



T.C. RICHARDS BUILDING

This building was constructed in 1944 as a residence for Mr. Thomas Cecil (TC) Richards and his wife, Bernadette. The building is listed on the register of Canadian Historic Places. The YAA office is located on the 2nd floor; do stop in. Courtesy <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=4574>



The Plough Boy

A quarterly newsletter of the Yukon Agricultural Association

March 2014

YUKON FARM PRODUCTS & SERVICES

The publication is serving as a valuable reference guide. Has it made a difference to farm sales? The office has provided web links to callers from outside the Yukon as well as local potential consumers. Share the link at www.yukonfarmproducts.ca. Funding for this project has been provided by Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. In Yukon, Growing Forward 2 is delivered by the Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

YAA 2014 AGM

Save Saturday May 3rd-from 9am-12:00-at the Coast High Country Inn. Minister Scott Kent will provide his views on the status of agriculture in the Yukon and his vision looking forward, followed by Q&A, and then lunch. Higher membership participation at the AGM is always welcome-if you have not participated in the past, make 2014 the year to attend. It is always helpful to have an idea of numbers for catering, so drop an email or give a quick call to say "I will be there-count me in!"

65-HECTARE LAND LEASE UPDATE

The 30-year land lease was secured on the North Klondike Highway in 2012. The Board met January 15th to prioritize the recommendations in the "Planning for the Development of the Yukon Agricultural Association Agriculture Lease" by Klassen Natural Resources Consulting. The top 4 short-medium term priorities are:

1. Building a heated storage facility for a mobile abattoir and ancillary facilities.
2. Building a community fairgrounds and community building.
3. Hiring a caretaker to manage the lease and infrastructure.
4. Bulk storage for agricultural products.

Next steps are to engage a planner to develop a conceptual site plan. The opportunity for the membership to collaborate on turning the long-sought land into a facility that will benefit the overall agriculture industry is before us.

GOVERNANCE

It was a sincere pleasure as the incoming E.D. to find the level of diligence undertaken to develop YAA policies and procedures. Few organizations achieve this level of governance, and I applaud the Board for undertaking the work necessary to reach this level. YAA can continue on this path, and strengthen the areas that need attention while also celebrating the successes along the way.

So often the successes are put by the wayside, instead of recognizing the work achieved. Let's strive to change that. Tell your Board members that you appreciate the work they do on your behalf, and the volunteer hours they contribute to YAA. Volunteer to be on a committee. Provide feedback to surveys. Contact Board members to talk about issues. Be an active member and not a passive bystander. Think about serving a term on the board in coming years-share the load.

SPOTLIGHT ON YAA MACHINERY

More media attention is paid to nutrition and food quality than in past years. Daniel Marano* notes *"The soil itself is the key to nutrient content of food. The nutritional value of our produce is determined more by the abundance of minerals and microbes in the soil it's grown in than by any other factor. Deep root structures are able to break up and absorb nutrients that lie far beneath the surface. Beyond root systems, soil management techniques such as plowing significantly affect the nutrient holding capacity of land. Over decades, the annual plowing and disking of fields reduce the essential carbon matter of the soil. Tilling soil, then, is the equivalent of stripping the gut of bacteria by depriving it of fibre-rich whole foods and over consuming antibiotics. By not tilling soil, farmers allow their crops to die off and form a protective armor over the soil that helps retain carbon, nutrients, and water."* *Marano, D.A, (2014, January/February). Rich dirt, poor dirt. Psychology Today, 38-40.

The YAA purchased a John Deere 1590 No-Till Drill in 2009 after recognizing the value of owning and renting specific machinery to its membership, as the capital cost of machinery can be prohibitive for individual Yukon farmers. The No-Till Drill is 15ft and requires a 100HP tractor to operate it. Some of the features:

90 Series Opener slices through residue with ease, while delivering accurate seed placement.

Floating seed indicator is used on plain grain boxes and is visible from the tractor seat.

Active hydraulic down pressure can be adjusted from 165 to 400 pounds to penetrate hard soils and heavy residue.

Electronic Population Rate Control means changing seed populations on-the-go from the tractor is simple.

Hitch choice. A regular drawn hitch; a two-point semi-integral hitch for rolling fields, and a drawn caster-wheel hitch for smaller tractors let you match your power and acreage.

