

YRITWC
Executive Committee

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Edna Hancock
Charlie Stevens (Alt)

Middle Yukon
Vacant

Pat Sweetsir (Alt)

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Karen Kriska
Eliza Jones (Alt)

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Chief James Landlord
Jacob Isaac (Alt)

Innoko Confluence
Harry Maillelle
Chief Carl Jerue, Jr. (Alt)
John Deck (Alt)

Coastal Communities
Vacant

Roberta Murphy (Alt)

Youth Representative
Merril Lake
Rose Kruger (Alt)

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Carl Sidney

Vuntut Gwich'in/
Tr'on Dek Hwech'in
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Northern Tutchone
Chief Darren Isaac
Chief Eddie Skookum (Alt)

Kaska Tribal Council
Sam Donnessey

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Jessie Dawson

White River First Nation
Chief David Johnny
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Ashley Van Bibber
Alex Oakley (Alt)

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Harold Gatensby

One People

Currents

One River

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
To Be Able to Drink Water from the Yukon River

OCTOBER 2007

VOL 2 ISSUE 3



Elder Advisor, Trimble Gilbert, leads a water ceremony at the 2007 Summit. The water ceremony is a Summit tradition whereby participants bring water from their communities to be blessed and returned to the River.

2007 Summit a Success

BY ROB ROSENFELD

I would like to begin by extending a sincere thank you to the community of St. Mary's for hosting the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council's (YRITWC) 10 Year Anniversary Summit and also for providing such a warm and hospitable welcome. Additionally, I would like to thank the neighboring communities of Mountain Village and Pitka's Point for all the assistance they provided. Your combined support contributed greatly to a memorable experience that will be etched in our memories for many years to come. The sharing of local Yup'ik culture through music, dance and traditional foods was a special gift that warmed the hearts of all who attended.

The 2007 Summit was by far our largest event ever! In attendance were 55 Yukon River Tribes and First Nations, 5 Kuskokwim River Tribes, 12 lower-48 Tribes and many other visitors from throughout North America, Canada, Nicaragua, New Zealand, and Samoa.

The 10 Year Anniversary Summit marked an important milestone in the Yukon River watershed protection movement. Today, 66 Tribes and First Nations have signed the YRITWC Inter-Tribal Accord. Nowhere else in the world are there this many indigenous governments working together on a single issue.

The YRITWC has thrived because of its strong tribal membership as well as its partnerships with municipalities, businesses, governments, universities, and environmental groups. Recently, Pitka's Point City Council and Kotlik City Council became the first non-tribal entities to sign the YRITWC Affiliated Organization Agreement which demonstrates their commitment to the principles of the Inter-Tribal Accord. The Affiliated Organization membership is

see Summit Success, page 2

Summit Success, continued

expected to grow as more partners formally join the collective effort to protect the health of the Yukon River watershed.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the many volunteers and staff who contributed to the success of the Summit and YRITWC as a whole. To those staff that have moved onto other opportunities, thank you for the important contributions you made during your time with us. It is clear to me that every one of you has played an important role in this ambitious undertaking.

Lastly, I would like to thank the YRITWC International Executive Committee, Elder Advisors, and both the Alaska and Yukon Region



YRITWC recognizes a few of the paddlers who participated in the Healing Journey

Executive Committees. Your guidance has steered a grassroots movement that will be in motion for generations to come. I am immensely proud and honored to be a part of the great work of the indigenous peoples of the Yukon River watershed. All great nations have allies—thank you for allowing me to be an ally.

Yukon River Healing Journey

The YRITWC Healing Journey was a celebration of culture, a source of pride, a call to action, and an urgent message to the world. During the Journey people from throughout the Yukon River watershed came together to support the paddlers as they monitored water quality, demonstrated environmental stewardship, and shared climate change information.

The Journey was originally scheduled to begin at the headwaters of the Yukon River in Atlin Lake, British Columbia in early June, and culminate at the YRITWC 10 Year Anniversary Summit in St. Mary's, Alaska in August. The River, however, had a different plan.

