

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Dept. photo

This Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in historical site is of great significance to the First Nations of this region, located in what is now the northern end of the Tombstone Territorial Park, co-managed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Territorial Government. Recent archeology work conducted in partnership between these two groups shows evidence of the continuous use of this area for a period of more than 10 000 years.

The site lies on an annual migration route for the Porcupine Caribou and the banks of the Blackstone River have provided a seasonal settlement for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for hundreds of years. In the height of the Gold Rush, Black City became a primary settlement area. Camps and cabins were located in the Blackstone Uplands, though the last resident moved away in 1927 and there are no longer any physical remains of these camps. Subsistence rights are still protected in Tombstone Park, allowing the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to continue to fish, hunt and harvest as they have traditionally done. The nearby area of Cache Creek north of Black City and just outside the park is the location of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in annual "First Hunt".

Recently highlighted on the cover of a Mountain Equipment Coop catalogue, the Tombstone area has become a popular destination for hiking, paddling and back-packing. The potential disturbance from tourists and traffic along the Dempster Highway presents concern for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and they request that the public treat the Black City area as private property and do not visit this part of the park.



Black City at the north end of Tombstone Park.

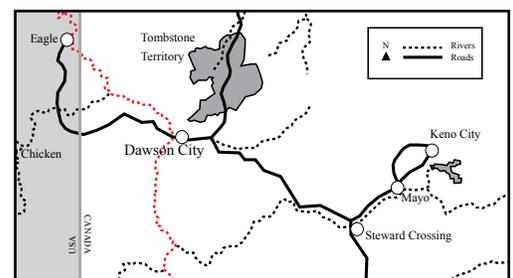
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Dept. photo

YUKON RIVER



Yukon River: major route for transportation until the Modern age; boats and dogsleds still travel along the river and cars across its icebridge.

The Yukon River is 3700 km long and was an important travelling corridor for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, who used it extensively from Fort Selkirk down to Eagle, Alaska. Following the Gold Rush of 1899, the river began to have many stern-wheelers that were used both upstream and downstream of Dawson City to carry people and goods. Many First Nation people worked at wood camps along the river, helping to supply the ships. People also worked along the Stewart, McQuesten and White River where they used rafts to haul logs down to Dawson City. Big log rafts with up to 120 cords of wood were sometimes brought down on these rafts. Many of the people used the river for travelling, hunting, fishing and harvesting plants. Some of the plants harvested were wild chives, black currant, and wild-rhubarb and high and low bush cranberries. In terms of fish, Chinook and Chum salmon, grayling and pike were most common. Certain areas along the river such as Tr'ochëk (at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon River) and Forty Mile (at the confluence of the Fortymile and Yukon River) were used as prime fishing areas. The river helped maintain a healthy lifestyle for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people. In recent times, the river has begun to change however. Water levels are believed to be lower, shorelines have eroded and landslides are more prominent. This has impacted the land-usage along the river because certain plants are less common such as wild onions and the abundance of fish and wildlife has decreased steadily. Today, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in still fish every summer for Chinook and Chum salmon, although management challenges in both Canada and the US have encouraged restraint in the fishing for the Chinook salmon.



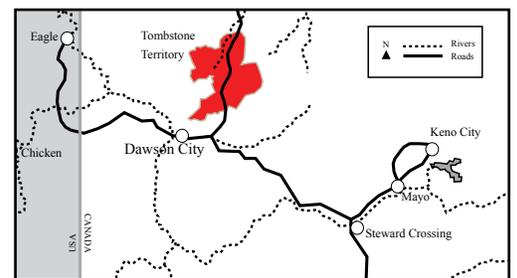
Looking South down the Yukon River near Dawson City.

DDHAL CH'EL / TOMBSTONE PARK



Unique subarctic landscape within the Tombstone Park provides hunting grounds for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Tombstone Territorial Park spans 2100 square kilometers and was established under Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement in accordance that it will be managed under the Parks Act and co-managed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon Government. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Tukudh and the Teetl'it Gwitch'in First Nation have traditionally used the vast area of land for over 8000 years. There have been specific travel and heritage routes used by these peoples such as the North Fork Pass, the North Klondike River, Hart Pass and the Chandindu-Seela Pass, which stretches down to the Yukon River. A particular geological importance to this area is the continental divide, which separates the park in two and hosts some rivers running south with populations of salmon, while other rivers run north with populations of dolly varden and grayling. There are two areas including Chapman Lake and Black City (both outside and landlocked by the park respectively), which are Settlement Lands and therefore not subject to certain land or park acts. As a heritage resource they are instead managed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. The area has been of great importance to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in both now and in the past because of its great ecological importance and diversity, which has been recognised by UNESCO. Both the Hart and Porcupine caribou herds migrate through the park and Angelcomb and Trapper Mountains have been designated special feature zones because of the sheep and gyrfalcon populations residing there. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in still maintain hunting rights within the park.



Angelcomb and Trapper Mountain in Tombstone Park.

DÄNOJÀ ZHO CULTURAL CENTRE

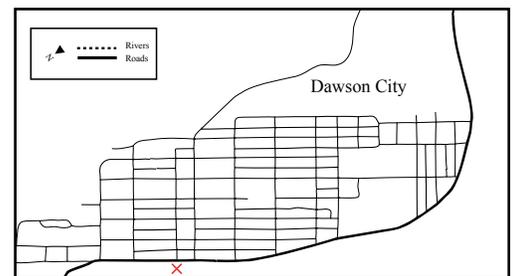


Dänojà Zho: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Cultural Centre on the bank of the Yukon River with Moosehide in the far background.

The Dänojà Zho is situated on the bank of the Yukon River in Dawson City with a view towards the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in community of Moosehide. Dänojà Zho, meaning 'Long Ago House' in the Hän language, is the cultural centre of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation people of this region. The centre celebrates and shares the traditional and contemporary experiences of these Peoples. As a tourist attraction it provides visitors a historical perspective outside of the standard view of the Gold Rush era and gives an opportunity to learn about the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and history. It also serves as an active community centre and meeting place for cultural activities, performances and events for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other local community members. The large facility is also available for rental to the public.

The building of this centre was a community initiative that was made in consultation with the Yukon Territorial Government, Dawson City & Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the construction of which was largely funded by Centennial Project Funding.

The architecture of the Dänojà Zho is contemporary but also reminiscent of salmon drying racks and traditional shelters. The building was exempt from the bylaw that requires all exteriors of new buildings to resemble Klondike-era structures and was not designed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in community itself, but by Yukon firm, Maurer + Kobayashi Architects. The centre officially opened the same year of the signing of the Final Land Settlement agreement, in July 1998.



Contemporary design section of the Cultural Centre.

TR'ONDĚK SUBDIVISION / C-4

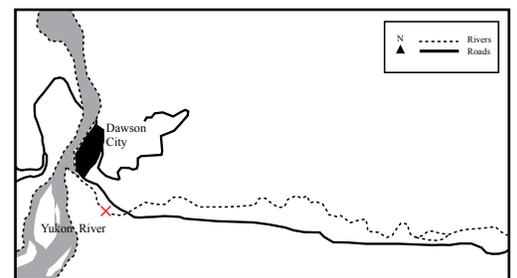


C-4 is primarily a residential area built and managed by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. (Note the remain tailing pile in the far left side of the image).

C-4 is residential housing built and owned by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government to provide housing for their citizens. In 2001, this parcel of settlement land located on the outskirts of Dawson City was identified as a suitable location for this development which is large enough to accommodate approximately 40 residential houses and 10 commercial lots.

Having been extensively mined in the past, it was necessary to level the large tailing piles that remained, before any building could begin on this site. Approximately three million dollars were spent in the development and preparation of the land. C-4 is Category B Settlement Land, giving the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in surface but not sub-surface rights to the land. Having already been extensively mined in the past, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in did not foresee future mining at this location, however there are existing grandfather land claims on this site, which has been a source of contention and controversy between the claim holders and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has unrestricted self-governance in some settlement lands, but an exception was made in the case of C-4 in which the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in agreed to observe and respect the Dawson City's municipal bylaws and regulations. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in pays regular city taxes and in exchange the city assumes responsibility for and provides the same municipal services it would to private land owners, such as sewer, garbage pick up and plowing of the roads.



C-4 houses with Klondike River in the background.

