

The Plough Boy

A quarterly newsletter of the Yukon Agricultural Association

YAA bookkeeper Carla Mangnus's fall flower and tree garden inspired by those in Holland. Carla says she is "not a farmer but a farmer's daughter who immigrated from Holland."

UPDATE ON YUKON FOOD SYSTEMS DESIGN AND PLANNING PROJECT

Funding from the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program has recently been approved for a Yukon Food Systems Design and Planning Project. This is an applied research and community development project which is being led by the Institute for Sustainable Horticulture (ISH) in partnership with the YAA and a number of other Yukon-based institutions. The objective of the project is to develop:

- A design for a Yukon food system (including production, wild and traditional food provisioning, processing, distribution, access, and waste management) which will support agriculture and food provisioning, strengthen the Territorial economy, promote environmental stewardship, foster food security and public health, and strengthen communities and build social capital; and,
- An implementation plan consisting of critical information and targeted tools to be used by existing and future farmers and food-sector entrepreneurs, consumers, and community, Government, and First Nations leaders to actualize the Bio-Regional Food System design.

Engagement with Yukon communities is planned for all phases of this three year project, and considered critical to ensuring that the project's results are appropriate and useful for all Yukoners. ISH is working closely with a number of Yukon-based researchers including the Yukon Research Centre at Yukon College, the YG Health and Social Services Department, the YG Agriculture Branch, and the Arctic Institute of Community Based Research.

If you're interested in finding out more about this exciting initiative, please get in touch with the YAA or the project's Principle Investigator Kent Mullinix at kent.mullinix@kwantlen.ca or 604.612.1252.



Memories of summer: peppers in the greenhouse. Photo: Barbara Drury

BOARD GOVERNANCE WORKSHOPS: FOLLOW UP

Leadership facilitator Cathie Leimbach of Agon Leadership in Ohio gave two workshops for YAA.

The first event on Nov 28 covered governance foundations. It was open to other agricultural organizations and the community as a whole to enhance general board leadership skills. Twenty-seven participants registered for this and 21 people attended including board members of the Yukon Young Farmers,

Fireweed Community Market and Equine Association of Yukon. Others represented community associations and social service groups, or were consultants for NGOs.

On Saturday Dec 1 Cathie presented a full day workshop on board governance to the YAA board of Directors. Directors and staff received training on the purposes of boards; success factors for effective boards; differentiation between roles of boards and staff; formulas for organizational effectiveness; disciplines in governance excellence; and team functionality.

Cathie also led the group through various brainstorming activities (such as outlining an ideal board), gave advice on issues such as conflict of interest and staff roles, and left the board with much to think about in terms of implementation. Overall, feedback on both workshops was extremely positive.

In addition to the workshops, Cathie spent 4 hours with the YAA policy committee (president, executive director and 2 board members) reviewing a draft of YAA policies and procedures. Her insight from 17 years experience in governance consulting was very helpful and her assistance has greatly advanced these documents, which will have a long-reaching affect on the future actions of the YAA.

Many thanks to Growing Forward for making available funds to bring Cathie to Whitehorse for the benefit of the agricultural and wider communities.

YUKON YOUNG FARMERS SOCIAL

The Yukon Young Farmers are going gangbusters now they have some core funds from the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum (CYFF) and Growing Forward. On Friday Nov 30 the group held a meeting, family social and swim at the Takhini Hot Springs.

The YYF hopes to host some educational workshops in the new year and will also be sending delegates to the CYFF AGM and conference titled "Inspiring Innovation" in Ottawa, Mar 2013.

If you're a Yukon farmer under the age of 45, or know someone who is, and would like to learn more and meet likeminded folk, please contact Ann-Marie Stockley (YYF President) at stockley@northwestel.net for more information on future YYF events. Alternatively, you can visit the YYF Facebook page!

Find out about the Canadian Young Farmers' Forum online at <http://cyff.ca> or by following them through social media: <https://twitter.com/CYFF> or www.facebook.com/groups/126130504070284/

DAWN CHARLIE

The YAA was saddened to hear about the recent passing of Dawn Charlie. Dawn was at the elders Christmas party in Carmacks and collapsed.

She was instrumental in developing the Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation greenhouse and gardens, which have been operating successfully since 1999. This project has been an inspiration to many other northern communities and people.

Dawn presented some of her lessons learned and wisdom regarding sustainable food production at the Northern Greenhouse Conference in Saskatoon in November 2012. Over the years numerous local people have also benefited from Dawn's knowledge and help with growing fresh healthy food.

She was a wonderful friend to many and our thoughts are with Dawn's family and friends at this time.



The Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation produces abundant fresh produce in its greenhouse.
Photo: Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation

BOOKING YAA FARM EQUIPMENT

At the October Board meeting it was decided that rental of YAA farm equipment will now be made through the YAA office.

Renters can phone the office to make a booking or check the online calendar (soon to be located at <http://www.yukonag.ca/equipment.cfm>) for equipment availability.

Equipment caretakers can still make same-day rentals when the equipment is available and notify the office that these have taken place.