The previous winter and spring had been among the coldest in recent memory, and several feet of ice still covered Atlin Lake in early June. As elders from one end of the Yukon River to the other told us, "we must listen to the River," we adjusted our schedule and began the Journey in June from Moosehide, Yukon Territory.

Hosting the opening ceremony was the Tr'on Dek Hwech'in First Nation who showed overwhelming support and

generosity by feeding all who attended and escorting paddlers part of the way downriver. In reflection, by listening to the River we were led to begin the Journey from the very site of the 2005 Summit—Moosehide.

For seven weeks, two canoes traveled 1,200 miles down the Yukon River visiting communities and fish camps along the way carrying a message of environmental and cultural healing. Beginning with two canoes and three principal paddlers, the Journey later grew to three canoes with more than a dozen alternating paddlers. Eventually the expedition shrank back to two canoes and four paddlers who made it as far as Russian Mission before extreme weather conditions (i.e., eight foot waves) prevented them from reaching St. Mary's. The River was talking to us again and again we listened.

Along the Journey paddlers found that the Yukon River varies greatly from one end to the other. In some places it can be close to two miles wide and more than a hundred feet deep. In other areas it can be cross-hatched with tricky currents, treacherous bars

and log jams, and labyrinthine mazes of islands and sloughs. Towards the Bering Sea, coastal weather adds other dangers in the form of thunderstorms, winds and swamping waves. The River itself is massive and the conditions are extreme. Between winter and summer, temperatures along the River change dramatically. On July 4, 2007, a thermometer in the Yukon Flats read over 100 degrees. That same thermometer in December could easily read -60 degrees.

The paddlers were tasked by the leadership to take "a pulse" of the River and the people, and then to report what they learned at the 2007 Summit. The Journey proved to be life-changing for most paddlers and touched many others along the way. "What you're doing is a blessing," Paul Williams, Sr. told paddlers as they visited his fish-camp in Beaver, Alaska. All along the River, paddlers were welcomed and cared for by many generous hosts who shared their food, stories, and concerns. From them we learned that things are changing on the Yukon River. Lakes

continued on next page



YRITWC staff helped the Summit cooks make fry bread to feed the approximately 250 participants.



St. Mary's Yup'ik dance group during the 2007 Summit.



St. Mary's Yup'ik dance group performs during the 2007 Summit.

continued from previous page

and streams are drying up. Animals are on the move. Salmon are becoming smaller, sickly, and less plentiful. Along the River, people talked about the importance of the subsistence lifestyle, preservation of culture, protection of the environment and the need for healing social ills resulting from more than a century of colonization.

While the Yukon River is strong it is also fragile in the sense that it is subject to impacts from human activities such as mining, manufacturing, settlement, and military exploitation. In one of the last places on earth where people still live off the land and chart their calendars by seasonal harvests, global changes are impacting everything in the Yukon River watershed. The average temperature is climbing, fuel prices are soaring, and young people are



Youth present to YRITWC delegates and receive support to form a Youth Council.

out-migrating in pursuit of education and jobs. Yet throughout this vast, wild place in the north there is still a sense that all is not lost—the traditional ways persist. What will the future of the Yukon River—its people, animals, and surrounding lands—be? Will it be consumed by the rapid and inexorable changes sweeping the planet or will it continue to thrive in spite of them?

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YRITWC Expands its Membership Base

The YRITWC is now offering “Affiliated Organization” status to entities both in and outside the Yukon River watershed. The creation of the new membership status is to provide opportunities for municipalities, corporations, and other entities to join in the collective effort to protect the Yukon River. Traditionally, YRITWC membership has been limited to Tribes and First Nations in the Watershed that have signed the Inter-Tribal Accord.

Entities interested in becoming Affiliated Organizations will be required to sign an agreement which pledges that they will support the efforts of YRITWC and not take positions contrary to those held by

YRITWC. Affiliated Organizations can attend meetings however they will be restricted from voting. Affiliated Organizations retain the option to withdraw from their agreement at any time.