Bi-fold markers easily avoid expensive overlaps and skips and watch efficiency improve with bi-fold markers.

The drill rents for \$300/day. Please contact the YAA office for information on bookings.



Picture Courtesy

http://www.deere.com/wps/dcom/en_US/products/equipment/planting_and_seeding_equipment/

ROOT VEGGIES AT CHRISTMAS

Last Christmas, I got to cook the root veggies for a fairly large family gathering. While some of the other dishes contributed were of a more complicated sort, my task was quite simple. The root veggies were all to be roasted ... pretty simple, eh?

It was, but there were about 7-8 lbs. of beets that were boiled, then skinned, and then roasted. Along with the beets, I had about the same amount of both carrots & parsnips. There was a good-sized bag of parsnips, (a veggie I never used to like, but love now, as an adult); these were peeled, and cut into smaller pieces and roasted, along with carrots, also peeled and cut into smaller pieces. The carrots and parsnips were mixed together and spread out on a large cooking sheet, then drizzled with oil & coarse salt. The peeled beets were spread out on another large sheet, drizzled with oil, but no salt, and also roasted.

These fine Yukon grown root veggies, along with a fine array of other courses (appetizer, soup, salad, main course ... and dessert), made for a very fine meal, and that the veggies were grown not far from where they were being eaten, and the fine company, made for an excellent Christmas.

John Layman

BOARD of DIRECTORS UPDATE

The following nine people have submitted nomination papers for the 2014-2015 year:

- Mike Blumenschein
- Alan Stannard
- Tiana Zakus
- Ralph Mease
- Jim Dillabough
- Greg Paquin
- Steve Mackenzie-Grieve
- Teddy Fagbamila
- Jackie McBride-Dickson

A reminder that the AGM will be held at the Coast High Country Inn on Saturday May 3rd. Doors open at 9:00am. Lunch will be served.

A presentation on the Biochar research project is scheduled.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Without the generous funding available, many of the projects that benefit the agricultural industry in the Yukon would not be possible. We recognize the following contributors:



FERTILIZER BINS

The YAA Fertilizer Bin Committee is doing an annual evaluation of the bins' usage and maintenance needs. A report is generated each year that outlines the tonnes the flow through the bins in order to ensure the bins are placed in the most convenient places for members. Requests for bins are considered as part of the evaluation. If you have a report outstanding, please submit to the office as soon as possible.



YUKON YOUNG FARMERS

YUKON YOUNG FARMERS WAS FOUNDED IN OCTOBER 2011, AS A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE YAA, TO BRING TOGETHER ALL YOUNG AND NEW FARMERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-45. YYF SENT 8 DELEGATES TO THE CANADIAN YOUNG FARMERS FORUM (CYFF) AGM IN CALGARY IN FEBRUARY. THE DELEGATES REPORTED ON THE CONFERENCE...

- ▶ ...an excellent opportunity to meet and share experiences with farmers of different scales and specialities, from across Canada and a few from the USA.
- ▶ ...especially enjoyed the Virtual Farm Tour where farmers gave a slide show from their farm operations.
- ▶ ...opened my eyes to the abundant opportunities, both domestically and internationally, in farming.
- ▶ ...presentations showed the various applications/technologies that can be deployed by farmers to improve on efficiency.
- ▶ ...a very well organized conference...we networked with so many farmers across Canada that we will be able to call upon whenever we run into any problems.
- ▶ ...outcomes are more effective communication with co-workers; participation on boards; and problem solving
- ▶ *Contact the YAA office if you are interested in joining YYF and/or attending the 2015 conference.*

Pictured below left to right: Teddy Fagbamila, Ann-Marie and Gerry Stockley, Michelle Murphy, Duncan Smith, Tiana Zakus, Cain Vangel & Sarah Ouellette.



BLOG AND NEWSLETTER

Starting in May, the YAA products listing on our website blog will be updated monthly for members.

Is there a member who would like to volunteer some time on website updating? A few hours a month is anticipated-please call Bev at the office to discuss if you have some technical skills and uncommitted time.

YAA is always looking for photos and updates for the quarterly newsletter.

Contact YAA

Advertising in
The Plough Boy
Classifieds:

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

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