

yellowknife life

Northwest Territories



2004 Annual Report

December 31, 2004



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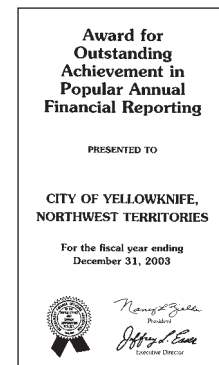
In Memoriam

The City of Yellowknife pays tribute to two Yellowknife Fire Division firefighters, Lt. Cyril Fyfe and Kevin Olsen, who lost their lives in the line of duty in March, 2005.

Calgary-born Kevin Olsen, 24, had only been a firefighter for 10 days when he lost his life fighting a fire on March 17. Lt. Cyril Fyfe, an 18-year veteran of the department, passed away a few days later of injuries sustained in that same fire.

Both firefighters were honoured with Line-Of-Duty Death funerals, Kevin in his home-town of Calgary on March 24, and Cyril in Yellowknife on March 28. The City held a memorial service for both men on March 29, 2005.

The two men are heroes who gave their lives to the service of others. We mourn them, and honour their sacrifice. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families.



City of Yellowknife Annual Report
For the year ended December 31, 2004

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Cover Photos from left to right – (Great Slave Lake) Patrick Bisaillon, (Bee) Luke Marshall, (Ptarmigan) Edward Hardy, (Float Plane) Jiri Hermann, (Prince of Wales Heritage Museum) Jiri Hermann

Working together for the future



It gives me great pride to be Mayor of Yellowknife, the Diamond Capital of North America™. Looking back on the events of 2004, I am happy to report that the city continues to enjoy a thriving economy, as the diamond, oil and gas, tourism and transportation industries expand. More business licenses were sold in 2004 than the previous year as new businesses sprang up, and established businesses expanded. Add the prosperous economy to our spectacular natural environment, first-class amenities and our energetic, optimistic population, and Yellowknife remains one of the best places in Canada to live, work and raise families.

In 2004, Yellowknife City Council made excellent progress toward meeting the goals and objectives established when Council first took office the year before. As mayor, I am particularly proud of the partnership the City developed with Diavik Diamond Mines, Facilities for Kids and many other Yellowknife businesses to complete the second ice surface of the Yellowknife Multiplex. The second arena, now called the Shorty Brown Arena, was officially opened in November 2004. The project was completed two years ahead of schedule, as the result of the unstinting dedication and co-operative spirit shown by the partners. This partnership is a model for the future, and shows what can be done when we work together.

Another highlight of 2004 was the completion of the 2004 General Plan. The plan, which will guide the city's growth for the next five years, is the most inclusive that has ever been developed, reflecting input from a total of 123 meetings with groups and members of the public. I am also happy to report that in 2004, the first steps were taken toward developing a Yellowknife Community Energy Plan, in partnership with Arctic Energy Alliance and Northland Utilities. This should go a long way to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.

Yellowknife is a city of opportunity, prosperity and adventure. We've come a long way since the first buildings were erected by prospectors during the 1930s gold rush. But that doesn't compare with how far we can go. As we continue to work together, we will open new doors and build new bridges and Yellowknife will thrive for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon Van Tighem". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mayor Gordon Van Tighem

Our City Council

2004-2006: goals and visions

Yellowknife City Council has been working to define our goals for the future. We started with ourselves, making our first goal to create:

1. an open and responsive local government committed to providing excellent public service and evolving to meet the changing needs and priorities of its citizens.

We intend to work with other levels of government and the many groups concerned about our community. We will continue to keep residents informed and seek public input

through the City's website, the Citizen Survey, and other effective communication tools.

All Yellowknifers want to live in a healthy, clean community and to protect the things that make this city special.

Therefore, our second goal is to create:

2. a safe and caring community focused on public safety, improving the quality of life in Yellowknife, protecting the natural environment and preserving its rich heritage.



Wendy Bisaro
Deputy Mayor

Wendy has lived in Yellowknife since 1971. Her work experience includes teaching, working in the travel industry and mothering two children. Wendy is currently in her second term, and was first elected as City Councillor in 2000.



Doug Witty
Councillor

Doug has resided in Yellowknife since 1970. He has been self-employed running his own business since 1987. Doug was elected to City Council in 2003.



David McCann
Councillor

David has lived in Yellowknife since 1974, initially working with the Government of the Northwest Territories while raising two sons. He has owned and operated his own consulting firm since 1982. He has served on City Council since 1999.



Blake Lyons
Councillor

Blake came to Yellowknife from B.C. He is President of the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, Director with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and a labour relations consultant. He has served on City Council for five terms since 1987.

This means reviewing and updating the programs, policies and by-laws through which we protect the quality of life in our city. It also means entering into partnerships to identify and preserve heritage sites.

No city can progress without careful planning and we have made a commitment to:

3. a well planned city that promotes responsible and quality urban development.

We have adopted the 2004 General Plan to guide our long term planning, and are reviewing the Zoning by-law.

Similarly, we cannot make the most of our future if we waste time and money, so we want:

4. a financially healthy corporation that prudently manages its resources, and maximizes value in both program and service delivery.

Our staff are among the city's greatest resources, providing responsible and caring service to residents. We plan:

5. to maintain a professional, well-equipped and innovative work force that takes pride in public service and delivers high quality and efficient municipal programs and services.

As a result of these efforts, we will achieve our final goal:

6. to have a diverse and vibrant economy.

We plan to maximize tourism and resource development opportunities, attract new families to the city and diversify the economy so that Yellowknife can prosper on many fronts. Yellowknife is one of the finest places in Canada to live, learn and grow. We commit ourselves to building an even stronger community.



Kevin O'Reilly
Councillor

Kevin has lived in Yellowknife since 1985 working for Aboriginal, federal and territorial government agencies on land use planning, environmental assessment and resource management. He has served on City Council since 1997.