For more information please contact Rob Rosenfeld at rosenfeld@yritwc.com.

YRITWC would like to welcome the Pitka's Point City Council and Kotlik City Council as the first two Affiliated Organizations!

Inter-Tribal Accord Signatories

Alakanuk Traditional Council
 Alatna Village Council
 Algaaciq Tribal Government
 Allakaket Traditional Council
 Anvik Tribal Council
 Arctic Village Council
 Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council
 Beaver Tribal Council
 Birch Creek Tribal Council
 Canyon Village Council
 Carcross/Tagish First Nation
 Chalkyitsik Village Council
 Chevak Native Village
 Chuloonawick Native Village
 Circle Village Council
 Eagle Traditional Council
 Emmonak Traditional Council
 Evansville Tribal Council
 Grayling IRA Council
 Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
 Hamilton Tribal Council
 Holy Cross Traditional Council
 Hooper Bay Native Village
 Hughes Village Council
 Huslia Tribal Council
 Iqurmiut Tribal Council
 Kaltag Tribal Council
 Kluane First Nation
 Kotlik Traditional Council
 Koyukuk Tribal Council
 Kwanlin Dun First Nation
 Liard First Nation
 Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
 Loudon Tribal Council
 Manley Village Council
 Marshall Traditional Council
 Mentasta Village Council
 Na-cho Nyak Dun First Nation
 Naqsrarmiut Tribal Council
 Native Village of Bill Moore's Slough
 Native Village of Minto
 Native Village of Shaktoolik
 Native Village of St. Michael
 Native Village of Tanacross
 Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government
 Nenana Native Council
 Nulato Tribal Council
 Ohogamiut Traditional Council
 Paimiut Traditional Council
 Pilot Station Tribal Council
 Pitka's Point Traditional Council
 Ruby Tribal Council
 Scammon Bay Traditional Council
 Selkirk First Nation
 Shageluk IRA Council
 Stebbins Community Association
 Stevens Village Council
 Ta'an Kwach'an First Nation
 Taku River Tlingit First Nation
 Tanana Tribal Council
 Teslin Tlingit First Nation
 Tr'on Dek Hwech'in First Nation
 Venetie Village Council
 Vuntut Gwichin First Nation
 White River First Nation
 Yupit of Andreafski

Affiliated Organizations

Kotlik City Council
 Pitka's Point City Council

The Healing Journey: Moosehide to Fort Yukon and Beyond

BY BRIAN HIRSCH, PH.D.

All of the planning, anticipation, teleconferences, training, late night proposal writing, frantic equipment purchases, and changing of plans ended in Moosehide when our paddles finally hit the water and we merged with the River. The Tr'on Dek Hwech'in First Nation sent us off with prayers, good weather, a traditional map, jars of salmon, and lots of chocolate. What more could we ask for?

I paddled the first two weeks of the Journey (about 350 river miles) from Moosehide, Yukon Territory to Fort Yukon, Alaska. I even saw the line in the forest, maintained by federal chainsaws, that arbitrarily separates the United States from Canada.

Since a focus of the Journey was sharing the message of environmental stewardship, our canoes were outfitted with solar panels, rechargeable batteries and other alternative technologies. Jon Waterhouse and I both received crash lessons on using MacIntosh computers and water quality probes. At times we spent more effort fiddling with the solar panels, inverter and GPS units than we did paddling. Despite the technical challenges, I was reminded at every bend in the River why we were on this Journey—the beauty and power of the land, the water, the communities, and the threats facing us all.

The Journey was full of highlights. After a long day of paddling through the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, we were treated to a full double-arched rainbow framing the mountains. The people of the River could not have been more supportive. The smiles on the childrens' faces and the wise words from the elders were food for the soul and lightened the heavy load of our canoes. The

unveiling of the birchbark canoe in Fort Yukon was another highlight that will remain a proud legacy of the Journey.

