I want to thank all the individuals who have contributed so much to the success of this community. My commitment, and that of Council, has always been to ensure that Watson Lake’s best interests are met. We have always understood that we could not do this without the community’s involvement. We also understood that we were not elected because we were the smartest group, but hopefully because we make decisions based on the best information provided.

Through community input with committees such as the economic revitalization commission, the infrastructure planning committee, the recreational advisory committee, and individuals such as you, Watson Lake is progressing in a positive fashion.

Again thanks so much for the opportunity to serve this great community. I truly believe that with a whole community effort we can make Watson Lake a shining example of a community that is sustainable, healthy, safe, and vibrant. You deserve nothing less.

Mayor Richard Durocher.

Public Hearing – Zoning Bylaw

Council previously passed first reading of its new zoning bylaw. By so doing, it allowed for a public hearing, a procedure outlined in the Municipal Act. On September 18th that hearing took place.

The Town received seven letters and emails outlining concerns with the proposed bylaw. Fifteen residents attended the public hearing and Council heard presentations from eleven different individuals. The main concerns were: detached homes (rectories) in institutional (church) zone, changes in setback requirements, zoning changes without consultation, fencing requirements, enforcement, CCans, the effect non-compliance would have on the volume of work for the Variance Board, security deposits for landscaping, the lack of clarity on some of the definitions, and the permitted uses in the Airport zone.

Council will now take these concerns and will weigh them using both the Management Team and the Town’s consultant. Recommendations will then be made to Council prior to second reading. Council has decided to hold a second public hearing before second reading. Any
proposed revisions will be posted on the Town’s web site. We will inform you through the Town Crier when that is done.

South Yukon Forest

South Yukon Forest has filed a motion for Leave to Appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada. As residents will recall, the original judgment for $67 million against the Government of Canada was reversed by the Federal Court of Appeal. The Town obtained an order of garnishee against the federal government for $215,000 to protect its interests for back taxes, but that garnishee was without meaning given the reversal. The Leave for Appeal to the Supreme Court gives the Town hope that we may still be protected and we await to see whether the Supreme Court will hear the case.

Landfill Assessment

Council has now been provided with a hydro geological assessment report from Golder Associates for the four monitoring wells at the landfill. Two wells show elevated total dissolved solids, chloride, sulphate, ammonia and petroleum hydrocarbons which are consistent with the effect of leachate contamination. One well has high levels of light extractable petroleum hydrocarbons in excess of the Yukon Contaminated Sites Regulation Standards for freshwater aquatic life.

Discussions have commenced with the Yukon Government on a strategy to address the report and the future of the landfill.

Petro Canada/Dall Contracting

Dall Contracting, who operate the local Petro Canada plant, informed the Town that they would no longer deliver or be involved with the delivery of stove oil. This will reduce oil delivery to one supplier and the Town will monitor price levels given the lack of competition in the Watson Lake market.

Town Hall Meeting

There was a Town Hall meeting September 12 where the CAO, the Bylaw Officer, and the Chairs of the Economic Revitalization and Recreation Committees provided reports on the progress made in the last two years. The CAO reported on the Build Canada program, currently underway as residents can well see as they negotiate the various road closures. The CAO further updates residents on developments on the landfill, the water meter proposal, and the lagoon monitoring wells. Significant time was spent on explaining the administrative restructuring that has occurred with the various mines and the business community, updates on air transportation, lobbying being done with the mining sector on changing the payables policies for business in Watson Lake, and the availability of lots and housing.

The Chair for the Recreation Advisory Board reviewed changes made to the RecPlex, particularly with the weight room, the youth centre, new furniture and free Wi-Fi access which has increased traffic flow. The Board will be proceeding with a Master Plan in the new year.

This was the last of the Town Hall meetings pending the new Council’s decision to continue this format of quarterly reporting.

Council Elections – Reminder

We remind you that nomination papers are now available in the Town office. The deadline for nominations is Thursday, September 27 at noon. The election is scheduled for Thursday, October 18.

Thank you to all who came to the Town Hall Meeting, and supported some of the major directions we are working on, including housing, mining receivables, scheduled air service to Watson Lake, and the draft Strategic Plan, and offered us some new ideas on directions to pursue. It was gratifying too, to have some of you ask to join our committees.

