

# NUGGET CITY HISTORY

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST BUILDING BEGAN IN 1987. A LOCAL FAMILY LIVED IN A TENT RIGHT ON THE BEAVER POST SITE. THEY LOGGED LOCAL TREES AND HAND PEELED AND STRIPPED THE LOGS FOR THE GIFT SHOP. WHILE THEY WERE LIVING IN THE TENT THERE WERE SIGHTINGS OF WILDLIFE, THIS INCLUDED THE BEAR THAT THEY HAD TO CHASE AWAY, RIGHT NEAR THEIR TENT. THE LOGS ARE MASSIVE AND THE STYLE IS UNIQUE. IT IS CALLED A NORWEGIAN SCRIBE AS NO BOLTS OR NAILS ARE USED. EACH PIECE IS UNIQUELY AND CAREFULLY SCRIBED TO FIT INTO EACH OTHER. CAREFUL CALIBRATIONS WERE USED TO COMPENSATE FOR SHRINKAGE OVER THE YEARS. TO FULLY APPRECIATE THIS STRUCTURE WE INVITE YOU TO COME INTO THE GIFT SHOP AND SEE THE MAGNIFICENT "KING PIN" LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THE STORE. THE GIFT SHOP OPERATED ON A SEASONAL BASIS, WITH THE FAMILY MOVING INTO THE STORE AS A RESIDENCE FROM SEPTEMBER - MAY. STILL AFTER 7 YEARS THERE WAS NO RUNNING WATER OR FLUSH TOILETS.

IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT THE ORIGINAL FAMILY DECIDED TO RELOCATE LOCALLY AND SELL THEIR PRIDE AND JOY. WE, THE NEW OWNERS, SCOTT AND LINDA, AND 4 CHILDREN LEE, TARA, AMBER AND KELSEY WERE VERY EXCITED TO START OUR NORTHERN ADVENTURE. SCOTT AND LINDA WERE VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE NORTH AS THEY WERE WHOLESALERS OF ROUGH AND FINISHED JADE AND JEWELLERY PRODUCTS TO OTHER STORES FOR MANY YEARS. LINDA'S PARENTS WERE IN MAYO IN 1951, THEY RETURNED TO THE YUKON IN THE 1970'S TO DO THEIR MINING. A FAMILY BOOK IS AVAILABLE TITLED "RIVERS OF GOLD". AT THAT TIME LINDA HAD BEEN THE OWNER OF A TRANSPORT TRUCK, WHICH HAULED 10-26 TON JADE BOULDERS OUT OF THE DEASE LAKE AREA FOR MANY YEARS. AT THIS TIME HWY #37, WAS ONLY A LOGGING ROAD. WHICH WAS A 3 DAY DRIVE FROM KITWANGA TO DEASE LAKE.

IN 1995, WE, AS THE NEW OWNERS GOT TIRED OF HAULING OUR WATER FROM THE RIVER, AND NOT HAVING THE PRIVILEGE OF A FLUSH TOILET. OUR YUKON OUTHOUSE BECAME AN ATTRACTION, AND OUR YUKON SHOWER (4 POLES, A LARGE TARP WRAPED AROUND THEM WITH A BUCKET BECAME A CONVERSATION PIECE.) WE TOOK ON THE COLOSSAL JOB OF DRILLING A WELL AND PUTTING IN A SEPTIC SYSTEM. OUR RESTAURANT IS BORN.

WE STARTED CONSTRUCTION OF A BAKERY FOR OUR DAUGHTER TARA, IT CONSISTED OF ONLY A TAKE OUT WINDOW. THEN AS WE LAYED THE FOUNDATION, WE DECIDED IT SHOULD ACCOMMODATE JUST A FEW INSIDE SEATS, MAYBE 10. THEN WE DECIDED IT SHOULD HAVE A HOME STOVE SO WE COULD DO SOME SOUP AND SANDWICHES. THE NEXT YEAR WE HAD TO MAKE ROOM FOR 10 MORE SEATS AND MORE TABLES. IN 1997 WE FINALLY HAD TO SUCCUMB TO AN INDUSTRIAL KITCHEN AND BAKERY, COMPLETE WITH 36 SEATS INSIDE AND 40 ON THE DECK. UNTIL 2000 THE NAME WAS "ALASKA HIGHWAYS BEST COFFEE STOP". WE WANTED TO GIVE OUR RESTAURANT A PROPER NAME. WE WANTED THE NAME TO BE FUN, ASSOCIATED WITH A WILD ANIMAL AND BE TRUE. WE HAVE A WHITE WOLF ON THE PROPERTY AND WE NEVER SEEM TO GET ENOUGH TIME TO EAT SO WE ARE ALWAYS "WOLFING IT DOWN." **THUS THE NAME "WOLF IT DOWN".**

IN 2004 THE RESTAURANT WAS EXPANDED YET ANOTHER TIME, THIS TIME ADDING A DINING ROOM FOR SPECIAL GROUPS. THE EXPANSION SEATS 50. OUR LOCAL WOOD CARVER ROGER LATONDRESS, COMPLETED THE INTERIOR WITH ALL THE FANTASTIC WOOD WORK. THE 4 FRONT CABINS WERE STARTED IN 1999. SOME OF THE WOOD THAT WAS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CABINS, WAS DISASSEMBLED BOARD BY BOARD BY SCOTT AND LINDA, FROM THE ORIGINAL ARMY BARRACKS AND MESS AT THE WATSON LAKE AIRPORT. THAT BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1943. THE ADDITION OF THE JACUZZI SUITES AND JETTED TUB SUITES CAME IN 2003, AND THE BLACK BEAR SUITES IN 2004. THE CABINS ARE RATED ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE YUKON TERRITORY. ALL 4 STAR CANADA SELECT. THE BABY NUGGET RV PARK WAS STARTED IN 1995 AS A FAMILY PROJECT WITH LINDA'S PARENTS. HER FATHER DOING ALL THE EARTH MOVING AND SCOTT DOING THE INSTALLATION OF POWER LINES. IT'S GRAND OPENING WAS 2002. BABY NUGGET RV PARK IS STRIVING TO BE ONE OF THE YUKONS FINEST PARKS. OFFERING SOME OF THE LARGEST PULL THROUGHES SEEN IN THE YUKON.

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