

“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

main permafrost areas. Symbols locate several distinctive permafrost features. These include ice wedges, which grow at endlessly reopened winter shrinkage cracks filled by thaw water, and pingos, which grow where permafrost gaps under lakes refreeze when the lakes are drained and a final kernel of sediment erupts to the surface. A line on the map marks the northern limit of trees.

The map presents four cross sections based largely on boreholes, two in Canada and two in Russia. They show the regional variation in permafrost thickness and type as related to latitude, altitude, and water cover (for relict permafrost).

This is the first map that presents data on permafrost and ground ice in arctic and mountainous regions in a reasonably consistent manner. Viewing the completed map permits speculation on the causes of its patterns. A first-order factor seems to be the warm, moist Gulf Stream. Permafrost is sparse in the quarter of the Earth broadly affected by it, whereas ice caps are abundant there (and they were even more so during the Pleistocene). On the other hand, the quarter of the Earth surrounding the North Pacific Ocean, which lacks a Gulf Stream analog, has thick and continuous permafrost, but few glaciers.

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**SINEWS OF SURVIVAL: THE LIVING LEGACY OF INUIT CLOTHING.** By BETTY KOBAYASHI ISSENMAN. Vancouver: UBC Press. 276 p., maps, illustrations, appendix, notes, glossary of place names, bib., illustration credits, list of sponsors, index. Hardbound. Cdn\$45.00.

The Inuit have been described as a people who live at the edge of the habitable world. In fact, through a series of remarkable social, economic, and technical achievements, they have pushed back that edge. One of their most important technological achievements is the production of tailored skin clothing. As Betty Issenman shows in her book, *Sinews of Survival: The Living Legacy of Inuit Clothing*, this aspect of Inuit technology cannot be fully appreciated outside its cultural context; thus, she sets out to explore Inuit clothing as protection, as marker of identity, and as bearer of culture.

The book begins with an overview of the Inuit, their culture, and their history. The introductory chapter also surveys archaeological evidence relating to skin working and early European images of Inuit clothing. The second chapter discusses the types of animal skins available to the Inuit, their properties, and the challenges of the arctic environment which clothing made from these materials had to meet, including heat conservation, humidity and temperature control, and durability. Issenman also emphasizes in this section how form follows function in Inuit clothing. For example,

Inuit seamstresses avoid placing major seams in areas of stress. Thus, they do not use the narrow armhole typical of European clothing, which physically active people know to be a weak spot. Their larger and differently situated arm opening also makes it easier to draw the arms inside to conserve heat. The author provides many examples of how attributes of arctic skins were employed to maximum advantage. It is well known, for instance, that the hollow hairs on caribou hides provide excellent insulation; Issenman points out that garments made from caribou skins with the hairs left on also provide buoyancy in case of an accidental fall into water. Chapter 3 discusses the tools used to prepare and sew skins and the techniques used to transform the skins into garments. She observes that sinew thread tends to swell when damp, thereby improving the waterproof quality of seams when the garment is exposed to moisture. Such observations underscore the importance of knowing intimately the materials used to make clothing that one depends upon not only for comfort, but also for survival. Stylistic attributes of Inuit clothing and their meaning are explored in Chapter 4. In a pan-Inuit survey of garment styles, Issenman shows how style indicates not only where people come from, but also their age, sex, and (for women) marital status. Some of the more esoteric aspects of clothing, including spiritual, artistic and social traditions, are explored in Chapter 6. For instance, the Inuit believed that by donning skin clothing, one assumes a bond with the animal domain; certain stylistic elements commonly incorporated into clothing reinforce the belief that a transformation has occurred. Even stylistic elements which seem merely decorative may help to signal the identity of the owner. The author discusses the role of skin clothing in marking the life stages as they are recognized by the Inuit, and provides examples of special clothing associated with ceremonies and worn by shamans. The final chapter, which looks at some of the issues facing Inuit in the contemporary world, left me thinking about how traditional skin clothing can continue to play an important role in perpetuating Inuit culture by reinforcing the value of their heritage.

It is obvious that the author has exhaustively researched her subject matter: the book contains an extensive bibliography of published materials. More importantly, Issenman has drawn on the knowledge of Inuit seamstresses and added their voices to the book.

*Sinews of Survival* is a delight to read. It is well written and incredibly informative, and conveys the author's passion for the subject matter. The production values are excellent. The layout of text and illustrative materials minimizes the need to flip back and forth; nor do the illustrative materials block the flow of the text. The high-quality photographs and illustrations in themselves provide for many hours of visual browsing. Even readers with a good knowledge of Inuit ethnology will find this book a learning experience, as it contextualizes information in ways that many will not have encountered.

This book will interest specialists as well as a general audience. Thanks to the rich illustrations, it works well as a coffee table book, yet its wealth of information