Everyone in Watson Lake has had the opportunity to have input into, and have now received, the Draft Strategic Plan for the Economic Revitalization of Watson Lake. When finalized, this Plan, generated by the ideas of people of Watson Lake, could be used to act as a guide and reference for years to come. So we are excited to hear if you have any final new ideas or projects to add, and your thoughts on what the priority of the projects, now in the Plan, should be. Our thanks again to Council, Town staff, and the Chamber of Commerce, and for your creative input as citizens, all working together to make such fruitful progress possible.

The Commission was very busy last week organizing and hosting 5 public meetings. Over and above our regular monthly Commission meeting and Housing sub-committee, we hosted excellent presentations and meetings with the VP and others from Yukon Energy on the Watson Lake and Yukon energy supply for the next 20 years, the VP of Yukon Housing on our housing shortage, and Forestry on the Mountain Pine Beetle, (and we also made a detailed presentation of our work at the Town Hall Meeting).

(If anyone that wanted to attend any of these meetings, but was not aware of them, please let us know through the Town office).

Finally we have come up with the idea of a tour of all lots still available, to encourage people to buy and build and stimulate the economy, both by hiring and the purchases of building supplies, and also by creating homes for new workers and professionals. However, we hadn’t counted
on our months of promotion of available lots being quite so successful, as there are now only 2 house lots left (which would be quite a short tour). However, you will shortly see for sale signs on those 2 lots, and the remaining industrial and mobile home lots available for sale.

Thank you for continuing to approach each of us with your ideas, and we look forward to your input into the Strategic Plan.

Members of the Watson Lake Economic Revitalization Commission

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**Scheduled Air Service to Watson Lake**

In addition to our many initiatives that you have read about in the Strategic Plan, we have also made substantial efforts over the last few months, to attempt to convince the airlines to again provide scheduled air service to Watson Lake.

As you know, when there was jet service to Watson Lake, there were two large mines (and half a dozen sawmills) that used the flights for their shift change. This is what made scheduled service possible.

After those mines closed, Alkan Air tried to offer a Whitehorse Watson scheduled flight with a small plane, but there was not enough business with only Watson Lake residents (of which there were more than there are now). (I remember taking that flight once, and I was the only passenger). It is such a short flight, and when Watson Lake residents get to Whitehorse, or Whitehorse residents get to Watson Lake, they wouldn't have a vehicle or sufficient luggage space, so few chose the extra cost of a plane flight.

So we worked out a plan with an airline, where one of the Whitehorse flights would stop in Watson Lake en route to Vancouver. But the mines said it didn’t fit their schedule, and the Yukon Government would not buy or guarantee a block of seats.

So our best potential is getting the two operating mines onsite with their shift changes. Right now, the 2 operating mines that we would need onsite to make schedule service from Vancouver to Watson Lake a reality, use a BC Charter company (at BC strongly competitive low prices), with several turbo-prop charters to bring their employees, often right from their home community, to the mine site (with only a gas stop sometimes at Watson Lake) . The charters stop at a number of stops on Vancouver Island and Vancouver, and also a number of towns in northern BC, then right into the mine site for the shift change. Then they bring the other shift out (in the short winter daylight hours available) and get them to their home community or to Vancouver in time for some employees to catch their flights from Vancouver to provinces back east.

To try and compete with this, we have worked with Air North and Alcan Air, and come up with a number of scenarios to provide our 2 operating mines, Cantung and Wolverine, with an option for their shift change. We would need both mines to agree to use the flights for their shift changes, to make the option economically feasible for the airlines.

Our final offer was a scheduled flight that went from Watson Lake to Vancouver at the times the mines needed, and we even offered to add a northern stop to pick up their employees from northern BC.

Unfortunately, you can see from the reply below, that one mine has not accepted the offer, and the other hasn't replied (although their reply doesn’t really matter, as we needed both mines to make this service economically viable.)

In spite of all the options we have tried, to provide for scheduled service to Watson Lake, nothing yet has procured enough support to convince an airline to provide a scheduled service to Watson Lake. So we will have to think of other ideas.

If you can think of any other creative options for us to pursue, please let us know.

Larry

**Response Letter from Mine**

"Larry"

As I mentioned before re the "new model for jet service", it is interesting and does come somewhat closer to meeting needs...cost, timing, and logistics. But, it's not close enough.

On the Vancouver - to the mine piece, a comparison of what we're doing now, with the total cost of the Air North proposal plus the estimate provided by Alkan is just about a push for our YZC crew change (Thursday). However, our total per pax cost would be $200-250 on top of that, because we’d need to fly people commercially into Vancouver, who we now pick up en route at no additional cost.