While the people and the River continue to heal, plans are already underway for the next journey. If all goes as planned the 2009 Summit (to be held in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory) will feature joyous and weary paddlers that will have journeyed from the headwaters in Atlin, British Columbia aboard traditional vessels.

It was a tremendous honor and

privilege to float the Yukon River on the first Healing Journey. The fire has now been lit, and in the words of the late Joseph Waterhouse, "now it is time to pour on the seal oil and fan it into a blaze of purification."





All photos featured here were taken by YRITWC staff during the Healing Journey from Moosehide to St. Mary's.



Personal Thoughts on the Healing Journey

BY KARIN WILLIAMS

I paddled a portion of the Healing Journey through the Yukon Flats, from Fort Yukon to the Dalton Highway—a trip of more than a hundred miles. My paddling partner was Jon “Keep Paddling” Waterhouse who was a tough taskmaster but also a great canoe companion!

Spending a week on the River was a transformative experience on a deep, personal level. Yes, it was challenging in many ways. The canoe was heavy due to the water quality probe dragging behind the boat, my muscles were sore, temperatures were extreme (over 100 degrees on July 4th), and I got sick with a respiratory infection that had me coughing all the way downstream. Despite these challenges however, the benefits were profound.

Floating on the vast River in the middle of wilderness is a privilege that few people experience. I can still close my eyes and feel the silky water. Hear it swish and gurgle, the splash of the paddle, or the sound of birdcalls—terns, gulls, eagle, cranes, and ducks.

A part of my heart will always be in the village of Beaver, with its kind people who generously shared their food, experiences and thoughts. A special thanks to the Beaver Tribal Council and also to Paul Williams, Sr. and family.

It was an honor to be invited to participate in this remarkable expedition. Where I once saw the Yukon River as a vast, formidable, and rather terrifying force, I now have a much more intimate view of it. As our Samoan brother, Setu Gorrie, said at the 2007 Summit, “If rivers are the arteries of our planet, then the river flows through me, and part of me will always be on the Yukon”.

Announcements

IGAP Grant
Applications are due:
December 24, 2007

For more information visit:
[www.epa.gov/indian/pdfs/
gap2000.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/indian/pdfs/gap2000.pdf)

Natural Resource Damage Assessment Workshop

Seattle, Washinton

December 12-13, 2007

The Northwest Environmental Training Center announces a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) workshop that will describe what NRDA is, the laws and regulations that require it, the players around the table, and NRDA implementation. A substantial portion of the workshop will focus on the basics of the NRDA process, including the scientific and economic assessment required to determine the extent of injury and scale of restoration. For more information about this course visit <http://www.nwetc.org/>.

Mark Your Calendars!

Announcing YRITWC Hazardous Waste & Emergency Response Training

The YRITWC BackHaul and Brownfield Programs are excited to announce a Hazardous Waste & Emergency Response Training. This promises to be an exciting hands-on training that will include Spill Response, HazWoper, Emergency Response Planning and much much more!

When: January 28-February 5, 2008

Where: Galena, Alaska

The training will be alcohol and drug free. Seats are limited so please contact Jon Waterhouse at jwaterhouse@yritwc.com or (907) 258-3337 if you are interested in attending.

See you there!

YUKON CIRCLES UPDATE

YUKON CIRCLES CONTINUES TO ATTRACT INTEREST IN ALASKA AND BEYOND! HERE ARE THE LATEST FILM FESTIVALS THAT HAVE SHOWCASED YUKON CIRCLES:

2007 FAR NORTH CONSERVATION FILM FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 2-4,
2008 IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

32ND ANNUAL AMERICAN INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 3,
2008 IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

8th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

YOU ARE INVITED to attend the 8th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management. This event will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Billings, Montana on June 23-27, 2008. The conference will be hosted by the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A limited number of travel scholarships will be offered to tribal environmental staff and Native American college students to foster education and professional growth. For further information visit <http://www.mtwytlc.com> or contact Allyson Kelley at (406) 252-2550.