INTERPRETIVE LAYER: MINING



WHITE CHANNEL
GRAVEL p.13



DISCOVERY CLAIM p.14



MOOSEHIDE DITCH p.15



BEAR CREAK p.16



DREDGE POND
SUBDIVISION p.17



DESCHENES DIVE p.18



WESTMINSTER HOTEL p.19



SLINKY MINE p.20



GROUND TRUTH
CORPORATION LTD. p.21

WHITE CHANNEL GRAVEL (PLACER MINING)

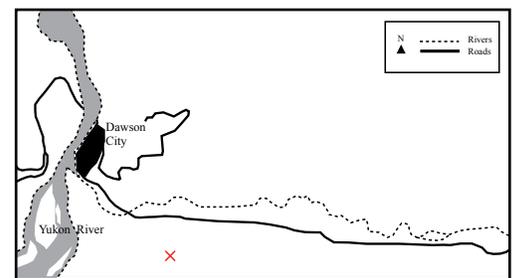


Mining in white channel gravel deposits.

Placer mining is the technique of recovering gold from gravel. Placer deposits occur in several areas across the Yukon, though historically, most of the mining has taken place near Dawson City. This area is particularly favorable for placer deposits because it is in the unglaciated part of the Yukon. The majority of gold production in the Yukon, about 85 percent, comes from unglaciated areas, where the geology was not complicated by the movements of glaciers.

Gold is very unevenly distributed within the gravel. Early miners would confine their attention to the valleys until rich deposits were found on hillsides. The White Channel gravel is the oldest gold deposit in the Klondike district. It is also the second richest after the creek gravels. Using a pressurised stream of water to wash away the topsoil, hydraulic mining moves gold-bearing gravels from bench claims above the creeks. Hydraulic mining also requires a steep grade and abundant water.

Pure gold is never found. It is always alloyed with other minerals, usually silver. Most Yukon gold is about 75 to 85 percent pure, with the rest being silver and other trace elements like quartz. If restorative activities take place it is either at the end of the season, or until the mining is completely finished at the site. Sometimes certain restorative activities must take place at the end of each season, while others can't happen until the miner is completely finished mining at that site.



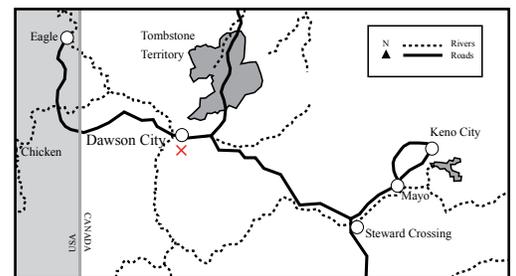
Placer Mining.

DISCOVERY CLAIM



Discovery Claim as the birth of the Gold Rush in the Klondike region is now a historical site.

True to its name, Discovery Claim was the first place in the Klondike for miners to discover Gold and is located 18 kms from Dawson City travelling south past Dredge No. 4 down Bonanza Creek. The Discovery Claim is attributed to George Washington Carmack. The discovery was at a place called Rabbit Creek at the time, which after the Gold Rush was renamed Bonanza Creek. The area was subjected to placer mining, which means that in the early Gold Rush workers were equipped with picks and shovels to loosen up soil and sand and wash the material through a sluice if it was available. If not, miners would utilise a “rock box” which tilts back and forth to allow the heavier gold granules to collect on ridges running horizontally to the direction of the moving sand. On 17 August 1896 miners went on strike, which attracted attention to the Klondike area. When others heard of the discoveries, they started to stake the entire region. Much larger gold mining operations began soon after the strike in 1896, eventually leading to the corporate ventures that built the massive Dredge machines.



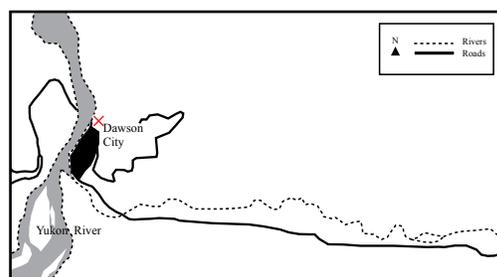
Bonanza Creek.

MOOSEHIDE DITCH



The remaining mark of a Gold Rush pipeline is still visible along the Slide as easily seen in winter with a line of snow.

During the Gold Rush era, a continual flow of water was necessary for the placer mining process. Halfway down the Moosehide slide there is a ditch across the rocky slope that was dug for piping laid across it. This pipeline was used for transporting water from Moosehide Creek to the other side of the Dome, below the ski hill and above the Klondike Valley where the current Slinky Mine exists. Like the herculean Yukon Ditch stretching 115 km just West of Dawson, the Moosehide Ditch worked using the fluid mechanics by taking water from a higher elevation and, with the force of gravity, moving it to an intended lower location. The water was used in the mine to operate the sluice boxes, which exposed the delicate gold that lay within the earth. The construction of the Moosehide pipeline was the only man-made modification to affect the landmark. The modification of the slide can be seen as a line across the middle of the slide where snow collects in the springtime. Still today, the effect of this cut in the landscape is visible on the ancient Moosehide Slide from all over Dawson City.



Moosehide Slide in the Fall.

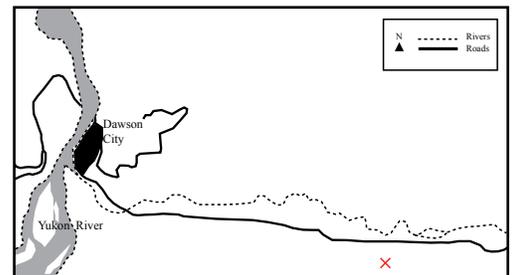
BEAR CREEK COMPOUND



Abandoned mining equipment and machines at Bear Creek Compound

Following the discovery of gold at Bonanza Creek at the turn of the 20th century, the Klondike region saw an explosion of towns and cities devoted to the turning of the earth in search of precious minerals. Bear Creek Compound, located just outside Dawson City limits, is one of these mining sites, which today, as so many others like it in the Yukon, sits a ghost town. Today, one may walk through Bear Creek and wonder at the abandoned houses, workshops and machinery that once completely sustained hundreds of miners and their families.

Operating from the 1890s until 1969, Bear Creek had it all. Water, brought to location by canal, provided electricity with the help of an enormous steam generator. Gardens and farm animals were harvested and stored in multiple buildings that brought the many families through the long, harsh winters. While horses played an important role in camp life and exploration efforts, machines equally dominated existence. Bear Creek boasted the largest, most modern machine shop in North America, an honour held all the way into the 1960s. These machines, some of which were invented at Bear Creek and are now in use all over the world, worked to change the entire landscape of the area. Every part of these great creations could be manufactured in Bear Creek.



Derelict digging ladder from dismantled Dredge at Bear Creek.

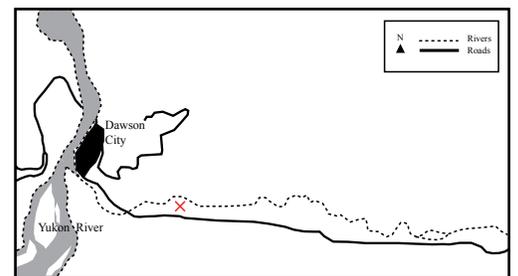
DREDGE POND SUBDIVISION



Tailing Piles and Pond in the Klondike Valley—a manufactured landscape reused for residential homes and industrial lots.

The first Dredge was put in the water in September of 1898. There were multiple machines, owned by various companies that turned over the land for the next 68 years. The Dredge created long lines of tailing piles along waterways and washes – wherever there was natural flowing water for the operation. The gold is extracted, as it is sifted through the monstrous machine, and the remaining material is discarded in the form of these tailing piles. The ponds at the Dredge Pond Subdivision were initially dug out so as to allow the Dredge to float and to churn the ground material, filtering out the usable ore. The water was diverted from the river to create these sectional ponds (sometimes even using mega infrastructural projects like the Yukon Ditch stretching 115 kilometers). Mines often have a disposal facility in order to prevent the release of tailing material into the environment. These facilities frequently take the form of a dam or pond into which refuse material is pumped and separated, often using toxic chemicals that harm the surrounding wildlife and natural ecosystems.

Today the tailing piles are a repurposed as a hybrid residential / industrial subdivision. It will take hundreds of years for the land around the Dredge Pond Subdivision to regenerate itself. Because of the ongoing popularity and demand of gold mining, vast areas of land will be turned over and clear-cut for roads, demanding wildlife to leave their habitat and plants to be destroyed and eventually born again.



