

page 188, was commonly known as “St. Francis Harbour Bight.”

One expedition to the Labrador coast was apparently enough of an experience for Curwen’s career. His pragmatic nature contrasted with Grenfell’s casual but determined approach that ultimately led Grenfell to become the champion of social and economic reform in coastal Labrador and to create an international agency to attract donations for the cause. Curwen served as a medical missionary in China from 1894 to 1900 and then settled in Sussex, where he established a medical practice and made an active study of local archaeological sites.

The publication of Curwen’s account coincides with a moratorium on the harvesting of northern cod in an immense area stretching from southern Labrador to eastern Newfoundland. This resource was the foundation for the lifestyle and culture described by Curwen—a lifestyle which, a century later, is rapidly becoming only a memory. With the preservation of people’s experiences in this volume, Ronald Rompkey has made a fine contribution to the history of Labrador and of the inception of Grenfell’s mission there.

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GREAT NORTHERN LOST MOOSE CATALOGUE.

Whitehorse, Yukon: Lost Moose Publishing, 1997. 224 p., b&w illus., maps. Softbound. Cdn\$26.95.

This is the third and largest catalogue published by Lost Moose Publishing since 1979. With over 250 contributors, the Catalogue is an eclectic mix of stories, science, history, poems, and illustrations of life in the Yukon. It celebrates the beauty of the land and the people, brings laughter and tears, and educates with how-to articles, history, and scientific publications. The collection is not a compilation of the most well-known authors and artists of the North, but rather a juried selection from unsolicited and solicited submissions. It speaks of the diversity of cultures, interests, perceptions, and knowledge of the people living in the North in the late 1990s: “In all our silly poems and goofy pictures, in all our fine handcrafted easy chairs, filling our faces with rosehip jelly and lowbush cranberry tea, mushing our dogs or tapping at our computers, here is whatever the north means, at least to an ill-knit community, scattered around Canada and Alaska, in the hear [sic] and now. This book is our celebration of the North we know today. Whatever kind of thrown-together-and-scattered-again-to-the-four-winds community we might have, we have done what little we could to stitch it together and show it off, in a land so big and wild you can lose a moose in it” (Al Pope: front matter).

The work is loosely divided into nine topic areas, with an additional chapter devoted to book reviews of other

publications from Lost Moose Publishing. The table of contents is repeated on the outside of the back cover, and tabs are printed along the outer edge of every page. An index assists the reader with rudimentary location of general story subjects. Pages have generally been formatted in three-column newspaper style, with an average of two written submissions per page. With an even greater number of visual presentations, the reader is treated to an enormous selection of Yukon impressions. The black-and-white reproduction of most illustrations is of professional quality.

“Lay of the Land” provides the reader with vivid passages describing northern landscapes and colours through the seasons, highlighting the beauty and necessity of out-houses, and showing our obsession with the weather—how cold it gets in the winter, how long the cold lasts, and what works and doesn’t work at those temperatures. The reality that Whitehorse has some urban ailments is evident in the submissions from a street child and a visitor to a drop-in-centre.

“Animals” mixes scientific studies with government publications, tongue-in-cheek humour, tales of encounters, and how-to articles. Readers can learn how to make a moose puppet, which Yukon species are at risk, where bird watching on the Dempster Highway is optimal. A northern rendition of “The Three Little Pigs”—retold as “The Three Gophers”—is particularly entertaining.

“Self-sufficiency” spans recipes for rhubarb, gardening in the North, living at 40 below (the weather theme is evident again), making furniture, dealing with blindness, the art of berry picking and preserving, fixing wobbly axes, and the challenges of working from home. There are stories which reminisce, teach, and entertain.

“Growing kids” is a theme that is new to this catalogue—youth are given a place to record thoughts, ask questions, and exhibit their artwork, while adults talk about youth. A new legend is presented to explain why you should not whistle or clap at the northern lights. While some youth share the positive aspects of being a young person in the Yukon, one teen records a sobering account of youth suicide. The Old Crow school fire, Whitehorse teen-parent centre, and Old Crow youth centre project are factual accounts of events and programs involving youth. Parents who are outdoor enthusiasts share advice on how to succeed at family outings in all seasons.

“Art” presents interviews and notebooks from carvers, weavers, and filmmakers. Artists share the inspiration that they receive from the natural beauty of the land, describe how to make willow baskets, and recall memories from the stage. Art work and photos enliven the pages in this chapter and throughout the collection.

“Recycling” is very similar to the “Self-sufficiency” chapter. Here the reader will find articles on building a home from a garden shed and the local dump, spinning and knitting dog hair, composting with worms, making a quilted pot holder, making paper, and the top ten uses for wooden pallets. The hierarchy of the three Rs is discussed, and personal environmental impact is evaluated.

