

Summer 911

Script Draft #01

Track 13: Malcolm
Track 14: Anna Pugh
Track 15; Stephane

Clips: 122 seconds

[Make first sentence sound like infomercial]

Are you prepared for the day? Are you ready to live... life...now?

In the Yukon, conventional wisdom says: if it's a nice summer day, you better get out and enjoy it.

We never really know when summer's going to arrive—or how long it will stay. Our hot, sunny weather might come for a week in May. In might be one fleeting afternoon in July. It might be tomorrow—and that's all we get.

And, in the ominous words of one Yukon summer-lover:

[CLIP: "If it happens on a week day instead of a weekend, you're hooped." TRACK 13: 00:08-00:13 = 5 seconds]

Maybe. Maybe not. Even a little preparation for an emergency outbreak of summer could go a long way towards avoiding the potential disaster of missing the big event.

We're not saying you have to be paranoid, but that bottle of sunscreen in your basement does have an expiry date. So, as a public service to our fellow Yukoners, Mark and I sought some expert advice on how to be prepared...

[CLIP: "Erin Deacon, Manager Yukon Emergency Measures Organization.... Yukon EMO is responsible for preparedness activities and responding to and recovering from disasters...." TRACK 10 00:08-00:20 = 12 seconds]

Turns out, the possibility of missing summer wasn't up there with forest fires and floods on EMO's list of potential emergencies. But, all the same, their recommendations proved very helpful.

[CLIP: "Three steps. Prepare an emergency kit. Make a plan and know the plan. Know the risks to that plan, risks of the community...." TRACK 10 1:28-1:35 = 7 seconds]

We'd already identified the risks—blink and you might miss a Yukon summer. So, now we had some questions. Like how prepared are Yukoners to seize the day? What kind of plans do we have? And what's in our "emergency" kits?

By this time, we'd really worked up our appetites, so we got some lunch—and our first answers—from the owner of a **mobile** fish and chip stand on the Whitehorse waterfront.

[CLIP: "Given your current situation...?" "No, I don't think so. I think my boss would be pretty lenient on that one." TRACK 15 00:19-00:30 = 11 seconds]

He also had a pretty good idea what he'd do...

[CLIP: “Well, if it was a nice summer day, I guess I would take the fish wagon with me and cook up some fish on that nice summer day, so I’d make sure I had some fresh fish, batters made, fries made and a nice tent to camp and I’d be good to go.” TRACK 15 1:20-1:34 = 14 seconds]

Mark and I certainly admired his readiness. But for a couple of safety zealots like us, that plan sort of sounded like a potential disaster in its own right:

[CLIP: “For that kind of thing, would you maybe want to refill the fire extinguisher with bear repellent? “At least one of them, for sure. It’s quite a moving target for bears....” TRACK 15 2:10-2:23 = 13 seconds]

While not all Yukoners are so fish-centric in their planning—or as likely to have their vehicles attacked by grizzlies—it’s no surprise that most of us include outdoor activities in our summer emergency plans.

[CLIP: “Gotta head out into the mountains, do some hiking, biking, get out onto the rivers, do some paddling.” TRACK 13 00:21-00:27 = 6 seconds]

[CLIP: Mark / “You never know when that summer day’s going to come along and how long it’s going to last, and you don’t want to waste one precious moment, so what kind of things would you want to think about and have prepared so you don’t waste that time?” TRACK 15: 00:58-1:11 = 13 seconds]

[CLIP: “We’ll you’ve got to have your bags packed, gas in the truck, be able to sneak away from the boss.... You’d have to go into stealth mode. You’d have to probably lie and tell them you’re going to a conference or something...” TRACK 13 00:43-00:48 + 1:03-1:13 = 15 seconds]

Of course, not everyone has the means—or the nerve—to forge conference registration documents for their emergency kit.

[CLIP: “I think I’d just go with honesty. ‘It’s summer. I have to leave.’... I can be somewhat flexible in my job, so long as long as I didn’t have to be in court, I could probably react quickly to a summer outbreak.” TRACK 14 00:58-1:02 + 00:07-00:14 = 11 seconds]

Granted, criminals might have a harder time than most Yukoners busting loose to enjoy a quick summer on split-second notice. Some extra planning might be required.

[CLIP: “What would you put in a survival kit designed for this kind of emergency?” “Probably a sleeping bag, some smokies, a bottle of scotch, some hiking boots.” TRACK 14 1:06-1:21 = 15 seconds]

**** Conclusion****

At this point, we’d heard a lot of great ideas etc. Yukoners we surveyed had thought about having vehicles, activities, food, alcohol, outdoor gear, excuses for the boss on standby etc. But we also saw some serious gaps in planning, had visions of people losing precious time finding the perfect summer music, or struggling over outgoing messages for their Voice Mail etc.... **how to rescue friends and loved ones who aren’t as well prepared**

When that day or two comes around, where do YOU want to be? Stuck in the office? Working on a home reno project? Babysitting (trying to be the Yukon’s Best Babysitter?)

Two ideas for conclusion

1. Thing with our own outgoing message, “You’ve reached Smells Like Yukon, the dog ate our script” or something like that
2. We could use the obvious Trooper song that anyone else would probably use for this piece (“We’re here for a good time, not a long time, the sun can’t shine every day”)—but make fun of it / subvert it by writing “If you want to enjoy summer in Yukon, you have to plan like a trooper, even if you can’t stand to listen to one....”

