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Dawson-area Farmers Honoured

WHITEHORSE – The winners of the 2009 Farmers of the Year Award are Grant Dowdell and Karen Digby of Dawson City.

“Grant and Karen’s hard work has enriched their local community and demonstrates how local agriculture in Yukon can really make a difference,” Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang said at the recent North of 60° Agriculture Banquet.

They are admired by the Yukon agriculture community for their ability to consistently supply local markets, while offering a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, and bedding plants.

Their products are often found at Dawson City’s waterfront market, local grocery stores and restaurants. During the summer, bouquets of their farm’s flowers grace many of the historic buildings, hotels and homes in Dawson City.

In addition, Dowdell and Digby have provided the Growers of Organic Food Yukon with a test plot for the organization’s five-year legume study. They generously host the visiting technicians while they are working there.

“Grant Dowdell and Karen Digby have made a tremendous contribution to Yukon’s agriculture sector and to the everyday lives of those in Dawson City,” Klondike MLA Steve Nordick said.

Dowdell and Digby’s three-acre farm is located approximately eight miles upstream of Dawson City on a small island in the Yukon River.

The banquet, which featured locally grown foods, concluded the two day North of 60° Agriculture Conference that was held November 6 and 7. The conference focused on opportunities for growth in Yukon’s agriculture sector and hosted speakers from Yukon, Alaska and Nova Scotia.

For more information on agriculture in Yukon visit www.agriculture.gov.yk.ca.

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