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Archival Gold captures the influence and romance of Yukon history

WHITEHORSE—A new exhibit at Arts Underground titled *Archival Gold: Favourites from the Vault* captures the influence and romance of Yukon history through a small sampling of the many items managed by Yukon Archives.

"The Yukon government remains committed to safeguarding and promoting Yukon's rich archival records," Tourism and Culture Minister Mike Nixon said. "This exhibit helps share some of those records with Yukoners and expands our understanding of the unique history that has shaped Yukon."

Archival Gold: Favourites from the Vault is a collaboration between Yukon Archives and Friends of Yukon Archives Society (FOYAS). The exhibit offers residents and visitors the opportunity to experience first-hand a small sampling of some of the extensive and fascinating collection of documentary heritage. This includes biographies, business records, genealogy timelines, estate records, works of fiction and other materials preserved at the archives.

"The Friends of Yukon Archives are delighted about the opening of this exhibit," FOYAS treasurer Julie Ourom said. "We hope viewers enjoy seeing the many items displayed for public viewing and that they lead to a fuller appreciation of what is stored in the archives vault in safe-keeping for Yukoners."

An opening reception co-hosted by Yukon Archives and FOYAS takes place tonight at 5 p.m. at Arts Underground in Whitehorse. The public is invited to come and experience some of the favourites as chosen by Archives staff. The oldest item in the collection is a map detailing Vitus Bering's 1728 voyage through the strait that bears his name. Another important selection is the John Hamilton collection that contains 133 images from the 1930s when Hamilton worked as a deckhand for the White Pass & Yukon Railway. *Archival Gold* is on display through to January 26, 2013.

Arts Underground is a partnership that began in June 2005 between the Yukon Art Society, the Yukon Arts Centre, the MacBride Museum of Yukon History, FOYAS and the Hougen Centre.

Yukon Archives is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. For more information about Yukon Archives and the collection visit www.tc.gov.yk.ca.

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See photos below.

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