Save the Date!

**May 2-5, 2008 for the
National River Rally in
Huron, Ohio.**

Passport Reminder:

Please remember to apply for or renew your passports by January 1, 2008. Passports will be required for all international travel.

Passport applications may be obtained at your local post office or online. Remember you will need one to attend the 2009 Summit in Whitehorse.

Web-based Tribal Compliance Assistance Center is Online

The EPA web-based Tribal Compliance Assistance Center is now available online at <http://www.epa.gov/tribalcompliance>. The Tribal Center is designed to help tribal environmental professionals and facility owners and operators comply with environmental regulations and get information on topics including waste management, air and water resources, drinking water, and public safety.

Please call 1-800-490-9198 if you have any questions or contact Jonathan Binder at (202-564-2516/binder.jonathan@epa.gov) or Catherine Tunis at (202-564-0476/tunis.catherine@epa.gov).

YRITWC Newly Elected Positions:

Chairman - Clarence Alexander

Vice Chair - Chief James Landlord

Secretary/Treasurer - Karen Kriska

Job Openings!

The YRITWC is hiring for the following positions:

- Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator
- Tribal Capacity Building Coordinator
- Renewable Energy and Conservation Program Coordinator

The above positions are full-time for at least one year and include a benefits package with health care. Pay is dependent on experience. Some travel to remote Alaska communities will be required. All positions are open until filled and will begin immediately with the exception of the Renewable Energy and Conservation Program Coordinator, which will begin January 1, 2008.

For more information, please contact Rob Rosenfeld (907-388-2683 or rrosenfeld@yritwc.com) or Jon Waterhouse (907-258-3337 or jwaterhouse@yritwc.com). YRITWC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

YRITWC Science Positions Open

The YRITWC Science Program is currently advertising two positions: Water Quality Technician and Environmental Specialist.

Water Quality Technician (Fairbanks)

The Water Quality Technician is a seasonal position—January to September—based in Fairbanks. The Technician will play an integral role in the YRITWC Water Quality Program.

Environmental Specialist (Whitehorse)

The Environmental Specialist is a full time position based in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. The Environmental Specialist will be responsible for conducting water quality sampling and coordinating related activities throughout the Yukon Territory.

Prospective candidates should be team players. Well-developed communication and reporting skills are essential. For more information, please contact Bryan Maracle at bmaracle@yritwc.com.

YRITWC Awarded Renewable Energy and Efficiency Grant

BY BRIAN HIRSCH, PH.D.

Over the past two years, YRITWC has been conducting energy education and outreach in response to the request of Tribes and First Nations to learn more about energy alternatives. Along with energy-focused newsletter articles, workshops, and focus groups, we also developed a funding proposal to help bring more support and expertise to our efforts. We were excited to recently learn that our proposal was accepted by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

ANA has awarded the YRITWC a three year grant with a budget close to \$650,000. Through this funding we will be working with organizations like the Alaska Building Science Network to provide energy efficiency and conservation trainings in villages. The trainings will be focused on reducing home heating and electricity costs thereby saving both fuel and money.

Another focus of the ANA grant will be to design and install one renewable energy system a year for three years. The technology that we will use has not yet been decided but we did receive

several excellent suggestions from participants at the recent Summit in St. Mary's. Some of these suggestions included modifying a fishwheel to produce electricity; developing homes and buildings that produce all their own energy and process all their own wastewater; exploring geothermal (earth heat), wind, solar, and biomass energy from willows and spruce. We will be looking into all of these options with an eye toward local availability, improving economies, and protecting the Yukon River watershed.

Due to the high cost of energy and also the environmental impacts of fossil fuel energy development and use, there has been increasing attention on clean energy solutions within the Watershed and beyond. In September, Beaver installed a 2.3 kilowatt solar electric system that will reduce diesel fuel use in their washeteria. Along with a new diesel generator system that the village will soon receive, these technologies will greatly reduce fuel consumption in the community. In related news, the Denali Commission just announced

a \$1.6 million grant to install an underwater turbine in the Yukon River at Eagle. We will be watching and reporting on the progress of this innovative effort to produce electricity and not harm fish.