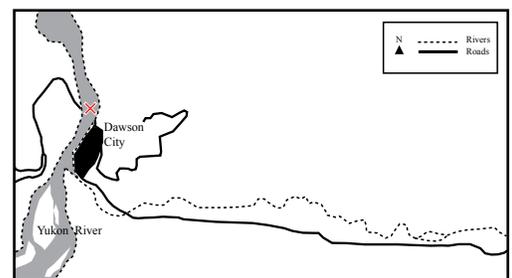
Aerial view of tailing piles filling the Klondike Valley.

DESCHENES DIVE



Open ice on the frozen Yukon River at the base of Moosehide Slide where Deschenes imagined the “motherload” of Klondike Gold existed.

Approximately 1.5 km north of Dawson City near a land bench similar to the one Dawson is built upon, it was believed by Antoine Deschenes that there were vast amounts of gold. To see if this was true, he went down to the Yukon River with a crew (including his uncle) and set out to take a sample of sand from the bottom of the frozen Yukon River. The team ordered a “life line” from down South for added safety during the mission. However, witnesses testify Antoine decided that it was not necessary and continued without it. On 22 February 2001, at 7:00 pm he dove down through the ice with a guide rope in hand. After some time, the crew pulled up the rope and but to their horror they discovered that the rope had been cut off by the ice no longer connecting to Deschenes. Various people from the community and two RCMP underwater divers attempted rescue until about 4:30 am the next morning without any success. Antoine was never seen again, and with freezing ice temperatures and a limited air supply, he was presumed dead.



Looking North along the Yukon River where Deschenes dove and disappeared.

WESTMINSTER HOTEL

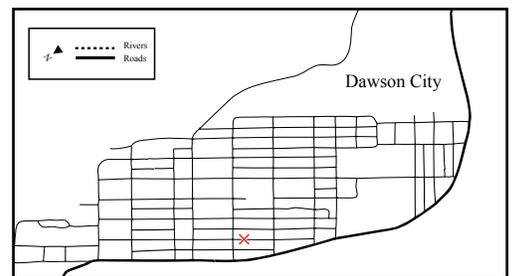


The Westminster Hotel (built in 1898) has a contemporary mining history with the alleged stories of “basement mining” in their garage.

No person can stake a new placer mining claim within the city limits, though it is widely speculated that the ground below the town is sitting on one of the largest gold deposits in the area. So much gold that the town was approached by an exploration company with the intention of moving the entire town South of its current location so that the ground beneath could be mined.

This has been the motivation of some enterprising residents to start “basement mines.” The former bar manager of the Westminster Hotel started his mining operation in the small side garage attached to the southside of the hotel over ten years ago. The operation included a mini back-ho and a rotating cast of the Hotel’s Tavern regulars. They spent their nights digging, because the fumes from the garage bothered the daytime patrons of the Tavern. The crew dug a shaft that was 50 ft deep. The operation was shut down because of worker’s compensation complications; air has to be provided to workers when a shaft is dug deep enough and it was getting dangerous.

The hole still exists, now filled with water beneath a parked car.



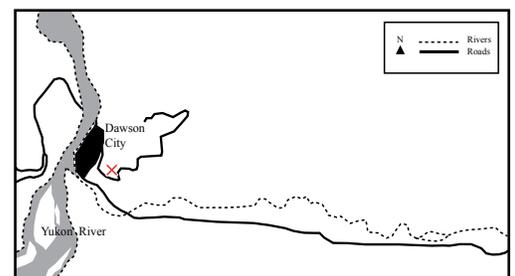
Garage of the Westminster Hotel on 3rd Ave. between Princess & Queen across from SOVA.

SLINKY MINE



Slinky Mine prepares to operate controversially on the Dome.

Across from a residential area up the road on Dawson City's Dome, there are claims being staked by a Whitehorse placer miner who has chosen the site for his upcoming 10 year mining operation. Although already violating two stop-work orders issued by Dawson City officials as well as written and verbal oppositions by the community, the miner claims to have been authorised a mining permit and water license from the Yukon Government and should therefore be able to begin the operation. The community of Dawson is concerned that if Slinky Placer Mining goes through with their mining on the Dome Road, the protection of the environment and the thriving wildlife, valuable waterways, peacefulness, and tourism will be at stake. The excavations are proposed to begin this spring. Although a list of restrictions was presented to the head of Slinky Placer Mining, the demands were overruled by Yukon's placer mining legislation. The list of restrictions included necessary fulfilments such as engineered drawings explaining how the road will be rebuilt before mining begins, a bond to the town that would act as advance payment for rebuilding the road, and most importantly, minimum standard setbacks from homes. Slinky Mine is underway and the demolition of the land has begun, at no more than 100 meters away from neighboring homes.



Proximity of the mine to homes can be seen by house in background.

GROUND TRUTH EXPLORATION LTD.



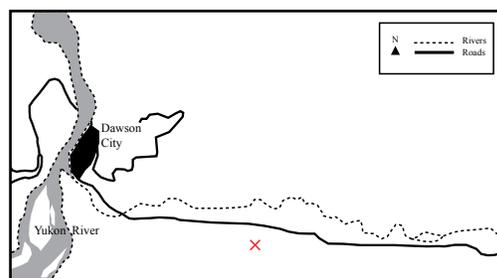
Ground Truth headquarters.

Ground Truth, once run out the backyard of a family home is now located where the Dawson City Coffin Dodgers used to meet. The compound is a space for offices, storage, and eventually a bunk house.

In most of Canada, mineral rights are staked online. In the Yukon, however, in a practice that has remained unchanged since the late 1800s, the prospectors must physically put a stake into the ground to claim it. Soil samplers and stakers are hired by Ground Truth to work year round staking claims and collecting soil samples.

Three years ago, the company employed a crew of less than twenty. Since then, the company has quadrupled in size and has hired 80 new crew members for this upcoming season. This exponential growth of the company can be attributed to Yukon's "second Gold Rush" which was sparked by Sean Ryan's discovery on the White Gold Property, approximately 100 km south of Dawson City.

The allure of finding gold in the ground has caught the attention of prospectors internationally, with good reason. It is estimated that the discoveries Ryan has been involved with could produce 10 million ounces of gold.



Location in Callison subdivision in the Klondike valley.

INTERPRETIVE LAYER: OFFICIAL HISTORIC SITES



LOWE'S MORTUARY p.23



KLONDIKE THAWING MACHINE CO. p.24



STRAIT'S SECOND HAND STORE p.25



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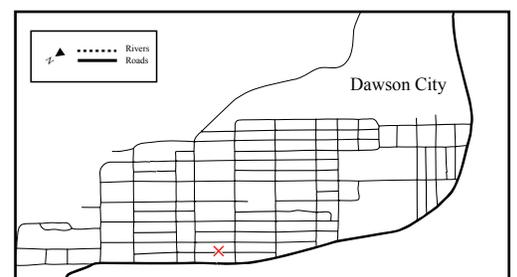
LOWE'S MORTUARY



Lowe's Mortuary architecture is from the first wave of Gold Rush construction.

Museums are realms where one culture displays another. Today Dawson City can be seen as “an active town within a historic site.” Dawson City's mix of tourism and historic classification began to take shape in the 1950s. At this time many people had already locked up their homes and left, the population was down to 500 people. When Prime Minister John Diefenbaker visited the area in 1959; he brought forward the possibility of developing Dawson City as an historic tourist attraction and still to date the primary focus of the federal government's involvement within the community has been the Gold Rush era buildings. Without the preservation of Lowe's Mortuary as a museum piece the building would have died a natural death due to shifting caused by permafrost.

Lowe's Mortuary is located in the historic downtown centre of Dawson City. Structurally the building is single storied and constructed of a log and wood frame. The building is lengthy and low to the ground, covered by a false-front façade, which displays handpainted lettering reading “Lowe's Mortuary”. Dawson's transformation from mining camp to commercial center can be seen in this building's addition to the sidewalk and false front. A variety of materials make up the walls, such as log-covered siding and corrugated metal, while the roof's construction integrates gable and shed roofs. Verification of transitions in building skills and available material can be seen in the additions and somewhat sporadic nature of the building. Lowe's Mortuary received historic value since the building was built in the first wave of the Gold Rush and its erection preceded the concluding layout of the street. It used to function in many different commercial ways, two of which were a blacksmith shop and a mortuary.



Reverse view of Lowe's reveals collage construction from different eras.