“On-the-Move” explores the incredible diversity of activities and modes of transportation that Yukoners partake in. Dogsled racing, skijoring, scuba diving, canoeing in December, hitchhiking, hot air ballooning, and hiking all share the pages of this chapter. An article on the lack of services and facilities for those in wheelchairs serves as a reality check for the other stories.

“Wilderness Celebration” is just that—accounts of travelling by horseback, skis, canoe, sea kayak, snowboard, raft, and on foot through all seasons and all parts of the Yukon. This is a potpourri for the armchair traveller who would like to experience a bit of everything, including near misses and fatal accidents.

“Inside Out, Outside In,” the final chapter, reiterates strong positive feelings for special places and seasons in the Yukon. This chapter is another eclectic mix, covering wedding rituals, the extraction of porcupine quills from dogs, the history of Jews in Dawson City during the Gold Rush of 1898, the Dawson City Music Festival, and the history of baseball in the Yukon.

Although the Catalogue is intended to be a representation of the North from a Northerner’s perspective, it is more accurately a Yukon collection. With only a handful of non-Yukon authors, it is a stretch to extrapolate the feelings and interests to the rest of the North—likewise we Yukoners relish and take pride in northern idiosyncracies and oddities, and want to claim them as our own. The emotional expression of the Yukon wilderness in this collection has largely been experienced through outdoor recreation in the form of travel and adventure, as opposed to work involving resource extraction or the service industry. It is therefore not surprising to find a conservation and preservation theme scattered throughout the book.

The Catalogue has some slight shortcomings. Stories are peppered with poetic place names in the North, but the book contains no adequate map. Someone unfamiliar with the Yukon may have a hard time locating a relatively well-known location such as the Tombstones, let alone more obscure locations such as Woodpecker Point. Occasionally the text is difficult to read, owing to poor contrast between text and background or inappropriate choice of font. Profanity, although not dominant in the book, may be offensive to some readers. Submissions are biased in the sense that industrial, First Nations, and Francophone perspectives are not well represented.

Overall, the *Great Northern Lost Moose Catalogue* provided hours of entertaining reading and is the sort of book that will be taken up repeatedly and browsed. I connected with every story and illustration in the collection, either because I know the author or because I know the situation or the location. Although a complete stranger to the Yukon would not have this level of intimacy, I am certain that the variety of topics and styles will appeal to a wide audience—those who live or have lived in the North, would like to live in the North, or know someone who lives in the North.

The Catalogue is not a technical or highly scientific account of the Yukon, but it is filled with humour, impressions, feelings, information, and illustrations that bring a piece of the North alive through hundreds of different pairs of eyes, young and old.

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CIRCUM-ARCTIC MAP OF PERMAFROST AND GROUND ICE CONDITIONS. Compiled and edited by J. BROWN, O.J. FARRIANS, Jr., J.A. HEGINBOTTOM, and E.S. MELNIKOV. U.S. Geological Survey Map CP-45, 1997. Scale 1:10,000,000. 1 sheet, 104 × 147 cm, with marginal text. US\$4.00 + US\$3.50 s&h.

More than 50 years have passed since Simon W. Muller coined the word *permafrost*. At first some linguistic purists objected to the juxtaposition of Latin and Germanic roots, and Kirk Bryan, author of the competing term *pergelisol*, was the most persistent. For some years, Si Muller posted outside his Stanford University office an advertisement that Bryan had sent—for Permalift brassieres.

But the term *permafrost* has stuck in English, and here Jerry Brown’s team from the International Permafrost Association presents a multitude of facts about the permafrost of the Northern Hemisphere.

Permafrost is material beneath the Earth’s surface that remains at or below a temperature of 0°C for at least 2 years. Most of it is much older than that, of course, and permafrost in arctic and alpine regions extends south to latitude 27°N (India/Nepal), ranges to a depth of 900 m (Ellesmere Island), and has a minimum known temperature of -19.8°C (Brock Island). To avoid seasonal effects, the authors report temperatures on the map at a depth of 15–20 m, where the annual fluctuation is negligible.

On the map, a matrix of color patterns delineates the local extent of permafrost, its ground-ice content, and the thickness of affected overburden cover. Tones of purple to brown across all ground-ice and overburden classes mark regions where permafrost underlies more than 90% of the area (termed continuous permafrost). This color pattern visually groups together all the areas of most intense permafrost development.

Where permafrost coverage is less than 90%, tones of blue to green identify areas of generally thick overburden, and tones of orange to red indicate mountainous areas of thin overburden. Within these general domains, separate tones distinguish permafrost extent as discontinuous, sporadic, and isolated patches, and also ground-ice content as high, medium, and low.

The map also distinguishes ice caps and glaciers, as well as relict (fossil) permafrost at depth under recently submerged continental shelves and at the margins of the