The ANA grant will help YRITWC to stay involved in identifying and implementing energy solutions. We plan to continue sharing this information with the Tribes and First Nations as well as others who care about the Yukon River. YRITWC would like to thank the Tribes that submitted resolutions in support of this proposal and also the many organizations that wrote letters of commitment to the project. This is an exciting time and we are just getting started.

We look forward to working with as many people and communities as we can to meet energy needs while protecting the River and contributing to local economies. If you or someone you know is interested in working on this project, please call our Fairbanks office at 907-451-2530.



Recycle Your Fluorescent Light Bulbs!

Remember to recycle your fluorescent light bulbs. *All* fluorescent bulbs contain mercury. Mercury is toxic to humans and especially children.

One compact fluorescent bulb contains about 4 milligrams of mercury (the amount can sit on the head of a pin). That may not seem like a lot, but that amount of mercury can contaminate a 9 pound salmon or 2,000 1-liter bottles of water.

The effects of mercury poisoning include:

- **Memory loss**
- **Lack of coordination**
- **Muscle weakness**
- **Extreme mood swings**

Total Reclaim can safely recycle used fluorescent bulbs. If you have any questions or want to coordinate recycling for your community, please contact Total Reclaim at 907-561-0544 or e-mail akoutreach@totalreclaim.com.



YRITWC BackHaul Program Helps Recycle Over 5 Million Pounds!



Crowley Marine transports Backhauled items from the villages to Nenana throughout the summer months.



The YRITWC BackHaul program continues to be successful due to the efforts of many people!

At the end of this season more than **5 million pounds of recyclables and hazardous waste** will have been safely removed from the Yukon River watershed!

Whether the items were moved by C-130 Hercules, barges, small planes, railroads, ships or trucks, none of it would have been possible without the interest and assistance of the people along the River.

Every one of you should be proud of your contribution.



Used oil and old white goods in Nenana, Alaska, barged by Crowley Marine



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YRITWC Guiding Principles

We will strive to:

Be Good Listeners
Be Honest
Be Consensual
Be Trustworthy
Be Respectful
Be Timely
Be Unifying
Be Flexible
Be Tenacious
Be Non-judgemental
Be Fair and Equal
Have Integrity
Share Wisdom
Be Inclusive
Be Bold
Be Patient

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Total Reclaim
Arctic Transportation Services
Frontier Flying Services
Weaver Brothers
ABS Battery
C&R Pipe
Wrights Air

Brownfields to Sustainable Lands

BY CHARLENE STERN



Youth Council participants learn about how contaminants can impact the Watershed during the 2007 Summit.

The Summit was a great time for the YRITWC Brownfields Program to report back to communities and the Executive Committee on our activities. Our staff also facilitated two trainings, one for adults and another for youth.

The youth training went especially well as over 30 youth worked collectively to build a model of the Yukon River watershed using clay and other materials. During the hands-on exercise, the youth constructed the river system complete with tributaries,

animals, fish camps, villages, as well as common contaminated sites including dumps and sewage lagoons. Once the model was completed, rain and floods were simulated to show how contaminants can spread through the Watershed.

In other news, our program is proud to announce the completion of our Brownfields DVD. The video represents the contribution of many individuals and communities. We would like to express a special thanks to Adam Demientieff of Storyteller Productions whose creative vision and hard work guided the making of the DVD. In the coming weeks, copies of the DVD will be mailed to every tribal government and school in the Yukon River watershed. Additional copies will also be made available to Tribes outside the Watershed, the Environmental Protection Agency, and any others who may be interested in using it as an educational tool.