Alan Woytuik
Councillor

Alan has been a resident of Yellowknife since 1982. He is employed by Yellowknife Catholic Schools as Supervisor of Maintenance. Alan has served on City Council since 1999.



Mark Heyck
Councillor

Mark was born and raised in Yellowknife. He works at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre as an Online Exhibit Coordinator. Mark was elected to City Council in 2003.



Bob Brooks
Councillor

Bob has been an active resident in Yellowknife since 1980. He is currently a Senior Policy Analyst for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Government of the Northwest Territories. Bob has served three previous terms on Council starting in 1991.



Photo by Jiri Hermann

A thriving and diversified economy

The Capital of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife is a modern city where you can live in 21st Century comfort, with all the possibilities of a vast, beautiful wilderness right on your doorstep. Founded in the 1930s as a gold mining town, Yellowknife was designated Capital of the Northwest Territories in 1967. As gold mining declined in the 1990s, the discovery of diamonds to the north breathed new life into the economy. The city is now several years into an economic boom, largely fueled by the diamond industry, and proudly introduces itself as the Diamond Capital of North America™.

Yellowknife is the staging and hiring point for two operating diamond mines which have made Canada the third-largest producer of diamonds by value in the world. In 2004, preparations were underway for the construction of a third diamond mine, slated to begin production in 2007. Diamond mining has been the stimulus for the development of a diamond cutting/polishing industry, as well as other diamond support industries in the city. And this is just the beginning. As diamond exploration continues, both the number of diamond mines and the secondary diamond industry are expected to grow.

Yellowknife's status as the Diamond Capital of North America™ is also giving a push to tourism – an industry that plays an increasingly important role in the city's economy. The city is already a major centre for the winter Aurora-viewing market, as well as a jumping-off point for wilderness adventure travel throughout the NWT. With current initiatives to

market Yellowknife as a diamond tourism destination, this sector can only be expected to grow.

Added to diamonds, tourism and the traditional economic sectors of transportation and government is oil and gas development as the proposed Mackenzie Valley pipeline moves through the environmental assessment process. While centered in other areas of the NWT, the proposed pipeline, and associated exploration, is stimulating the economy throughout the territory, including in Yellowknife.

Yellowknife is truly a city whose time has come. Small wonder that Yellowknife enjoys the highest household income and lowest unemployment rate in Canada!



Photo by Jiri Hermann

facts:

The City of Yellowknife:

- Population: 19,056
- Average Family Income (2002): \$106,953
- Unemployment rate (2004): 5 per cent
- No. of schools: 11



Photo by Tessa Macintosh



Photo by Jiri Hermann

A great place to live and visit

Yellowknife is the largest urban centre in the territory. About 20,000 people (half the population of the territory) live here. We enjoy all the amenities of a modern city – in fact, our programs and facilities are the envy of similarly-sized communities in other parts of Canada. There are daily flights to destinations in the southern Canada and throughout the Northwest Territories, congenial neighbourhoods, fine hotels, dining, nightlife, shopping and even live theatre – and of course all the possibilities of the wilderness that surrounds us.

With hundreds of recreational programs and opportunities throughout the year, there is always something to do, no matter what your interests.

If you're inclined toward sports, you can enjoy the brand-new facilities at the Yellowknife Multiplex, completed in 2004. This facility features one Olympic-sized and one NHL-sized ice rink for hockey, figure skating, speed skating and broomball, as well as gymnastics and multi-use areas. The Multiplex is one of two arenas in

Yellowknife. If you're a swimmer, go to the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool where you can swim lanes, take almost any kind of lesson imaginable – or just play with your kids in the shallows. Or you can enjoy the recently-renovated Yellowknife Community Library which offers a collection of 74,000 items in its centrally located facility.

Both the federal and territorial governments are headquartered in Yellowknife and the city is a service centre for the entire

Boards offer English and French Immersion classes to children from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Students at Kàlemì Dene School are offered an education based on Aboriginal values, culture, and language and are given the opportunity to learn the Weledeh dialect of the Dogrib language and traditional skills. For post-secondary students, Aurora College offers a wide variety of courses and is affiliated to colleges and universities in other parts of the Canada.



Photo by Tessa Macintosh



Photo by Edward Hardy

Northwest Territories. The modern Stanton Territorial Hospital offers a full-range of services. Medical and dental services are also offered at a range of fully-staffed clinics. Public, Catholic and French School

With all these amenities, Yellowknife is truly a great place to live and visit. In fact, many have come for a short visit and stayed a lifetime!

Planning for future growth

With the growth of the city, it is important to ensure that development is balanced, and guided by sound principles. In 2004, the City consulted widely with groups and individuals throughout Yellowknife to develop the city's 2004 General Plan.

The City's previous General Plan dated back to 1996 when the City's economy was sluggish. With today's booming economy, the 1996 Plan no longer meets the growth needs of the City, explains City Planner Dave Widdis.

Among the principles reflected in the 2004 General Plan is the need to balance development with sound environmental stewardship, the desire to keep open and recreational space within the city, the need to develop safe, accessible neighbourhoods with a range of housing options and amenities, and the need to create employment and business opportunities.

The 2004 General Plan will guide the city's growth for the next five years.

facts:

In 2004, the City hosted the following major events:

- Prospects North
- Northern Research Forum
- NWT and Nunavut Geoscience Forum
- Folk on the Rocks Music Festival
- Super Soccer
- Caribou Carnival
- Canadian Championship Dog Derby
- NWT Tourism Annual General Meeting
- Summer Solstice Festival/Funkfest
- Raven Mad Daze
- National Aboriginal Day
- NWT Mining Week
- Midnight Golf Classic
- Commissioner's Cup Sailing
- YK International Air Show



Photo by Edward Hardy

New construction enhances city life

Yellowknife continued to grow in 2004 with an estimated \$68 million spent on construction projects within the city – all contributing to making the city a great place to live and work. A total of 882 building permits were issued in 2004, and 1,521 business licenses were issued, 264 of those for new businesses.



