

Yukon Transportation Museum Leadership Change

Whitehorse, Yukon -- December 15, 2021

The Yukon Transportation Museum is pleased to welcome Sean Ridder as our Acting Executive Director for a one year term, beginning on January 4, 2022. Sean has been with the museum as our Operations Manager since March 2021. During this time, he has immersed himself in every aspect of the role – working on digital projects and ecommerce initiatives; managing administrative functions, including reporting, facility rentals and staffing; and improving outreach and programming during these challenging pandemic times.

“I am intrigued by the shifting role of the museum in society, as museums like ours across the country are reimagined as community meeting places, laboratories of ideas and caretakers of our shared heritage,” said Ridder. “It is an honour to take on this leadership role at the Yukon Transportation Museum, and I’ll do my best to make this fantastic place even better.”

We are also pleased to announce that our current Executive Director Janna Swales will be continuing her employment with the museum in a specialist role as ‘Museumist’. Janna will focus her efforts on specific and special projects, strategic planning, historical research and exhibit curation.

“It has been such a joy and honour to lead the Yukon Transportation Museum for almost a decade,” said Swales. “I am excited to lend Sean my full support as he steps into this role, and I look forward to helping the museum continue contributing to the fabric of this community. The dedicated directors of the museum’s board are to be commended for their supportive and knowledgeable commitment to Yukon transportation history - thank you. I deeply appreciate all of the board and volunteers and staff I have worked with over the past decade.”

The board of directors appreciates and celebrates Janna's continued commitment to the YTM, and would like to express our collective admiration regarding her valuable and innovative contributions during her time as Executive Director. Under her leadership, the museum hosted the Ice Palace Blues music series, presented provocative exhibits, created space for ongoing community conversations about immigration, electric vehicles and transportation energy networks, adopted permanent winter hours, negotiated a long term lease and vigilantly ensured our newly installed lighting system met all museum standards.

"Janna's energy and passion have pushed the YTM forward in every way. She continually helps us to rethink the concept of transportation: what it is, what it means to us, and how it has changed and continues to change us," said YTM President David Nugent.

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About the YTM

www.goYTM.ca

The Yukon Transportation Museum is a charitable non-profit organization that has been a fixture near the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport since 1990. Our purpose is to tell stories of Yukoners' ingenuity and self-sufficiency through the lens of transportation history in the territory - we do this by identifying, preserving and conserving the history, cultural material and artifacts of Yukon's transportation modes and interpreting these historical items and ideas in an educational manner for all Yukoners and visitors alike. The YTM continually explores and engages with the questions of how and why we have been moving ourselves, our possessions and our ideas over this land for thousands of years.