Summer 911

Script Draft #02

Track 13: Malcolm
Track 14: Anna Pugh
Track 15; Stephane

Clips: 122 seconds

[Make first sentence sound like infomercial]

Are you prepared for the day? Are you ready to live... life...now?

Because in the Yukon, you never know when we'll experience a sudden outbreak of hot summer weather.

That's just the way it's been for the last few years. Our summer might come for a week in May or might be one fleeting afternoon in July or it might be tomorrow.

And that could be all we get.

This is not something that Mark and I alone are concerned about.

[CLIP: "If it happens on a week day instead of a weekend, you're hooped." TRACK 13: 00:08-00:13 = 5 seconds]

You heard it. A little preparation for an emergency outbreak of summer could go a long way towards avoiding the potential disaster of missing the big event.

We're not saying you have to be paranoid, but that bottle of sunscreen in your basement does have an expiry date.

So, as a public service to our fellow Yukoners, Mark and I sought some expert advice on how to be prepared for such an emergency.

[CLIP: "Erin Deacon, Manager Yukon Emergency Measures Organization.... Yukon EMO is responsible for preparedness activities and responding to and recovering from disasters...." TRACK 10 00:08-00:20 = 12 seconds]

Well, it turns out that missing a summer outbreak wasn't up there with forest fires and floods on EMO's list of potential emergencies. But, all the same, their recommendations proved very helpful for our crusade.

[CLIP: "Three steps. Prepare an emergency kit. Make a plan and know the plan. Know the risks to that plan, risks of the community...." TRACK 10 1:28-1:35 = 7 seconds]

Ok, we'd already identified the risks—blink and you might miss a Yukon summer.

So, now we had some questions. Like how prepared are Yukoners to seize the day? What kind of plans do we have? And what would we have in our "emergency" kits?

By this time, we'd really worked up our **paranoia** - and appetites. So we got some lunch—and our first answers—from the owner of a **mobile** fish and chip stand on the Whitehorse waterfront.

[CLIP: “Given your current situation...?” “No, I don’t think so. I think my boss would be pretty lenient on that one.” TRACK 15 00:19-00:30 = 11 seconds]

But he also had a pretty good plan of what he’d do in such an emergency.

[CLIP: “Well, if it was a nice summer day, I guess I would take the fish wagon with me and cook up some fish on that nice summer day, so I’d make sure I had some fresh fish, batters made, fries made and a nice tent to camp and I’d be good to go.” TRACK 15 1:20-1:34 = 14 seconds]

Mark and I certainly admired his emergency readiness. But for a couple of safety zealots like us, that plan sort of sounded like a potential disaster – you know, a real one.

[CLIP: “For that kind of thing, would you maybe want to refill the fire extinguisher with bear repellent?” “At least one of them, for sure. It’s quite a moving target for bears....” TRACK 15 2:10-2:23 = 13 seconds]

While not all Yukoners are so fish and chip-centric in their planning, many people have at least a general strategy in the event of a summer outbreak.

[CLIP: “Gotta head out into the mountains, do some hiking, biking, get out onto the rivers, do some paddling.” TRACK 13 00:21-00:27 = 6 seconds]

[CLIP: Mark / “You never know when that summer day’s going to come along and how long it’s going to last, and you don’t want to waste one precious moment, so what kind of things would you want to think about and have prepared so you don’t waste that time?” TRACK 15: 00:58-1:11 = 13 seconds]

[CLIP: “We’ll you’ve got to have your bags packed, gas in the truck, be able to sneak away from the boss.... You’d have to go into stealth mode. You’d have to probably lie and tell them you’re going to a conference or something...” TRACK 13 00:43-00:48 + 1:03-1:13 = 15 seconds]

It seems that having a sort of activity plan is the easy part. Actually making your escape **might** be the biggest challenge. And while some may get out safely with lying and sneaking, others take a more risky approach.

[CLIP: “I think I’d just go with honesty. ‘It’s summer. I have to leave.’... I can be somewhat flexible in my job, so long as long as I didn’t have to be in court, I could probably react quickly to a summer outbreak.” TRACK 14 00:58-1:02 + 00:07-00:14 = 11 seconds]

OK, once you have your activity and escape plans, you’re almost fully prepared. But as recommended by the Emergency Measures Organization, the final element of preparedness is a good kit of supplies.

[CLIP: “What would you put in a survival kit designed for this kind of emergency?” “Probably a sleeping bag, some smokies, a bottle of scotch, some hiking boots.” TRACK 14 1:06-1:21 = 15 seconds]

After talking to these people, we were pleasantly surprised by their level of awareness and preparation for a sudden outbreak of summer. These Yukoners had thought about having vehicles, activities, cocktails and excuses at the ready. But we also saw some serious gaps in their planning. As ones **who’ve** suffered in past summers, Mark and I strongly recommend a stash of good music, lawn chairs and a cooler with ice ready to go. **It doesn’t hurt either, to have**

some basic rescue skills—you know, in case your friends and family aren't as on the ball as you are.

Because when that day or two comes around, where do YOU want to be? Stuck in the office? Working on a home reno project? Or babysitting?

If you want to be prepared for a sudden outbreak of Yukon summer, be prepared and have the courage to act on it. Because it might not last.

Speaking of which, it's 23 degrees out and the lawn chairs call.

[Ringing]

[voice mail]: you have reached the Smells like Yukon corporate headquarters. We're currently at a conference and won't be returning until sometime in September. Please, don't leave a message.