Photo by Edward Hardy

Good-bye to a well-known landmark

As work to complete the Multiplex surged ahead, a well-known Yellowknife recreational landmark disappeared from the city's skyline. Originally constructed for \$50,000 in 1948, and rebuilt after a fire burnt it down in 1954, the Gerry Murphy Arena was home to Yellowknife ice sports until just a couple of years ago. "It was the first indoor arena in Yellowknife," Director of Community Services Grant White says. "Over the decades, many, many people have learned to skate there. There are lots of people with fond memories of the building."

The Gerry Murphy was demolished in October 2004, because the building had outlived its useful life, and was no longer considered safe. The city is now considering options to create a space for public use.

Construction highlights for 2004 include:

- Start of the four-story Government of Canada building on Franklin Avenue
- Completion of the Shorty Brown Arena
- Start of residential/commercial building by Nova Builders near Stanton Territorial Hospital
- Completion of North Slave Corrections Centre Adult Facility
- Completion of the Yellowknife Catholic Schools Kimberlite Career and Technical Centre
- Construction of new church building by Rick Holdings behind Frame Lake Plaza
- Completion of the Kimberlite Court Townhome Condominiums
- Near completion of 48 condos on Ptarmigan Road

- Completion of the Block 551 development for manufactured homes by Homes North
- Development of Phase 4 of the Niven Lake residential area
- Completion of an agreement between the City and Homes North to develop Phase 5 and 6 of the Niven Lake residential area
- Development, by the City, of 22 industrial lots in Kam Lake

facts:

The Multiplex at a glance

Total area: 8,632 metres

Olympic rink: 100 X 200 feet

Shorty Brown Rink: 85 X 200 feet

DND gym: 460 square metres

Gymnastics club: 968 square metres

Additional facilities: multipurpose room, concession stand

Annual maintenance costs: \$332,000

Annual revenue: \$208,000

Staff: three full-time

Partnership completes arena in record time

On a weekend in mid-November, 2004, Yellowknife City Councillors and members of the City Administration pulled on their skates and took to the newly-minted ice of the Shorty Brown Arena for an action-packed hockey game against staff members of Diavik Diamond Mines. The City team lost 4-3 – but that wasn't bad when you consider the team only had one practice before the game.

The game, played to a packed arena at the official Multiplex opening ceremonies, was the final toast to a unique partnership that resulted in the completion of the Multiplex two years ahead of schedule. More than 2000 people swarmed the building to celebrate the opening.

With the completion of the Multiplex, Yellowknife now has a state-of-the-art recreational facility, with two ice surfaces, a gymnasium, a meeting room – and even a concession where you can get fried rice and wontons, in addition to the standard arena fare. “This is a true multiplex,” says Grant White, Director of Community Services for the City of Yellowknife. “We can have tons of activities going on at the same time. It's a year-round facility that operates pretty close to 24-7. We open the doors at 5:30 a.m. and close the next day at 1:30 a.m.”

The early completion of the Multiplex was the result of a unique private-public partnership. While Phase 1 was completed in 2003, the City was unable to budget for the completion of the second ice surface (Phase 2) until 2006. That is until Facilities for Kids (FFK), a local non-profit group, decided to pitch in to move up the construction schedule. Working with the City, FFK secured a partnership with Diavik Diamond Mines to help complete the arena. A three-way partnership agreement was soon finalized, and by spring 2004, work to complete the second ice surface was well underway.

FFK agreed to raise \$1 million (in kind and cash) by selling advertising space in the arena. At the same time, Diavik took over the project management, using its purchasing power and project management expertise to significantly reduce the cost of the project. It also loaned the City the much-needed cash to get the work done early. And the partnerships didn't end there. Many contractors working on the project donated cash or in-kind goods and services. General contractor Nahanni Construction helped with fund-raising and cut back its construction costs. Three electrical contractors agreed to work together, instead of bidding against each other, on the project. Project workers joined in the spirit by giving 110 per cent.

Together, the partners completed the second ice surface in record time by November, 2004. The arena was officially named after long-time Yellowknifer Shorty Brown. Shorty has made a significant contribution to hockey in the city, and throughout the North. The partnership is a true success story for everybody in Yellowknife.



Photo by Erica Mottus



Photo by David Walcer

Attracting conventions

Yellowknife groups and businesses who want to attract large meetings, conventions or sporting events to Yellowknife can now use the City's generic bid package to develop their proposal. This package, developed in 2004, will help an organization put together all the information required to attract large events to the city. "It helps ensure they cover all the bases," says Director of Economic Development Peter Neugebauer.

Gatherings of any type, whether business conventions or large sporting events, make an important economic contribution to the city, Peter says. "As soon as people arrive, they stimulate the local economy by spending money in hotels, restaurants, retail stores etc. This is great for Yellowknife!"

In 2004, the City helped work on a successful bid to host the 2005 Annual General Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations. The Assembly which is scheduled for July 4-8, 2005 will bring more than 3000 delegates to the city.



Photo by Jiri Hermann



Photo by Andrew Morton



Photo by Fran Hurcomb

facts:

The Yellowknife Community Profile 2005 will tell you anything you ever wanted to know about Yellowknife. Put together by the City's Department of Economic Development in 2004, the document is a compilation of statistical information about Yellowknife that ranges from how to get here, to average incomes, housing stats, contact numbers for health and recreational centres and much more.

Citizen's Survey

The Citizen Survey is a tool used by City Council to obtain feedback from residents about their concerns, needs, attitudes and priorities. It has been conducted on an annual basis since 2001. This year it was conducted between February 15th and 26th, 2005 by Ipsos-Reid, in partnership with the local firm Kellet Communications.

The 2005 survey focused on seven central themes and captured residents' perceptions of the City as well as attitudes towards living in Yellowknife, issues facing Yellowknife, the importance of and satisfaction with City Services, willingness to pay for curbside recycling pick-up, City staff and Council performance, City communication with residents and public transit.