KLONDIKE THAWING MACHINE CO. (K.T.M.CO.)



Facade of inaccessible building owned by Parks Canada as an example of Gold Rush architecture and items.

K.T.M.Co. claimed to “sell most everything” – a good thing to stock up on the 1 ton of supplies the Mounties required in order to enter the Yukon via the Chilkoot Pass.

One company suggested this list of items to survive in the North:

FOOD:

- 200 pounds of bacon
- 400 pounds of flour
- 85 pounds assorted dried fruit
- 50 pounds cornmeal
- 35 pounds rice
- 24 pounds coffee
- 5 pounds tea
- 100 pounds sugar
- 25 pounds fish
- 15 pounds soup vegetables
- 50 pounds oatmeal
- 50 pounds dried potatoes
- 50 pounds dried onions
- 25 cans butter
- 100 pounds beans
- 4 dozen tins condensed milk
- 15 pounds salt
- 1 pound pepper

- 8 pounds baking powder
- 2 pounds baking soda
- 1/2 pound mustard
- 3/4 pound ginger
- 36 pounds yeast cakes
- 60 boxes of matches
- 5 bars of soap

CLOTHING:

- 1 suit oil clothing
- 3 pairs snag-proof rubber boots
- 3 pairs heavy shoes
- 1 dozen heavy socks
- 6 pairs wool mittens
- 3 suits heavy underwear
- 2 pairs Mackinaw trousers
- 2 pairs overalls
- 2 hats
- 4 heavy woolen overshirts

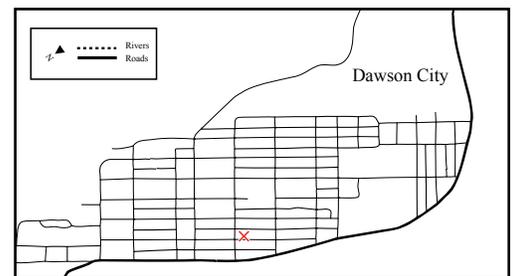
- 1 Mackinaw coat
- 1 heavy rubber-lined coat
- suspenders, handkerchiefs, snow glasses
- 2 pairs of heavy woolen blankets
- 2 oil blankets
- 4 towels
- buttons, thread, needles
- 5 yards mosquito netting

EQUIPMENT:

- 1 large bucket
- 1 set granite buckets
- 2 axes, plus extra handle
- 2 picks
- handsaw
- whipsaw
- 1 shovel
- pack strap

- 6 files
- drawing knife
- brace and bits
- jack plane
- hammer
- 3 chisels
- butcher knife
- 200 feet, 3/8- inch rope
- 10 pounds pitch
- 5 pounds oakum
- 2 caulking irons
- 15 pounds nails
- tent
- canvas

- whet stone
- compass
- goggles
- quartz glass
- quicksilver
- 2 frying pans
- coffee and tea pot
- 40 pounds of candles
- eating utensils: plate, cup, knife, fork, spoon
- pots and pans
- steel stove for 4 men
- gold pan and gold scales

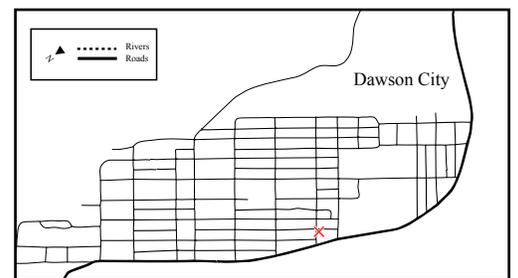


STRAIT'S SECOND HAND STORE



Exterior View of “Guns & Ammo” Building (1901) surrounded by fence to prevent trespassers from entering unstable structure.

Strait’s Second Hand Store, also known as the “Guns & Ammo Building”, dates back to 1901. It is considered to be one of the most photographed buildings in all of Dawson City. Although originally used as a trading post, over the years it also served as second hand store and auction house. The building gets its “Guns & Ammo” nickname from the large signs that were hung on its exterior for many years. However, as the site was never fenced off and freely accessible to anyone nearly all of the historic artifacts have been stolen over time. Even the iconic signs that gave the building its name were stolen in the late 1990s when it fell into disrepair.



After decades of abandonment the building has become structurally unsound and is barely standing; it was slated for demolition in 1971. However, thanks to an initiative by a local Dawson artist the community came together and purchased it for \$600. It was then donated to the KVA (Klondike Visitors Association) who did some minor restorative work and prevented its collapse. Ultimately though the KVA determined that restoration of the building was not feasible. The building sat virtually untouched until the late 1990s when a local Yukon businessman approached the KVA and offered to purchase the building and restore it. He is now personally sponsoring the estimated \$200 000 project with hopes to reopen it as a trading store in the future.



Temporary internal support structure to maintain building shape.

PALACE GRAND THEATRE

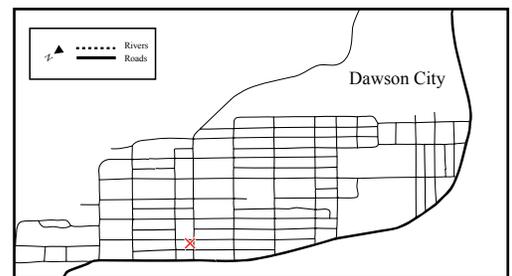


Façade of the Palace Grand Theatre: centre of Gold Rush entertainment.

One of the most impressive reminders of the past in Dawson City is the Palace Grand Theatre on King Street built in 1899 by the American “Arizona Charlie Meadows.” Charlie was quite the Wild West character, and one particular story is often retold: on any night, when he deemed the entertainment to be too dull, he would go on stage with his wife in tow. From there he would get his wife to hold up a marble and would shoot it from her fingers, without hurting the fingers themselves—that is until he missed and actually blew one of her fingers off. From that point he kept his own particular style of entertainment a bit more tame.

His business shared a similar tragic fate, for when the Klondike boom lasted only a couple of years and gold was discovered at Nome, Alaska, business dived. Charlie toyed with the idea of putting his music hall on a barge and floating it down the Yukon River, through Alaska, and out to Nome. Instead, he sold it in 1901 for \$17 000—a third of what he had paid to build it.

Historically convincing down to the details of the light bulbs, the building standing today is a complete reconstruction built in the 1960s due to its destruction in a fire.



Sideview of Palace Grand revealing interior dimension and modern elevator access.

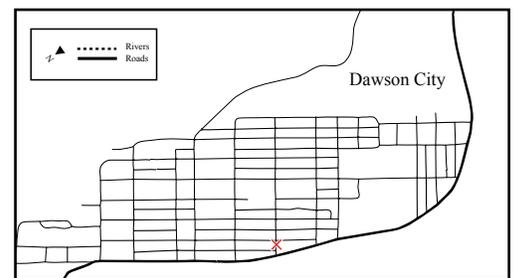
RED FEATHER SALOON



Reconstruction of the Red Feather Saloon on the corner of 3rd Ave and Princess.

The Red Feather Saloon is a high profile “historic” site, which, as of 1991/2, was fully recreated – not renovated – by being made completely from scratch. The only “original” parts of the building are the outside planks, which had been stored in a shed for years for just such a purpose. One of the little known facts is that it was Bert Pratch Contracting which made the replica and thus one of the few times when the contractor, and not the architect, made some of the aesthetic choices, such as what sort of pressed metal décor would be most effective. Unfortunately Bert passed away before the job could be completed, so it was finished by his son, Darren Pratch.

Today the Saloon is in the same complex as the Territorial Agent that legally controls the sale of alcohol.



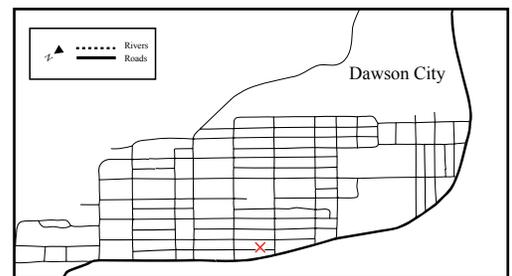
Label of Red Feather Saloon limited edition whisky.

RUBY'S PLACE



Ruby's Place on 3rd Street between Princess and Queen (beside the ODD Fellows Hall home today to the ODD Gallery).