Making a stop with the Air North flight won’t change this appreciably. We'd still need to fly 'outliers' into that location to be picked up, and any savings, compared to bringing them into Vancouver, would be eaten up by the additional cost of putting the Air North plane into that northern stop (eg Prince George).

And, finally, the timing doesn’t work for our mining contractor crew change (Tuesday). We need the crew onsite as early as possible and, with our current set up, they’re here by 9:30 - 10:00 am. Just not doable with the Air North scenario.

So, as attractive as it sounds to be jetting back and forth, complete with cabin service (love those Air North chocolate cookies!!), we’re just not close enough on costs to make it work for us.

Doesn’t mean we should stop thinking about it, though...or continuing to refine the options.

Thanks,
(From senior mine executive)

Watson Lake Economic Revitalization Commission
YHC Home Lending Programs

Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) provides a range of lending programs to assist Yukoners to buy an existing home, build a new home, or improve the one they already own. YHC also offers assistance to owners of rental suites.

Looking to purchase an existing home or build a new home? YHC provides mortgage financing with as little as 2.5% down payment and 30 year amortization terms. These programs assist clients who cannot access bank financing.

Yukon Housing Corporation offers low-interest loans for home repairs to help make your home safer, more energy-efficient and comfortable. The Home Repair Program (HRP) provides up to $35,000 for homeowners to address heating system repairs, enhancing insulation, improving windows and doors, roofing repairs, making structural improvements and more. An additional $15,000 may be available for repairs specifically for accessibility. Lower income homeowners may receive a subsidy under this program. This program is available to all homeowners.

If your home repairs are expected to exceed $35,000, the Home Repair Enhancement Program may provide access to funding to complete your project.

Landlords may also apply to build new rental units or make repairs and improvements to existing rental units with the Rental suite or Rental Rehabilitation programs. These programs offer lower interest rates and favourable amortization periods and are available to owners of rental units and homeowners who wish to add rental suites to their existing homes.

YHC staff have experience in lending and technical support and can provide assistance to anyone interested in YHC programs.

Contact Yukon Housing in Whitehorse for more information on how these lending programs can help to make your home a nicer place to live. Toll free at 1-800-661-0408 Ext 5759. Or visit the website at www.housing.yk.ca/.

Our newest edition to Discovery Days “Minute to Win It” also went fabulously! And from feedback, I think it is something that will become a staple as one of the activities planned for the weekend! Thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s Discovery Days so fun and successful.

If you enjoyed this summer with all the events, just wait to see what this autumn and winter have to offer! Be sure to come by the Rec Centre and pick up a brochure – you don’t want to miss out on all the many activities the Rec Centre has to offer. I do want to mention that Uniglobe Travel is coming to Watson Lake Friday October 5th. It will be a nice night to enjoy good food, music, friends and see where you might want to go for a little winter getaway. All who attend will be entered to win a seven day, all inclusive trip for two to Cabo, San Lucas, Mexico! Tickets are available now at the Rec Centre - $10 Advance/ $20 At the Door! Tell your friends and family – you don’t want to miss this!

Yes, it is definitely a busy time here at the Rec Centre. There will be a lot going on this year, so I encourage you to come down and see what we have to offer, and remember any ideas you may have and would like to see come to life – I’ll make it happen!

I look forward to seeing you, until then enjoy the crisp air and beautiful autumn colors!

Watson Lake Recycling Centre

536-2000
Email: recycling@watsonlake.ca

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tuesday – Friday 11:00 – 5:30
Saturday 10:00 – 5:30

The following are some temporary changes to our hours:

Tuesday September 25 thru Friday Sept 28

The Recycling Depot will only be open from 3:30 to 5:30. Open 10 -5:30 on Saturday September 29 and return to our normal hours on Tuesday October 2 @ 11:00.

Tuesday October 9

The Recycling Depot will be closed for the Thanksgiving Day long weekend. Re-open Wednesday October 10 @ 11:00.

Fluorescent Tubes:

Please, please, please do not drop off fluorescent tubes when the Depot is closed. They are fragile items and need to come directly into the Depot and not sit outside or in the share shed. Do not tape them together for transport – they are difficult to unwrap and the remnants of tape can cause stickiness in the feed tube of the bulb crusher. We keep a supply of tube boxes at the Depot. Please
drop by and pick one up if you want one for transporting your fluorescent tubes.