A total of 800 telephone interviews were completed and overall results were weighted to ensure that the age/gender distributions reflected the actual population in Yellowknife in accordance with the 2001 census data. Overall results are accurate to $\pm 3.5\%$ nineteen times out of twenty. More detailed results are available either on-line via the City's website or at City Hall reception.

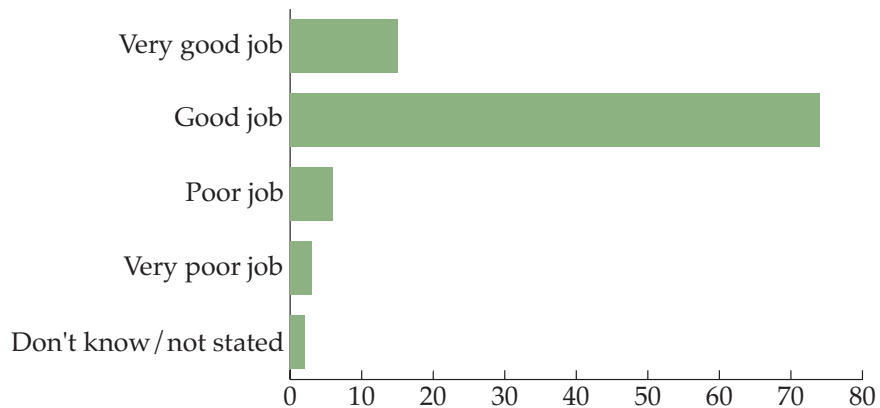
facts:

Just over 92% (nine out of ten) Yellowknife residents regularly access the Internet. This is much higher than in the rest of Canada where only 78% of Canadians report having access to (rather than regularly accessing) the Internet either at home, work or school, or at another location!

The Survey Says...

Yellowknife Residents Pleased with the Performance of City Staff

Overall, Yellowknife residents are quite pleased with the performance of City Staff. Nine-in-ten (89%) say that City staff are doing a good job, although this figure is much more lukewarm than intense (15% "very good job" and 74% "good job"). Only 9% say they are not satisfied with the performance of City staff (6% "poor job" and 3% "very poor job").

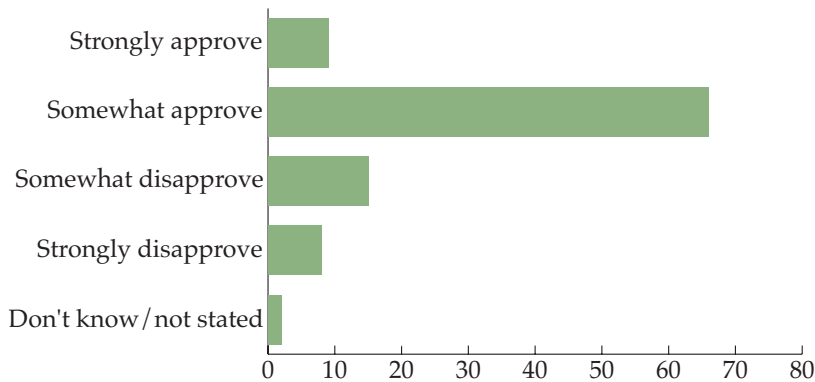


The Survey Says...

Majority of Yellowknife Residents Approve of City Council's Performance

Two-thirds of Yellowknife residents (75%) say they approve of City Council's performance. However, this proportion is tempered somewhat by the fact that most residents (66%) only "somewhat approve" of Council's performance. Only 9% say they "strongly approve."

Conversely, one-quarter of Yellowknife residents (23%) do not approve of City Council's performance, as 15% "somewhat disapprove" and 8% "strongly disapprove".

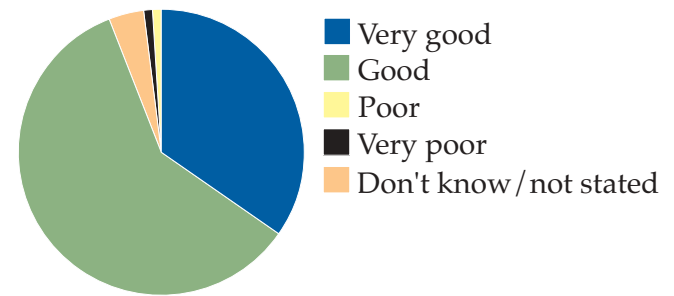


The Survey Says...

Quality of Life in YK is both very good and has further improved!

Some 95% of respondents rated the quality of life in Yellowknife as good or very good. In addition, 27% said that the quality of life in Yellowknife had improved – slightly down from last year when 35% reported an improvement, but still strong overall. New facilities/developments, more shopping and increased job opportunities were among the top reasons cited for the improvement.

Yellowknife Residents Enjoy High Quality of Life



The Survey Says...

Residents want to see more residential building lots!

Of the four options given to respondents to rank as being most and least important, the issue overwhelmingly said to be the most important was the need to make building lots available. We are working with the GNWT, and others, to make this a reality!

The Survey Says...

About the Capital Update...

Of the 79% of respondents that remember receiving the City's weekly flyer, *Capital Update*, in their mailboxes, 95% are either frequent or occasional readers. Also 37% have expressed an interest in receiving more information from the City – so stay tuned for new sources of information and even better coverage of City issues!

You can do it in the 'Knife

From belly-dancing to dog-sledding, the City's Community Services Department keeps Yellowknife residents of all ages busy with its recreational programs and special events. "We try to give everybody an opportunity to be active in some way. Winters can be long and if an outlet isn't provided, it's bad for health and general well-being," says Brian Kelln, Manager of the Community Services Program Division.

In 2004, the City offered nearly 300 recreational and playground programs including courses in Tae Kwon Do, Judo, Yoga, Ballroom Dancing, Belly dancing, Skijoring, Portrait Drawing, Card-Making and much, much more. Many of the programs are taught by community members.