The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment reports for the Former Public Health Building in Arctic Village and the Ghost Creek Abandoned Drums in Holy Cross are in! Copies of the reports are available at the Arctic Village and Holy Cross Tribal Council offices as well as in our documents library in Fairbanks. Thank you to everyone who helped support these assessments. Our staff plan to continue working with these communities towards future cleanup of these brownfield sites.

Lastly, we are excited to share our new department title—*Sustainable Lands Department*. With an expanded focus, we are planning to branch into several new areas including hazardous waste response training, contaminated site curriculum development, emergency response planning and more. If your community is interested in any of these areas, we encourage you to contact us.

YRITWC is glad to be among the many Brownfields grantees in Alaska that are making an impact. Read on for more information on the successes of the Anvik Tribal Response Program.

Community Highlight: Anvik, Alaska

BY SHANNON CHASE-JENSEN, BROWNFIELDS COORDINATOR

In 2005, the Anvik Tribal Council received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish a Brownfields Tribal Response Program. Over the past two years, our environmental staff has focused on establishing an office, creating our brownfields inventory, and forming a public record.

Workshops and trainings have been vital in shaping the Anvik Brownfields Tribal Response Program. We have conducted on and off-site training which has included Hazwoper, ArcGIS, and Bulk Fuel Tank Farm training. Staff has also attended multiple environmental conferences such as the National Brownfields Conference in Boston, Massachusetts as well as the EPA Western Brownfields workshop in Portland, Oregon.

This fall, the Anvik Brownfield Tribal Response Program put out a request for proposals to conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the former Alaska Village Electric Co-op (AVEC) site. The contract was awarded to BGES, Inc., and an environmental scientist traveled to Anvik in mid-October to complete the assessment. The staff was very excited for this to happen and to see that our work is paying off!

In addition, BGES conducted an assessment on our Old School site. This was completed through funding provided by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. We have received preliminary reports on the AVEC site, but are still waiting on the final reports for both sites. These studies are all very new to our

environmental staff and will mold our program and its future.

Some possibilities for redeveloping the land are a historical park and preserve, waterfowl pond, recreation and picnic area, boat landing or dock, playground and/or basketball court. Further testing and assessments are needed before we can make a definite determination on redevelopment. I am hoping within the next year we will have some concrete plans on redevelopment and am looking forward to being involved in that final process and the continuing effort to clean up our land!

In closing, we produce a monthly newsletter that is printed for local tribal members, and is also available on our website at www.anviktribalcouncil.com.

World Class Science, With a World Class Team!

BY BRYAN MARACLE

The 2007 field season produced so many highlights and opportunities for the future that it is hard to know where to begin.

This season, 124 samples were collected from across the Yukon River watershed. The 17 local technicians helped extend their water quality knowledge to another 35 community members by exposing them to sampling. Way to go techs! Youth trainings were also held in Pilot Station and St. Mary's to introduce the next generation of stewards to water chemistry and bio-assessment sampling. Working with the youth in the Watershed has led to new possibilities of working with youth throughout the arctic. Through the Woods Hole Research Center and the Partners Program, the YRITWC is currently exploring the possibilities of using science as a tool for an international youth exchange.

The data collected from this season will take time to process but our goal is to have Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures updated by February 2008. The preliminary raw data and information on the number of samples, distribution of sample locations, and field measurements will be available in the Year End Report to Tribes which is due out at the end of December 2007. This Report will also include preliminary results of the data collected from the Healing Journey. The complete work up will include field-measured data and United States Geological Survey lab analyzed data.

Besides the data compilation and QA/QC tasks, this winter will also include planning for future climate change research. The focus will be on addressing adaptations to the changes that are being observed by elders and land users throughout the River.