**How to Begin Recycling:**

Looking at the contents of the trench at the landfill, it seems fairly obvious to me that while we have a fairly high rate of returns on beverage containers, not very many people are recycling non-refundable items. For those of us who do recycle non-refundable items, it seems quite easy and automatic. For someone new to it, it must be quite overwhelming. Our list of non-refundable items accepted at the Depot contains 18 categories – probably enough to make one’s head spin and decide to worry about it another day. Another day has to come soon and we want to try and help you figure it out. Working with the idea that any overwhelming job is easier if broken down into smaller bits, I present the following for your consideration and (hopefully) your participation.

**September 2012 – Step 1**

The first thing you will need to do is decide on a suitable container for holding your recycling and an easy to access location to put it. Myself, I use one of the large Rubbermaid Roughneck Totes. It’s sturdy, isn’t damaged by moisture, washes easy and is fairly large. A large cardboard box will work just as well for now.

Next you need somewhere to put it. It needs to be accessible, but if you’re tripping over it eight times a day you will quickly learn to hate it. I don’t know your house, I don’t know your traffic patterns so I can’t help a whole lot on this one. The important thing is that it is accessible. Don’t let this step bog you down; it’s very easy to try a few locations until you find the one that is right for you, your family and your house layout.

Step 1 is going to have you recycle two categories only – plastic milk jugs and paper. These are the easiest to deal with and a good starting point. Each newsletter I will introduce a few more items and hopefully eventually you will be comfortable with full recycling.

Preparation for plastic milk jugs is fairly simple – when the jug is empty, put a bit of water in it, swish it around, empty it out and put it in your recycling bin. You’re not trying to sterilize the container, just removing the milk residue. In preparation for this article, I timed this step - it took me approximately 10 seconds. The lid can be put back on if you wish or just dumped in the recycling bin.

Paper needs no preparation or sorting – just put it in the recycling bin. We take almost all types of paper:

- **NEWSPAPER**
- **MAGAZINES AND OTHER GLOSSY PAPER**
- **COLOURED PAPER**
- **WHITE PAPER**
- **WINDOW ENVELOPES AND ANY OTHER ENVELOPES**

Shredded paper should be in a sealed bag to contain it.

Now you need to get your recycling bin to the Depot. Milk jugs go into the end bag outside the Depot (all the bags have signs over them) and paper is brought inside. We discourage the outside drop-off of paper as it gets rained on, snowed on and blown around if it is dropped off when we aren’t open. It’s probably best if you can develop a routine for dropping your recycling off on a regular basis. If your bin is overflowing with milk jugs and paper, you’re going to get pretty negative about the entire process very quickly.

So that is step one – hopefully this will get you started.

Step 2 will be in the next newsletter. Please contact us at the Depot is you have any questions or comments.

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**NORTHERN LIGHTS CENTRE**

The Northern Lights Centre is now closed for our summer presentations except by appointment.

Friday night movies and Saturday Matinees are back. This Friday (Sept. 21) at 7:00pm is "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" A comedy drama. Saturday's (Sept. 22) matinee is "The Pirates" starting at 2:30pm.

On Oct. 6 we will be honoring family week by letting grandparents into our Saturday matinee free. Children are $3.00.

The Northern Lights Centre now has an 80” Sharp Quattron Aquos 3D TV and a selection of 3D movies. We can accommodate up to 16 people for this venue. Please call for more information. We are also available for birthday parties, meetings and movie viewing rentals. Please call 536-7827 for more information.

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**FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE COMING SEASON**

**FURNACE HEATING**

It’s important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported, free of holes, and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

**OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load. **TIP:** Choose an
extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.

• Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
• Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
• If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended. • If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

FINALLY . . .

• Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
• Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
• Contact your local fire department for advice if you have a question on Home Fire Safety.

SOME GOOD NEWS STORIES ABOUT OUR TOWN

I was in your city in June 2012 and had a problem with my travel trailer. I attempted to stay at Watson Lake Provincial Campground, however the road was so bad that I broke a spring on the trailer. Fortunately, I was given disheartening news at a couple of repair shops. It would be very expensive, couldn't get parts for two weeks, etc. Fortunately, I was put in touch with Mr Chris Beel. He was very honest and helpful. He repaired it on a Sunday for me and the price was very reasonable and fair. I was so impressed that on the way back home to Florida, I drove back to Watson Lake before heading to British Columbia and had him to replace two more springs that were questionable. You are very fortunate to have such an honest man in your community. I have recommended him and Watson Lake to a good number of people I've met while traveling the past five months. It was very refreshing to know that there are people like him and the ladies in your visitor center to assist us as we travel. Thank you and I'll see you folks again in approximately two years if the Good Lord is willing.

Jim Jenkins