Basically, anybody who wants to teach a program can contact the City with their suggestions, says Brian. Certification is required to teach some programs, but often a person's interest and expertise is enough to start. If interest in the program can be established and a facility is available, the program can go ahead. The teacher will receive a small honorarium, a chance to contribute to the city and a chance to get out in the evening and meet people.

Sometimes people use the opportunity to teach City programs as a springboard to

establishing independent recreation or sports societies, or even small businesses, Brian says. "We're here to help get a program started. In time, they can break away and go out on their own."

Rotary Park nearing completion

The Rotary Centennial Park, located on the shore of Great Slave Lake, near the Dettah ice road, is a charming picnic spot. Here you can stop for a quick, quiet lunch at a picnic table overlooking the water. You can enjoy the manicured lawn, take a short walk along the foot path which leads over a small bridge and learn about the local flora and fauna by reading interpretative signage. Or you can launch a small boat from the park's dock.

The work is being carried out through a partnership between the City and the Yellowknife Rotary Club with the Rotary Club supplying the work crews, while the City provides the funds for the materials. Although started in 2003, most of the work on this park was completed in 2004, with the completion of a boardwalk and the construction of washrooms and a picnic shelter scheduled for 2005. The Rotary Club hopes to complete the project to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary International in 2005.



Photo by Tessa Macintosh

facts:

Yellowknife residents love to get out and celebrate – it's all part of the Yellowknife community spirit. In 2004, the City supported the following:

- Music in the Park (Fridays in June)
- Community Day Barbeque (Father's Day)
- YK International Air Show (July: a bi-annual event)
- Santa Claus Parade (November)
- Christmas Celebration of Lights
- Ruth Inch Memorial Pool Family New Years Eve Party
- Great Outdoor Garage sale

A new look for the library

The Yellowknife Public Library has a new look and a new web-based book catalogue!

As a result of renovations completed in 2004, library patrons now step into a serene, spacious foyer which displays the library's art collection. "The renovations have enhanced the ambience of the Library. The lighting has been improved and we now have a comfortable reading and lounging area," notes Library Manager Deborah Bruser. In addition, a new security system has been installed to protect the library's collection.

When not lounging in the comfortable foyer, library patrons can now also look up books on the Library's new web-based Unicorn System, either at the Library itself, or in the comfort of their own homes. The system links the library to other libraries within the NWT Library System, as well as to GNWT libraries. The new system features book reviews, best-seller lists, and visual aids to finding books. "It has a retail-feel," says Shad Turner, Public Service Librarian. "You can read excerpts and reviews. It really enhances the browsing experience, and makes the information more accessible to those who are visually oriented."

The year 2004 also saw an increase to the Library's collection for the first time in a number of years, and in addition to purchasing more books, the Library launched a DVD collection. "We're quite proud of our collection," says Deborah. "Particularly for a community of this size." The library's collection numbers approximately 74,000 items.

In 2004, approximately 75,000 items were circulated. From June to December, the average number of visitors per hour was 47.



Photo by Alice McLeod



Photo by Alice McLeod



Photo by Fran Hurcomb

facts:

Ruth Inch Memorial Pool

In Yellowknife, kids as young as eight can start learning life-saving skills by joining the Junior Lifeguard Club. By the age of 15, they could be working at the pool with a fully qualified lifeguard. A year later, they could be fully qualified.

Life-guarding courses are just a few of the many programs offered at the pool which in 2004 remained one of the busiest recreational spots in Yellowknife. Close to 2800 people participated in 300 learn-to-swim programs. About 50,000 people used the pool throughout the year.



Photo by (FSC) Architects and Engineers

City systems ensure smooth functioning of our lives

Unsung heroes who aren't noticed until something goes wrong, the 48 employees of the City's Public Works and Engineering Division work quietly in the background throughout the year, often 24-7, to maintain the systems that ensure the smooth functioning of our day-to-day lives.

One of the most noticeable is the road system in the city. In 2004, the Public Works and Engineering Division maintained 62 kilometres of paved roads and 20 kilometres of gravel roads, as well as 1,400 traffic signs and parking meters and 28 city bus shelters, says Manager of Public Works Dennis Kefalas. This included snow and dust removal, maintenance of storm sewers and ditches, spring and fall clean-up, clean-up after special events such as parades and Raven Mad Daze and installation of Christmas decorations.

A 2004 highlight was the replacement of the downhill part of Franklin Ave. using a new form of freeze-resistant concrete that should minimize the frost heaves that have historically made a roller-coaster of that section of road. "Hopefully this will last 10 or 15 years, instead of 5-6 as has been the case in the past," Dennis says.

The Division also works hard to maintain the water and sewer system. In 2004, it engineered the replacement of water and sewer mains in some of the older sections of Yellowknife, and

approximately 65 water/sewer services were upgraded. In addition, 50 fire hydrants throughout the city were rehabilitated, and Water Reservoir No. 1 received cleaning and minor repairs.

Getting rid of our garbage is another important part of the Division's mandate. In 2004, the Solid Waste Management Facility processed about 30,000 cubic metres of waste and processed and shipped 90 tons of scrap metal to southern markets.

Reducing greenhouse gases

The City took the first steps toward developing a Community Energy Plan in 2004. The plan, being developed in partnership with the Arctic Energy Alliance and Northland Utilities, aims to reduce greenhouse gases and energy costs.

At present the total cost of energy and utility services consumed each year in Yellowknife is estimated at \$78 million. Per capita energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions are considerably higher in Yellowknife than in southern Canada.

facts:

The Public Works and Engineering Division is in the process of replacing all the old sewer lines within the city. The sewer lines put in during the 1950s, 60s and 70s were made of corrugated metal. They are being replaced with lines made out of ductile iron which is more durable and has a life of about 30 years.