If you want to rent YAA farm equipment in 2013, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (867) 668-6864!



YAA Schultz 3 deck mower

NORTHERN GREENHOUSE CONFERENCE: FOLLOW UP

The power points from speakers' presentations at the Northern Greenhouse Workshop are now available online through the University of Saskatchewan's International Centre for Northern Governance and Development at <http://artsandscience.usask.ca/icngd/research.php>

We encourage you to take a look at these great documents full of technical, business and socio-economic information about greenhouses in the north of Canada.



To take your mind off winter: a basketful of fresh greens!
Photo: Barbara Drury

YAA MAYO ROAD LAND UPDATE

The YAA is working to ready the Mayo Road lease land for farming purposes. This includes getting the fencing replaced or installing new fencing in some places. It also involves clearing trees from around the fence lines (except in the buffer zone next to the highway).

The YAA hopes this project will be completed over the winter of 2013 and to continue working on the land next year.

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR YAA WINTER WORKSHOPS!

What: The YAA is looking to host a series of learning workshops (as well as a social event for its members!).

When: Over the winter and early spring of 2013.

How: We are looking into bringing in speakers from outside the Yukon, including the possibility of University of Saskatchewan staff.

Why: What are some topics you would like to learn about? Suggestions so far: rotational grazing, mushrooms, soil amendment and beekeeping. Let us know!

REPLY BY JAN 15 2013

Please send ideas and topics of interest to admin@yukonag.ca

PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING FURTHER AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN THE YUKON!



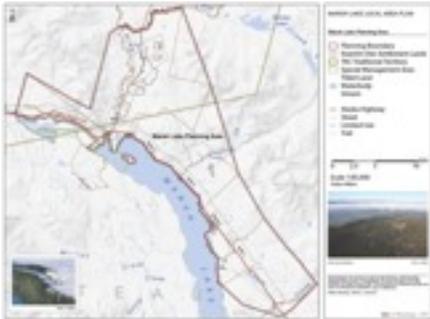
"Gardening in summer relaxes my mind and is a great way for me to get away from my office at home at times."
Photo: Carla Mangnus

MARSH LAKE PLAN

The deadline for completing the Marsh Lake Local Area planning survey on the proposed land designations was December 5th. Once the results of the survey are tabulated and analyzed they'll be used to help inform a draft plan for the community. This draft is tentatively scheduled to be presented early in 2013.

The Marsh Lake Steering Committee will submit a proposed plan to the Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Both governments will jointly review the plan's recommendations and make reasonable attempts to reach consensus as to the approval or approval with variations of the Plan.

Once the plan is approved, new or revised Area Development (Zoning) Regulations will be established under the Area Development Act. These regulations are developed to effectively carry out the plan's policies on Settlement and Non Settlement Land. In the event that a Lands and Resources Act is developed by the KDFN, they will have the ability to establish their own zoning on Non Settlement Land. These zoning regulations will be jointly developed between Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Government of Yukon, Land Planning Branch.



Visit <http://planmarshlake.ca/> to learn more.

HOSTING A FARM INTERN IN 2013

Discussions about developing a Yukon agricultural internship program having been happening intermittently for several months. The YAA would like this to kick off in the late spring or summer of 2013 and is currently investigating administrative issues including financing, WCB and safety aspects.

The project would aim to provide education to the intern and this could be accomplished by an intern working across a range of Yukon properties. Overall, the project would be geared to benefit interns, hosts and the agricultural industry as a whole. To best do this, there are a few areas in which we need members' feedback and input:

- ▶ 1. Host farms: would you like to participate? How long could you host an intern for? What would work on your farm involve?
- ▶ 2. Timing: would you like to have an intern for a week at a time? One or two days a week over the season?
- ▶ 3. Skills: what kind of experience (including age and abilities) would you expect an intern to have before arriving on your farm? What kind of skills do you think need to be taught to an intern? What clear learning opportunities can you offer an intern?

If you are interested in getting help on your farm and sharing your farming knowledge, please send your answers to the YAA office along with any additional ideas you may have.



From Barbara Drury's greenhouse: "Turned out not bad considering we had a killing frost every month!!!! (Very hard on the potatoes). Last summer was the worst in terms of having the wood stove on in the greenhouse to protect from frost - normally we would not have to light it past the end of May, beginning of June, but this year I had to have it going until July!"

BLOG AND NEWSLETTER

The snow has come, and with it the time to do those inside tasks that pile up during the busy farming season!

Over the winter months, the YAA products listing for members on our website blog will be updated monthly instead of weekly.

Would you like to add or change the information you have listed on the YAA website? E-mail or phone the YAA office anytime to update the information you currently have listed on the YAA website - reminders to do so will be sent out monthly. As always, please feel free to share the farm products listing with anyone you think may be interested.

We are also always looking for photos, updates and information for the gallery section of the website and the Plough Boy quarterly newsletter.

Advertising in The Plough Boy Classifieds:

1/8 page - \$20
1/4 page - \$30
1/2 page - \$55
Full page - \$100

Contact the YAA
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