Ruby's Place was formerly the premiere brothel of Dawson City from 1935 all the way until 1962. The building itself dates back from 1902 when it was a boarding house. However, it was most successful and memorable in its role as Ruby's Place. It was run by Madame Ruby Scott who was well known and respected in the community for her extreme generosity and kindness. She was considered to be one of the nicest people in town and was truly a pillar of the community. The brothel was very popular due to the high concentration of men working in the gold fields and the general acceptance of prostitution. Rather than outlawing prostitution, government officials and police instead regulated the profession and ensured that the women were healthy and operating safely. Behind Ruby's Place the cribs are still visible; these were the rooms used by many of the women to conduct their business. The building is also notable for being right next door to the ODD Fellow's Hall and supplied various services to the gentlemen—the least of all running water.



While the building itself is over one hundred years old, it still remains in good condition. This is due in part to the initial construction being well performed, and the fact that it has always been maintained and repaired. However, although Parks Canada ensures that minor repair work is constantly being done, there have been additionally several instances where more major renovations were required. Most notably these have been due to the shifting of the permafrost and from a severe flood that struck the building in 1979. But the work has paid off and through the many years Ruby's Place still stands as a reminder of an era of prostitution now passed.



Rear view of Ruby's place with cribs in the foreground.

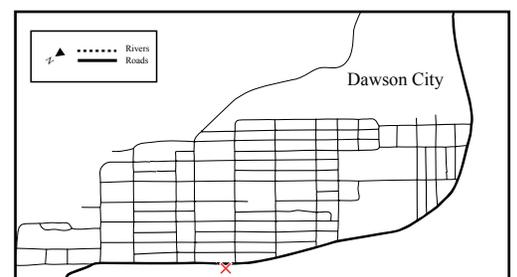
S.S. KENO



The sternwheeler S.S. Keno at its final resting place in Dawson City is a Parks Canada National Historic Site.

Built in Whitehorse in 1922, the Keno's original purpose was carrying ore from Mayo to Stewart City at the mouth of the Stewart River. She was able to carry 120 tons on board and by pushing a barge in front could hold an additional 250 tons. The freight deck would have been able to host 125 pound bags containing lead-silver-zinc concentrate. By 1937, ore production was accelerating beyond what the boats were capable of delivering to Whitehorse; it was at this time that an extension was built on the Keno of 10 feet. The sternwheeler gained historical significance by its important role in the economic development of the Yukon, it is even believed that if it weren't for the riverboats silver, lead, and zinc in the Mayo district may have continued to exist within the hills for at least a half century longer.

Eventually, trucks began transferring ore on the Whitehorse-Mayo road and by 1951 the Keno was drydocked. The Keno was donated to the Canadian government in 1960 after resting in the shipyards in Whitehorse. In the same year the Keno was moved to her present day home in Dawson City. Parks Canada restored the ship and declared it a National Historic Site in 1962. Today the S.S. Keno is located on Front Street in Dawson City, 541 km north of Whitehorse on the Klondike Highway.



S.S. Keno permanently drydocked on Front Street.

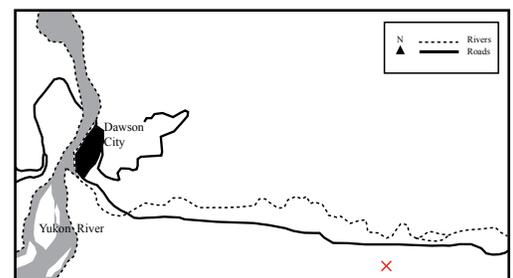
BEAR CREEK COMPOUND



Aerial view of Bear Creek looking North with snow covered tailing piles behind buildings.

Bear Creek was a small town just outside of Dawson City which functioned as the main housing and support camp for the dredging operation. It was founded by “Klondike” Joe Boyle and his company the Canadian Klondike Mining Co. to support the massive dredges which included the now historic Dredge No. 4. It was in operation from the early 1900s right up until 1966 when the dredging stopped, and at one time rivaled Dawson City in size. This was due to the fact that most employees who worked on the dredging operation lived in Bear Creek, as well as their families. Because so many families lived there schools, markets and homes were built around the workshops and storage yards which eventually turned the Bear Creek into a fully functioning town. However, following the shut down of the dredge operation the compound quickly became a ghost town.

As it stands now there are still over twenty buildings in the Bear Creek area, many still filled with furniture, tools and spare parts from the end of the dredging era. Everything in the area was simply left there and the work sites were abandoned. The town is currently owned and protected by Parks Canada and until recently had guided tours go through the area. The reason the tours are no longer allowed is due to the fact that the area contains levels of mercury (a chemical used in gold purification) that are unsafe for human interaction. Very little effort has been made to clear the compound of these toxins and it stands as a constant reminder of the environmental impact that gold mining has had on the region.



Abandoned and boarded shut building inside Bear Creek Compound.

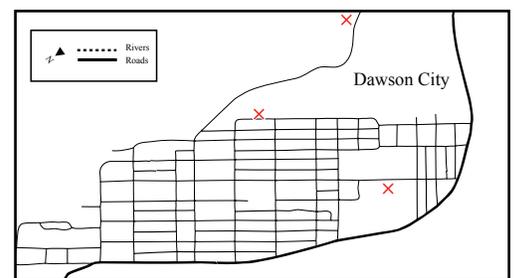
HISTORICAL SITES
BURIAL SITES



8th Ave Cemetary is the original Y.O.O.P. burial site for Dawson City.

The Yukon Order of Pioneers (Y.O.O.P.) is a male fraternity that was created in 1894 at Forty Mile to maintain some sort of law and order since no police force was situated in the Yukon. The members of Y.O.O.P. promised to protect one another and share gold discoveries. The Yukon Order of Pioneers Dome cemetery is confined by a white picket fence and is located on the corner of the Old Dome Road and Mary McLeod Road. The letters Y.O.O.P. are visible on a metal archway positioned at the entrance. The original site can be found on 8th Avenue, but space requirements were eventually exceeded, so in 1936 the Dome Cemetery was erected. The bodies buried here can remain untouched and also serve as a landmark of the people who helped to build Dawson into the now historical community Parks Canada has since worked to restore.

Recently, Dawson City has been required to have a wastewater treatment solution by order of the Court of Yukon. The location of this new wastewater treatment plant is on the site where the NWMP barracks was during the Gold Rush—a historical site that has not been preserved by Parks Canada. In November 2010, four bodies were found while workers were digging at the site. The workers stopped digging immediately and called the RCMP. From 1897-1920 ten people were executed for murder and afterward buried in several locations that had not been marked at all. The executions in 1899 were the first to be carried out under Canadian law and received local and national press. This site has now become a newly significant historical site while the construction of the Dawson City sewage plant will continue under the watchful eyes of archeologists in case any more remains are exhumed.



In 2010, four bodies hung during the Gold Rush were exhumed by accident during construction of new building.

INTERPRETIVE LAYER: TOURISM



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YUKON SAW MILL CO. p.34



BANKS p.35



S.S. KENO p.36



DEMPSTER HIGHWAY p.37



DIAMOND TOOTH
GERTIE'S p.38



GOLD DREDGE NO.4 p.39



WESTMARK HOTEL /
HOLLAND AMERICA p.40



AURORA BOREALIS p.41

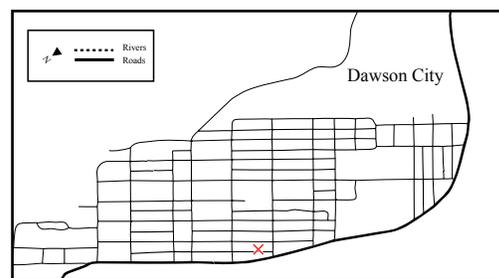
RUBY'S PLACE



The historical celebration of Ruby's Place as a brothel demonstrates Dawson City's peculiarity which continues today.

Ruby's Place was among many things a boarding house and most famously a brothel, while today strangely acknowledged as a historic landmark and managed by Parks Canada. Despite its operation not ceasing very long ago, it is today, like so many buildings in Dawson City, just a cosmetic facade with a decaying inside. Ruby's Place was named after Madame Ruby who officially ran a boarding and laundry facility. However, with the complicity of the authorities, Ruby's was also Dawson's premier house of prostitution during the period 1935 to 1962. Ruby's played a key role in the development of the mining industry in that it provided the miners with services that included getting men out of their clothes and into a bed—and everything in between.

Tourism provides the drive to maintain Ruby's Place for its Edwardian design of the turn of the century lodging house and of course for all the stories behind the facade. The irony resides in the maintenance of an empty historic lodging house which stands in direct contrast to Dawson City's current housing crisis caused by a second Gold Rush boom.