All the city's sewer/water lines, along with the dates they were installed and upgraded, are recorded on a map at City Hall. So far, about 80 per cent of the old lines have been replaced.

Bike Rodeo gets bigger each year

In June 2004, between 250 and 300 kids crowded into the Multiplex to learn about bicycle safety at the 20th Annual Bike Rodeo, organized by the City's Municipal Enforcement Division. Kids from Kindergarten to Grade 6 lined up to make their way around a bicycle skills course, listening to music and eating hot dogs while they waited.

Held each year in June at the beginning of cycling season, the Bike Rodeo is designed to prevent accidents. The bicycle skills course tests the youngsters on the rules of the road and general bicycle safety. The kids also have an opportunity to have their helmets checked and their bicycles tested for roadworthiness. At the end of it all, 16 brand new bikes are presented to the highest male and female scorer in each grade.

"The Bike Rodeo is growing every year, and turning into a very professional event," says Doug Gillard, Manager of the City's Municipal Enforcement Division. And, he adds, it takes an enormous amount of organization. To start with, constables prepare the youngsters for the Rodeo by giving presentations on bicycle safety to all K-5 classes in the city. Then, volunteers, including many businesses and Yellowknife firefighters, must also be organized, facilities booked, equipment lined up and so on.

The Bike Rodeo is one of the ways the Municipal Enforcement Division carries out its responsibility for prevention and education. "There's more to law enforcement than just enforcing the laws. Law enforcement is also an educational tool," notes Doug. He feels that involvement in events such as the Bike Rodeo is a good experience not only for the kids, but also for the constables because of the opportunity they present to develop a rapport with the public.



Photo by Edward Hardy



Photo by Edward Hardy

New Supervisory Constable

Meet Daryle Foster who was promoted to the position of Supervisory Constable of the Municipal Enforcement Division early in 2004 – a position that had been vacant for several years.

Daryle's job is to work closely with the six constables and ensure the Division operates smoothly. He is also available to take calls from members of the public, and ensure a quick response to public concerns.

"The re-staffing of this position has made the Division more responsive to the public," says Doug Gillard, Manager of Municipal Enforcement.

facts:

Look out for new uniforms

Watch out soon for City Constables in bright yellow jackets! The jackets, ordered in 2004, are designed to make the constables more visible.



Photo by Tania Costing

Helping people its own reward

It takes a special person to be a firefighter, says Deputy Fire Chief Darcy Hernblad. “When you go into this line of work, you have to love helping people and you have to be dedicated. When the call comes, you have to be prepared to drop whatever you’re doing – whether that’s just getting to the

front of the line in the bank, having a romantic dinner, or playing with the kids.”

In 2004, the City’s Fire Division recruited and trained 11 of these special people to work on a Paid-On-Call (volunteer) basis, all of whom had responded to an aggressive recruitment campaign designed to reverse a decrease in the numbers of Paid-On-Call firefighters. By the end of the year, the Division’s staff was up to a full complement of 20 Paid-On-Call, 20 Career (full-time) firefighters, as well as one fire chief and two deputy fire chiefs.

A firefighter’s dedication to helping people extends to a wide array of other programs, as well as fire fighting. The Fire Division operates rescue and ambulance services, and career firefighters respond to emergencies of any nature. Highlights of 2004 awareness/prevention activities include open houses held for Safe Kids Week in June and for Fire Prevention Week in October. During

Safe Kids Week, the fire-hall was filled with children who learned safety procedures for nearly everything they do; cycling safety and boating safety among them. During Fire Prevention Week, people of all ages were invited to the fire hall to see for themselves what the Fire Division does, and the equipment used to do it. Fire extinguisher training was available so you could learn exactly how to use your fire extinguisher. You could bring your kids to be fingerprinted – a program that helps track them if they ever go missing. You could also book a home inspection where a firefighter will visit you at home, to help you review the fire hazards in your home, plan possible escape routes etc.

“Everybody feels good when you can do something good for somebody else, that’s why we’re here,” says Darcy. “When the public needs us, we’re there.”

facts:

In 2004, the Fire Department responded to:

- 2,225 medical calls
- 449 fire calls
- 44 rescue calls
- 187 inspection calls
- 44 dangerous goods calls (spills etc.)
- 564 public service calls

Compressed air improves fire fighting efficiency

In 2004, the Fire Division took possession of a new fire truck, Engine 8 that is helping to increase the efficiency of fighting fires using the Compressed Air Foam (CAF) system.

Foam (basically detergent) is more efficient than water in fighting fires because it sticks to the walls and absorbs smoke and hydrocarbons. When you use foam, you use a lot less water, explains Deputy Fire Chief Darcy Hernblad. "What used to take hundreds of gallons of water to extinguish, now only takes about 20 to 30 gallons."

Although the Fire Department has been using foam for some time, the CAF system on Engine 8 mixes compressed air with the foam, in the same way that air is used to make foam in a can of shaving cream. "The compressed air makes a huge difference," Darcy explains. "It improves the ability of the foam to stick to burning areas and to absorb heat."

As a result, there is less steam and smoke. This improves visibility and reduces the likelihood of steam burns, making it easier and safer to rescue people. Property damage from smoke and water is also reduced. "We've used the CAF about half a dozen times," says Darcy. "We are definitely happy with it. It was well worth the purchase price."

Engine 8 is one of three pumper trucks the Division uses in fire suppression.



Photo by Tania Oosting



Photo by Tania Oosting



Photo by Tania Oosting

facts:

The Yellowknife Fire Department offers more than 40 prevention and awareness programs, under the broad categories of Childhood Injury Prevention Programs, Senior Citizens Life Safety Programs, Public Safety/Health Programs and Fire Safety and Prevention Programs.

Preserving our gold-mining heritage

When you walk down Con Road toward the old Con Mine town-site, one of the first buildings you'll see is Yellowknife's Masonic Lodge. Originally constructed by Cominco Mines as a movie theatre in the early 1940s, the building was acquired by the Masons in 1949 and is still used as a meeting hall today. Inside the hall is a throne chair that was one of the original pieces of furniture of the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa when it opened in 1876.

