



BONFIRES, BUDDIES, AND BINGO

Finally, there is light at the end of the pandemic tunnel with the arrival of vaccines. And there is light in the sky—more of it, anyway. February's the month when I notice the days getting lengthier. Although they've been inching longer since winter solstice, the stretching hours of daylight are now more pronounced, signalling we are rounding the corner toward spring. In Whitehorse, we gain 2.5 hours of daylight this month, starting with about eight hours between sunrise and sunset and finishing with almost 10.5 hours of sun-up time. Dawson City adds three hours of daylight over the month and Old Crow almost four. The extra light in the evening makes it easier to get outside after work, which does us all a dose of good. Experts say getting fresh air is one way to ward off cabin fever, the sense of isolation and restlessness many of us feel from being cooped up during a regular winter, let alone a pandemic one. Fiona

McGlynn, a sailor and Atlinite, is well acquainted with that feeling and shares some of its history, as well as suggestions for preventing it, in her story (pg. 22).

Getting together with friends is another good pick-me-up, which is why bonfires have become the dinner parties of yesteryear, allowing us to socialize in a safe, physically distanced manner. How apt, then, that Miche Genest wrote about bonfire tips, tricks, and menu suggestions (pg. 64). Every time I go to a bonfire I think of Miche's second tip: call the bonfire off if it's too cold or windy—no one wants to freeze or be smoked out. Since I have yet to return home not reeking of smoke, I'm going to get a second-hand jacket for these occasions. In the Yukon, it appears we need formal plaid and bonfire plaid.

Those who aren't attending bonfires on Friday nights may find themselves sitting down to a game of bingo. The pandemic has taken away many things this past

year, but this game, played in the safety of our homes, is as popular as ever. Wayne Potoroka, *YNoO* associate editor, takes us behind the scenes of the Softball Yukon Radio/TV Bingo and introduces us (as much as he can anyway) to the mysterious woman who calls the numbers every week. If you've never played before, this story will have you buying a dabber faster than you can call out the winning word (pg. 50).

Another pandemic trend we're seeing is a spike in pet adoptions because of people spending more time at home and wanting the company of a cat or dog. For most people, one pet is sufficient, but what about 12? Amy Kenny introduces us to someone who has that many dogs and isn't a musher. Check out Amy's story about dog-powered sports in our "Yukon Adventure" column (pg. 72).

However you find yourself surviving or thriving during this time, I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this issue and perhaps discussing them around a bonfire with your buddies of the human or canine kind, even if the latter doesn't have much to add to the conversation.

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