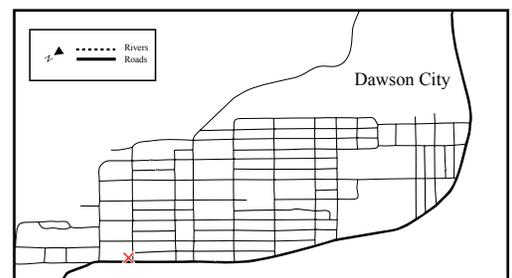
Window display including a Dawson City License to operate a boarding house.

YUKON SAW MILL COMPANY



Yukon Sawmill Company Office – just a shell today on the corner of Front and Duke Street.

The Yukon Saw Mill Company is a two-story structure whose architectural design seems rather exemplary for an industrial company built at the beginning of the Gold Rush. The first historical sawmill in Dawson City, it was used during the turn of the century as a machine shop and to store building materials. The Yukon Saw Mill Company provided jobs for both First Nations and non-First Nations contractors who cut timber and rafted huge log booms down the Yukon River to the Dawson sawmill. The timber industry and its infrastructure were a major asset for the development of Dawson City, as it provided building materials for the Gold Rush and started 7 other sawmills in Dawson City. The sawmill started in March 1898 and was a successful industrial business up until 1902 providing the region’s mining industry with a supply and repair service based out of the then capital of the Yukon—Dawson City. Today merely a souvenir of those times, the building sits on its corner, with lettering on the exterior walls listing items and services the company used to sell. The painted words however are nothing more than a reference to the past: the building is an empty shell giving the impression it was only a sign for tourists to read. Proposals from the community have been put forth to the government to renovate the building for contemporary use, but nothing yet has materialised.



Handpainted lettering on the exterior walls refer to goods of a past era.

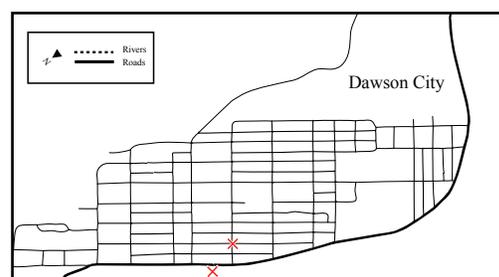


Delapidated Canadian Bank of Commerce building on Front Street is privately owned.

The old Canadian Bank of Commerce on Front Street in Dawson City opened at the end of the Gold Rush in 1898 and still remains unrestored today. The mustard yellow paint is now chipped and weathered, revealing the tin underneath. It stands as an abandoned, boarded-up building that, due to its historical relevance and fancy design, is a popular site for tourists to snap photos of although some locals, waiting for its restoration, have called the building an eyesore. One later addition to the building is a plaque commemorating Robert Service and the time he worked at the branch in 1908 and 1909.

The old Gold Rush bank did have a competitor (the Bank of British North America); unlike the current situation in Dawson with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) operating as the sole bank in Dawson. The CIBC is however a direct heir of The Canadian Bank of Commerce which merged with the Imperial Bank of Canada in in the 1960s to form the CIBC. The current CIBC building which is not historical and a few blocks away, hosts a small branch with local employees. It follows the same operations as a large branch in the city – including standard, yet irrelevant, signage. For example, a sign only relevant in larger cities exists on their door. The caption reads, “thank you for choosing CIBC.” Ironically this is misleading when they are the only bank in town.

Although the worn down bank by the Yukon River is the building that the tourists will photograph, the current bank is where tourists currently need to stop to withdraw cash from the ATM and keep the tourism industry thriving in Dawson City.



The modern CIBC is a direct heir to the historic bank on Front Street.

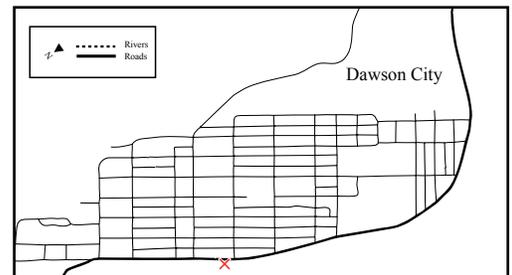
S.S. KENO



The sternwheeler S.S. Keno at its final resting place on Front Street in Dawson City.

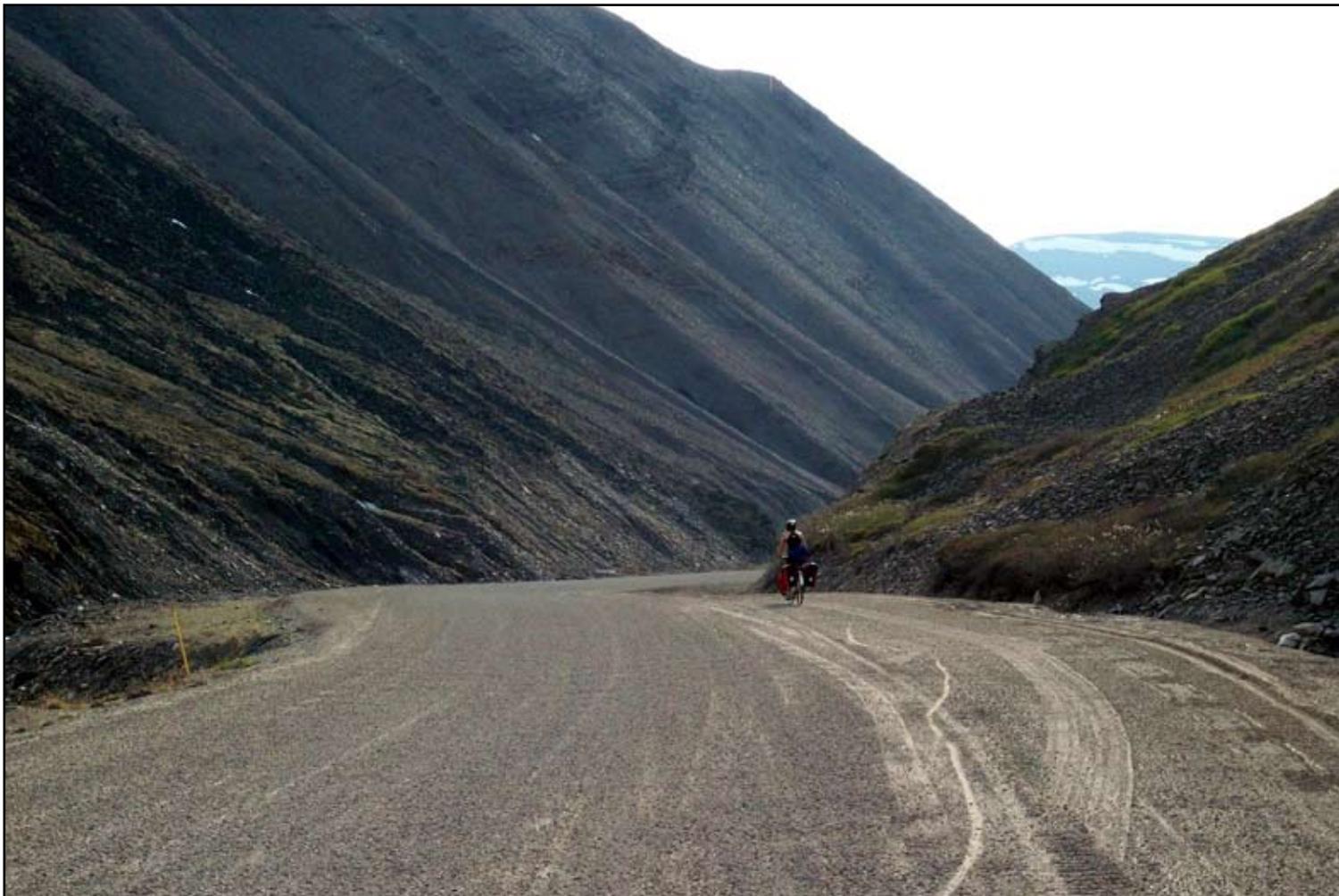
The S.S Keno is an interesting tourist site to visit as it is so well cared for and protected yet will never be on the river again. The sternwheeler has been beached in Dawson City since 1960 and eventually restored to look as accurate as possible in 1962 when it officially became a historic site to further tourism in Dawson. When the S.S. Keno was built in 1922 it was not a part of Dawson nor was it used for tourism in any way. Today however, the Keno is seen by tourists in Dawson as a symbol of the Gold Rush despite the use of sternwheelers came afterwards with industrial mining.