Further down the road, you'll come to the Con Recreation Hall (also known as Jewitt Hall) which dates back to 1947, and has been a centre of social activity in Yellowknife for over 50 years.

The information about the Masonic Lodge and Con Rec Hall was documented by the City's Heritage Committee in 2004, as part of an ongoing effort to inventory all the historic buildings in Yellowknife. Since the closure of Con and Giant Mines in 2003 and 2004, the Committee has been particularly focused on documenting, and trying to preserve, the historic buildings that form part of Yellowknife's gold mining heritage – a focus that was reflected in the presentation of the 2004 Heritage Award to the NWT Mining Heritage Society for its work toward developing a Yellowknife Mining Heritage Centre, to be located in the Old Giant Mine Rec. Hall.

The Heritage Committee is comprised of nine Yellowknife citizens and two members of Yellowknife City Council.



Photo by Tania Coasting

Beautifying Downtown

The Yellowknife Downtown Area is getting increasingly colourful as murals pop up on the sides of buildings.

In 2004, the City's Downtown Enhancement Committee funded the Aurora Arts Society to hire three local artists to create mural projects on downtown buildings. Murals were created by Bonnie Madsen on the Coldwell Banker Building, Jennifer Walden on the Northway Building and Diane Boudreau and a team of artists created a series of murals on the exterior of the Centre Square Mall.

"This program supports and promotes local artists, while it enhances the ambience of the downtown area," says City Planner Dave Jones.

facts:

You can walk into the past in Yellowknife's Old Town, with the Heritage Committee's Brochure: Heritage Walking Tour. The brochure, updated by the Heritage Committee in 2004, will guide you to heritage sites, providing snippets of Yellowknife's colourful history along the way. Copies of the brochure are available at City Hall and the Northern Frontier Visitors Centre.

City gets gold medal honours

Sharolynn Woodward, the City's Manager of Information Technology, is proud of the Gold Medal the City received from the Government Technology Exhibition and Conference (GTEC) for the re-vamp of its information technology. "It was a real coup for us," she says. "We were very excited about it because we were judged by our peers. This award is a significant achievement."

The award, presented for innovative e-government within municipalities in 2004, recognized the City's successful Software Revitalization Project. Over an 18-month period, this project replaced or upgraded all of the City's outdated software. "The change was quite an upheaval. The biggest challenge was to integrate the different programs, used for various applications, into one system," says Sharolynn. "This was done in a way that hadn't been done before, creating a unique synergy of applications. It is still of great interest to the makers and sellers of software, and other municipalities."

Now City employees and members of the public can tap into a seamless system without realizing it is made up of a myriad of different software programs. The integrated system makes it easier to do business with

the City through the City's website. The tax and utility online payment systems have been improved. You can register and pay for programs, view and book facilities and obtain permits. One of the finishing touches added to the system in 2004 is the online Animal License Directory which helps you find the owners of lost animals by tracing their tag numbers.

The system is working so well that the number of visitors to Sharolynn's office on the first floor of City Hall has dropped significantly. "People used to come down

when they had a problem with their software," she says. "Now it's getting lonely down here."



Going wireless

The move is on. City workers are going wireless!

The City has put in a wireless network and is examining how wireless technology can be used to make work easier and more efficient. As a first step in 2004, one bylaw patrol car was wired, allowing the constable to use a lap-top computer to tap into City databases to look up parking ticket information, and vehicle and snowmobile registrations etc. –

information that, until now, had to be solicited by car radio.

"Wireless has great potential," says IT Manger Sharolynn Woodward. "It could allow building inspectors to look up information while conducting an inspection. Or in the event of the water or sewer line break, Public Works crews could tap into electronic databases for information about the lines."

The following condensed financial statements are derived from the City's comprehensive Annual Financial Report which is prepared according to Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Visit City Hall or the City website to see the Annual Financial Report, which contains the complete audited financial statements and other key financial information.

Statement of Financial Activities	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2003 Actual
For the year ended December 31, 2004	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)
Revenues			
Taxes	\$15,343	\$15,178	\$14,794
User Charges	15,174	17,711	22,042
Government Transfers	7,469	7,658	7,962
	37,986	40,547	44,798
Expenditures			
Capital	9,907	12,566	9,901
Debt Interest	908	815	851
Grants	366	363	345
Operations & Maintenance	13,757	14,544	17,382
Salaries	13,386	13,473	12,450
Valuation Allowance	20	43	327
	38,344	41,804	41,256
Net Revenue (Expenditures)	(358)	(1,257)	3,542
Debt Issued	1,950	1,930	3,114
Debt Repaid	(1,665)	(1,599)	(2,022)
Change in Funds Balance	(73)	(926)	4,634
Opening Fund Balances	5,046	8,023	3,389
Closing Fund Balances	\$4,973	\$7,097	\$8,023

Management Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2004

Summary

Overall the City is managing their financial resources in a prudent manner during a period of strong economic growth and has managed to maintain a fairly strong financial condition with Fund and Reserve balances of \$7.1 million (2003 - \$8 million) at year end.

The highlight of the year was the completion of the second ice pad at the Multiplex arena in November 2004, and the community based partnership between the City, Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. and the Facilities for Kids. This partnership enabled this project to be completed 2 years earlier than planned at a cost significantly lower than the 2006 budget estimate of \$4.5 million. This community based partnership and the many businesses in the community that contributed to this project shows how government, business and community groups can partner to produce a lasting legacy for the community in a cost effective manner.