I would like to thank the world class team of technicians that are the heart

and soul of this program. From upper to lower river: John Bryant (Dawson); Barry Westphal (Eagle); Joy Shockley (Fort Yukon and Circle); Fabian Frank (Venetie); Dorothy Captain and Charlene Honea (Ruby); Pearl Henry (Huslia and Fairbanks); Mike Grundberg (Anvik); Anastasia Larson (Russian Mission); Jacob Isaac and Mildred Fitka (Marshall); Regina Paul, Gus Kozevnikoff and Martin Kelly (Pilot Station); Jay Hootch and Serina Alstrom (St. Mary's); Lyle Myre and Ron Lawrence (Mountain Village); and last but not least Cynthia Paniyak and Deborah Friday (Chevak).

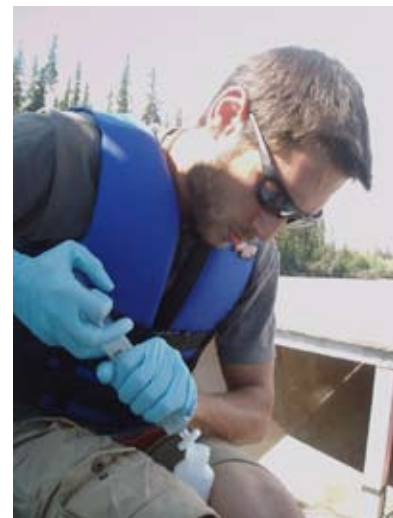
A special thanks also goes to Miriah Killam and our summer intern Dave Pelunis-Messier whom I could have never completed the season without. Good luck to both of you in your future endeavors.

The hard work and dedication of staff and local technicians alike has contributed tremendously to a stewardship movement that will change the world!

For science or water quality related issues, contact Bryan Maracle at 907-451-2546 or bmaracle@yritwc.com.



Jay Hootch, St. Mary's, fights the silt with two hands while filtering water that will be analyzed in the lab.



David Pelunis-Messier, YRITWC Intern, contributes some muscle sampling in the Fairbanks area.

YRITWC Staff Directory

Rob Rosenfeld, Alaska Region
Co-Director (907) 258-3337,
rrosenfeld@yritwc.com

Jon Waterhouse, Alaska Region
Co-Director (907) 258-3337,
jwaterhouse@yritwc.com

Brian Hirsch, Ph.D., Special Projects
Consultant (907) 235-6842,
bhirsch@yritwc.com

LaVern Huntington, Administrative &
Finance Director (907) 451-2530,
lhuntington@yritwc.com

Roslyn Petersen, Fairbanks Office
Manager & Administrative Assistant
(907) 451-2530,
rpetersen@yritwc.com

Charlene Stern, Brownfield Program
Manager (907) 451-2558,
csfern@yritwc.com

Sonta Hamilton, Brownfield Technician
(907) 451-2549,
shamilton@yritwc.com

Stephen Price, Solid Waste Technician
(907) 258-3337, sprice@yritwc.com

Bryan Maracle, Water Quality Coordinator
(907) 451-2546, bmaracle@yritwc.com

Rachael Peltola, Travel & Communications
Coordinator (907) 258-3337,
rpeltola@yritwc.com



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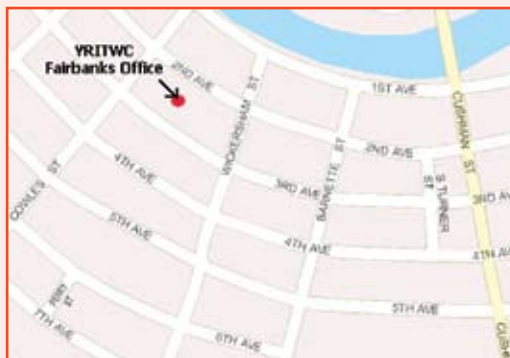


Anchorage Office

725 Christensen Dr., Suite 3
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
 Phone: (907) 258-3337
 Fax: (907) 258-3339
 E-mail: jwaterhouse@yritwc.com

Yukon Region Office

Box 31213-211 Main St.
 Whitehorse,
 Yukon Territories, Y1A 5P7
 Phone: (867) 393-2199
 Fax: (867) 393-2198
 E-mail: yritwc@northwestel.net



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