When summer comes to Dawson tourists can get a better understanding of the S.S. Keno by Parks Canada employees that are dressed in Klondike Gold Rush era attire. Back in 1970, before Gerties Casino opened, there were gambling nights hosted on the beached sternwheeler; although gambling didn't relate to the history of the Keno, tourists and locals alike enjoyed the novelty of spending the evening on an outdated ship. Dawson City has been successful in claiming bragging rights to the last running Yukon sternwheeler although the Keno was built in Whitehorse; the ship adds to the dramatic lure of Dawson City.



S.S. Keno permanently drydocked as a tourist exhibit.

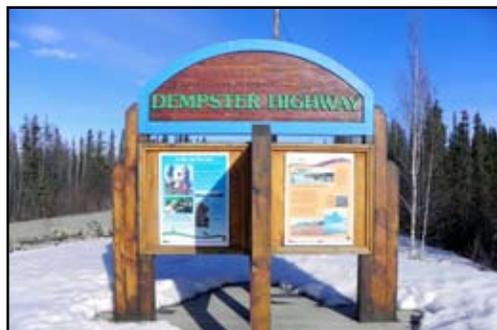
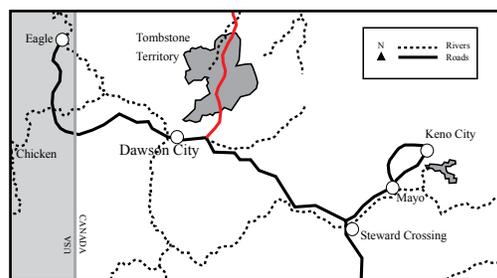
DEMPSTER HIGHWAY



Named after a dogsledding RCMP officer, today the Dempster Highway is Canada's northernmost road and a major transportation route.

The Dempster Highway was originally built in 1979 to support exploration of oil and gas deposits on the Bering Sea, but in effect it has mobilised a complete modernisation of the Western Arctic. The road spans from just outside of Dawson, 736 km through some of the most pristine and scenic landscape in the country, all the way to Inuvik (translated as "Place of Man") and the Mackenzie Delta which leads into the Arctic Ocean. Today it functions primarily as a transport route and is the northernmost highway in Canada.

Although the Dempster was not originally constructed for the purpose of tourism, the lure of the land attracts folks from all over. It has seemingly become an especially popular vacation to those from more densely populated European countries—including the annual mid-winter Fulda challenge which functions as a promotional trek for the German tire company. Everyone who travels here for their leisure is no doubt attracted to the same infinite appeal of wild, uncontaminated tundra that, ironically, the highway cuts through. Tourists are warned to have ample survival supplies and spare tires before they head out on the gravel stretch. The road is quite tourist friendly, as there are a few campsites along the way and a new interpretive center built in 2010 in the Tombstone Park. It also provides access for hunters, as well as those hoping to catch a glimpse of some wildlife such as birdwatchers, as the highway passes through several ecosystems and homes of a variety of species.



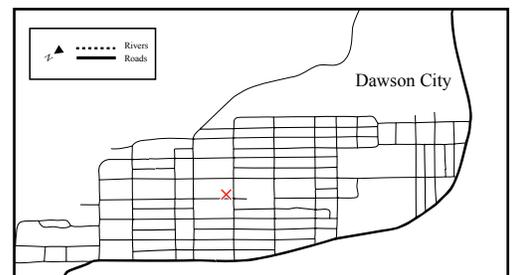
Start of the Dempster Highway just outside of Dawson City.

DIAMOND TOOTH GERTIES



Despite its claim as the oldest casino in Canada, Gerties is still a relatively recent addition to the town of Dawson City.

The Klondike Visitors' Association requested a gambling license from the Canadian government in the 1950s with the intention of opening a gambling hall in the spirit of the Gold Rush. By 1970 the S.S. Keno was being used to host gambling nights and they fully succeeded a short time later when they moved to the Arctic Brotherhood Hall and then opened Diamond Tooth Gerties Casino in 1983. Gerties was opened specifically as a tourist attraction that would stay true to the Klondike Gold Rush theme of Dawson and as a non-profit organisation, bringing in money that would help maintain the city.



As Canada's oldest gambling hall, Gerties likes to try reenacting Dawson's past; at least the more convenient aspects like outfits and entertainment. Tourists find the little casino unique and endearing just like the diamond Gertrude Lovejoy shoved between her teeth to make herself stand out during the Gold Rush. Cancan shows, music, and performances can be caught all summer long in the gambling hall; some true to the Gold Rush and some ending up as modern takes on the past or music coming after the 1800s. Equipped with the bar, the gambling, the entertainment, and snacks, Gerties is packed with paying tourists in the summer. Since the spectacle of Gerties is set up to reel in visitors, the locals can actually pick up free passes until the end of May.



Tourists can snap a quick photo by inserting themselves into a readymade scene.

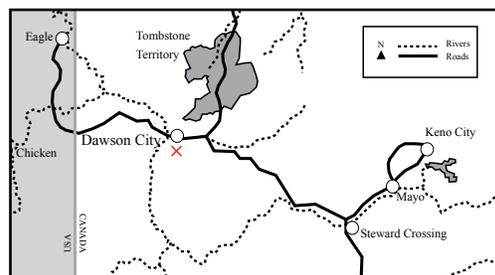
GOLD DREDGE NO. 4



Gold Dredge No. 4 built in 1912 opened to tourist visits in 1993.

The Gold Dredge No. 4 is of immeasurable importance as a tourist site in Dawson, symbolic of some of the forces that had a profound impact on the region throughout the last decade. It is the site of North America's largest dredge, which was in and out of operation from 1912 until 1959. She sank in 1960 and in 1967, the seed was planted to retrieve the Dredge for historical purposes, and finally, in the spring of 1993 access bridges were built out to the main deck, and it was officially re-opened to the public that summer.

Today, the tours of Dredge No. 4 are guided by none other than the charismatic Parks Canada Interpreters, who play an important role in enlightening the visitors on the history, operation, functionality and productivity of the Dredge. The tour is made complete with gold spray-painted rocks that can be found glittering in some of the machinery throughout the Dredge, for dramatic effect. Like all other National Historic Sites, there are bathrooms and picnic tables for public use, as well as a few other structures at the Site, such as a trailer full of information and a wall tent set up with chairs and a screen for the viewing of short related films. Not only do visitors to the Dredge have the opportunity to be educated, they also have the chance to firsthandly explore one of these many forces that literally shaped the Dawson City region.



Dredge interpretive centre (closed for the off-season from Oct-May).

WESTMARK HOTEL / HOLLAND AMERICA

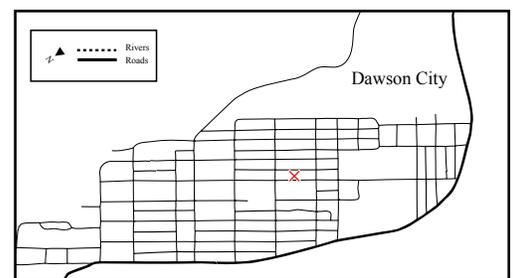


Holland America's tourist complex dominates both sides of an entire block of Dawson City's 5th Ave in a caricature of the Gold Rush's style.

The Westmark Hotel is a hotel owned by Holland America, a subsidiary of the multinational Carnival Corporation. While the architectural footprint of the Westmark Hotel occupies a complete block of Dawson City, its overall commercial and environmental footprint is much greater. The hotel is one stop on a chain of accommodations and tours, including cruise ships stating in the continental US, landing in Skagway, Alaska, transfer to buses which travel overland to Whitehorse and then on from there to Dawson City. As a result many tourists are Americans seeking an adventure in Canada.

The hotel is designed to look like its from the Klondike Gold Rush era, but was in fact erected in the past ten years as a caricature of the style. Many locals of Dawson City refer to this face of tourism as the "Disneyfication" of Dawson.

The Holland America package caters to the tourists with a resort mentality; options range from tours going up the Dempster Highway to the Tombstones in your own jeep with a personal tour guide to rafts coming down to Dawson City from Rock Creek or the Dempster cut-off, so that the tourists can have their own "adventure" referencing a Gold Rush Miner's river experience, and, perhaps the most controversial for environmental reasons, is their Yukon Queen tour boat that travels between Dawson City and Eagle, Alaska on the Yukon River.