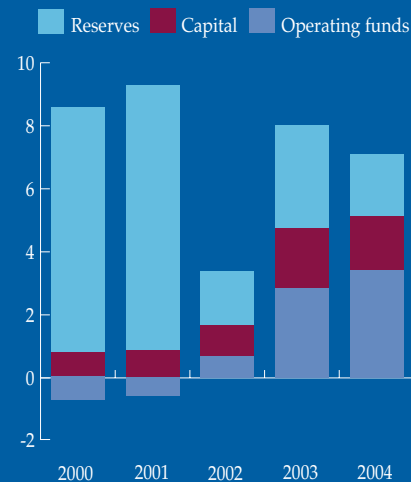
At the end of 2003 the City was finding it challenging to fund increasing solid waste, water and sewer and capital costs as well as land fill closure costs. During 2004, the City took the proactive step to address the deficit balance in the Solid Waste Fund by allocating \$515,000 of the GST Rebate to contribute toward the costs associated with closing the existing landfill. At year end the fund is now only in a \$78,000 deficit position compared to a \$633,000 deficit in 2003.

The main area of financial concern at the end of 2004 is the funding of the Water and Sewer Fund and the Service Connection Failure Assistance Fund that operated in a deficit for 2004, and will need proactive measures taken in 2005 and 2006 to address the shortfall in revenues compared to costs.

Financial Position

The City has five operating funds: General Fund, Land Development Fund, Solid Waste Development Fund, Water and Sewer Fund and Service Connection Failure Assistance Fund. The current balance in these operating funds is \$3.4 million compared to \$2.8 million last year. The General Fund, Land Development Fund and Solid Waste Fund improved their financial condition in 2004 while the Water and Sewer Fund and Service Connection Failure Assistance Fund had an operating deficit of \$179,000 and \$31,000 respectively. The City will be reviewing options to improve the financial condition of these two operating funds in 2005 and 2006.

The City maintains a Capital Fund and Reserves to fund major capital projects. Both the Capital Fund and Reserves are adequately funded based on Council's approved capital plans. The Major Community Facility Reserve did finish the year in a deficit position of \$483,000 due to the acceleration of the Multiplex project but the reserve will recover in 2005 and benefit from the savings realized on the project. This will enable the City to pursue new initiatives earlier than originally planned in the 2004 Budget document.



The City's overall financial position is good. The City maintained a strong liquidity position in 2004 despite the additional expenditures of \$2.36 million (net the Facilities for Kids \$500,000 contribution) to complete the Multiplex. The primary reason being the Land Sales of \$2.5 million including Niven Lake Phase 6 and the new Kam Lake Industrial lots.

Reserves are established at the discretion of Council to set aside funds for the future operating and capital expenditures. Operating funds include general, water and sewer, solid waste management, land development, and service connection failure assistance program operations.

Statement of Financial Position	2004	2003
As at December 31, 2004	(\$000's)	(\$000's)
Assets		
Cash	\$5,958	\$3,084
Receivables	11,517	11,234
Land	1,685	2,325
Prepays	304	410
	19,464	17,053
Capital	206,894	195,586
	\$226,358	\$212,639
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$9,985	\$8,159
Long-Term Debt	14,921	13,079
	24,906	21,238
Financial Position		
Investment in Capital	194,355	183,378
Operating Funds	5,135	4,743
Reserves	1,962	3,280
	\$226,358	\$212,639

Budget Variance

Net revenue/expenditures were \$899,000 lower than budgeted in 2004. Overall revenues were up \$2.56 million with the main additional revenues sources being Land Sales \$1.4 million, the GST Rebate of \$515,000 and the Facilities for Kids contribution of \$500,000. However, overall expenditures were up \$3.46 million with the main additional costs being Cost of Lands Sold of \$586,000, the accelerated Multiplex project costs of \$2.86 million, and the higher than expected power and fuel costs.

Budget Variance		Over (Under) Budget (\$000s)
Revenue		
Development Levies, Licenses and Permits	109	
Government Transfers	189	
Land Sales	1,416	
Other	82	
Property Taxation	(165)	
User Fees	930	
		2,561
Expenditures		
Capital	2,470	
Computer Capital	189	
Contracted and General Services	(91)	
Cost of Land Sold	586	
Debenture Interest	(93)	
Other	(125)	
Professional Services	154	
Utilities - electricity and fuel	165	
Vehicle Operating and Maintenance	205	3,460
Net Under budgeted Expenditures		(899)

Audit Committee:

City Council has appointed an Audit Committee to ensure that the City's financial reporting is of the highest quality. The Committee reports directly to City Council and has complete access to all City records, management and the independent auditors. The 2004 financial statements and audit procedures were reviewed in detail by Committee members.

Members

Terry Brookes, P Eng (Chair)	Mayor Gordon Van Tighem
Pawan Chugh, CGA	City Administrator Max Hall
Tony Wong, LLB	Councillor Blake Lyons
Eitan Dehtiar	

Diamond Tourism: building a diversified economy

As the Diamond Capital of North America™, the City of Yellowknife is in the unique position of being the first stop for anybody who wants to know about the developing North American diamond industry. The City's Economic Development Department is working hard to make the most of this situation by encouraging more visitors to come and learn about the diamond industry.

In 2004, the Department worked in partnership with the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce and the Government of the Northwest Territories to develop a report aptly titled "The Perfect Setting: Diamond Tourism in the NWT." The report examines the potential for increasing tourism by developing activities and attractions related to the diamond industry.

Targeted investments in attractions such as diamond-related displays, tours of diamond polishing plants and the sale of locally-made diamond jewelry could increase annual tourism expenditures by about \$5 million, the report states. The report contains numerous suggestions on how to do just that.

"The potential for diamond tourism is tremendous, a natural for Yellowknife," says Director of Economic Development Peter Neugebauer. "This report is an ideas document that businesses and governments can use as a springboard to develop their own products. It's another step in developing diamond tourism in Yellowknife." The City has already taken the first step by promoting itself, throughout the world, as the Diamond Capital of North America™.

The diamond tourism report is part of the Department of Economic Development's continuing drive to stimulate the development of the diversified economy in Yellowknife.



Back Cover Photo – (Diamonds) Jiri Hermann

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