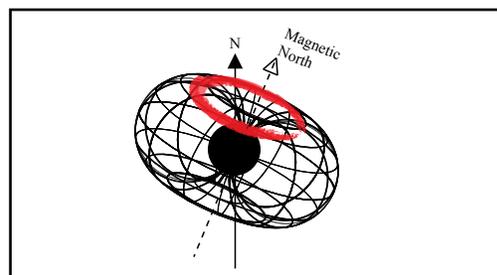
Reverse angle of Holland America block looking down 5th Ave.

AURORA BOREALIS



Aurora Borealis, cosmic in nature, here photographed over Dawson City, has become in its own right a tourist attraction.

The Yukon is in the belt that circles the earth where the northern lights are most often seen. There is both mythology as well as scientific explanation to account for these forms, colours and motions extending all over the night sky. According to one northern mythology, the lights are caused by torches held in the hands of spirits that guide the souls of those who have recently passed to a land of joy and plenty. According to science, the lights are caused by the collision of solar radiation with the earth's surrounding magnetic field. Whatever the actual cause of this natural phenomenon is, the Aurora Borealis still retain their mystery and magic. The northern lights attract a small unique group of tourists who actually visit in the coldest season, contrary to the masses that flock here during the warmer months. Some of this smaller group include Japanese who are commonly seen after the "peak tourist season" in the month of September in what could be called the "Northern Lights season." Surrounding this tourist package is the folklore tradition that to conceive a child under the lights will bring good luck. Regardless of how widely held this folklore may be, without a doubt, Dawson is a particularly good spot to witness the lights, as one does not have to venture far to find darkness—a result of both the long nights and lack of light pollution.



Aurora Borealis as photographed by Space Shuttle.
NASA photo

THE CENTER FOR LAND USE INTERPRETATION



TRANS-ALASKAN PIPELINE: Prudhoe Bay, North Slope, Alaska

CLUI photo

Dedicated to the increase and diffusion of information about how the nation's lands are apportioned, utilized, and perceived.

The Center for Land Use Interpretation is a research and education organization interested in understanding the nature and extent of human interaction with the earth's surface, and in finding new meanings in the intentional and incidental forms that we individually and collectively create. We believe that the manmade landscape is a cultural inscription, that can be read to better understand who we are, and what we are doing.

The organization was founded in 1994, and since that time it has produced dozens of exhibits on land use themes and regions, for public institutions all over the United States, as well as overseas. The Center publishes books, conducts public tours, and offers information and research resources through its library, archive, and web site.

The CLUI exists to stimulate discussion, thought, and general interest in the contemporary landscape. Neither an environmental group nor an industry affiliated organization, the work of the Center integrates the many approaches to land use - the many perspectives of the landscape - into a single vision that illustrates the common ground in "land use" debates. At the very least, the Center attempts to emphasize the multiplicity of points of view regarding the utilization of terrestrial and geographic resources.



The Center For Land Use Interpretation
9331 Venice Blvd. Culver City, CA, USA 90232
www.clui.org clui@clui.org

YUKON SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS: INTERPRETIVE TEAMS

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OVER THE WIRE Series

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OVER THE WIRE is a unique curriculum project series curated by faculty member Charles Stankieveh since 2008 that creates an exchange between an established Artist or organisation and students at the Yukon School of Visual Arts. Celebrating the site of the school, the project mediates geographical distance by fostering a correspondence—both literally and aesthetically—between the Artist and the students. Each semester, a set of instructions created by a distant Artist is delivered to the students in order to produce a new project and exhibition.

Previous OVER THE WIRE Collaborators:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 01 Tim Hecker | 04 Iain Baxter& |
| 02 Shary Boyle | 05 Lawrence Weiner |
| 03 Gary Hill | 06 Deborah Stratman + Steven Badgett/SIMPARCH |

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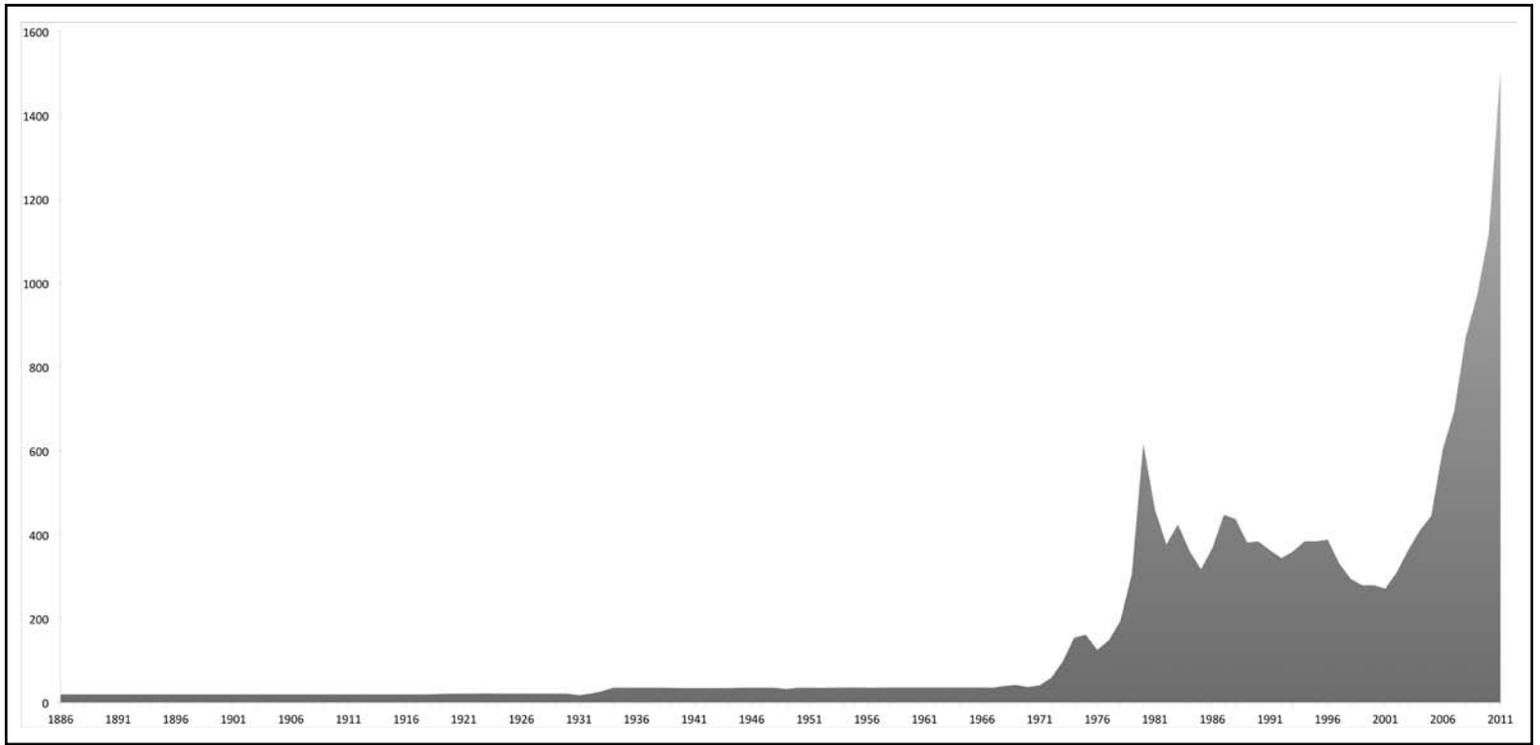
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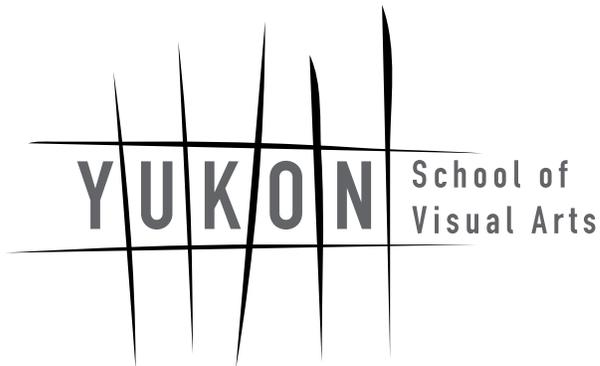
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Dawson City: Mining the Interpretive Realm of the Klondike

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YUKON SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS
PO Box 569
Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada
(867)993-6390
www.yukonsova.ca