



**Yukon Historical &
Museums Association**



**heritage
yukon**
Step in to our story

Yukon Historical & Museums Association
Inspiring and sharing a passion for Yukon heritage

2016-17
ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17 Highlights

Nurtured cross-industry partnerships between Yukon and out-of-territory heritage and community institutions

YHMA worked with local and out-of-territory heritage institutions, academic institutions, and community groups to produce a ground-breaking conference connecting participants from across the globe.

Provided over \$55,000 in grants through the Yukon Heritage Training Fund

The long-term capacity of the Yukon heritage sector grew through over 20 training projects including more than 60 participants.

Coordinated marketing through the Joint Marketing Program

This initiative provides marketing support and capacity development, and encourages collaboration among participating Yukon heritage organizations.

Recognized achievement through the 2016 Heritage Awards

Ruth Gotthardt, Sid van der Meer, the Village of Mayo, *The North and the First World War* Conference Committee, and Peter Long were recognized for their exceptional contributions to Yukon heritage.

Strengthened the Yukon heritage community network

Through communication tools like our website and e-bulletin, YHMA reinforced the network that connects the Yukon heritage community with Yukoners, visitors, and the global heritage community.

Advocated for Yukon's heritage and heritage community

YHMA was active across the territory and beyond on several issues of concern to the Yukon heritage community.

Raised awareness and knowledge of the Yukon's heritage

Through contests and public events, YHMA worked to raise awareness and knowledge of the special places, stories, and groups that contribute to the Yukon's rich and diverse heritage.

Supported initiatives to protect, conserve and celebrate Yukon heritage

By providing advice, resources, contacts, letters of support and more, YHMA continued to assist both groups and individuals in heritage-related projects.

Table of Contents

Message from the President	4
Message from the Executive Director	5
YHMA Board of Directors	6
Committees	6
About YHMA	7
Communicate, Connect, Collaborate	8
EDUCATION	9
Yukon Heritage Training Fund	9
Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair	10
NETWORKING & ADVOCACY	10
Annual Charity Croquet Tournament & Après Croquet	10
Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIA)	11
Government of Canada Heritage Group Meeting	11
Private Members Bill C-323	11
Conference and National Meeting Attendance	12
PARTNERSHIPS	12
The North and the First World War Conference	12
Joint Marketing Program	13
AWARENESS	14
2016 Yukon Heritage Awards	14
Culture Days & Doors Open	15
Heritage Day Colouring & Trivia Contest	15
Engaging New Canadians	15
Thank You Supporters Circle	16

A message from The President



Sally Robinson
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sally Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Yukon Historical and Museums Association is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. We remain a dedicated core of volunteers and staff working with a strong heritage community to identify, protect, conserve, and interpret Yukon heritage.

We have had a busy year with many events and some very active committees. The Heritage Fair and Heritage Awards events were well-attended to honour highly deserving projects and heritage heroes. We hosted *The North and First World War* conference that successfully added to the body of knowledge about the role of the North during the WWI years. The papers have been published in a special edition of *The Northern Review*. Outcrop Yukon completed a review of the Joint Marketing Program that we will use to revise the program. Linda Johnson has been working to update *The Kohklux Map* booklet about the earliest-known map of southern Yukon. We wrapped up a Heritage Training Fund agreement with the Government of Yukon (YG) and are embarking on another three-year agreement to increase the skills of Yukon's heritage workers.

Last fall we welcomed Lianne Maitland as our new Executive Director. Nancy Oakley has moved to other career opportunities with our best wishes and thanks for her three-year term. Isabelle, Fréchette, Owen Williams and Rebecca Manias have retired from the Board with our thanks. The Board remains strong with the addition of Kaitlin Normandin and Kim Rogers for 2017-18. Kaitlin has joined the Executive Committee as our new treasurer.

It has been an action-packed year – and more to come. Many thanks to the Government of Yukon and our sponsors their support.

A message from

The Executive Director



Lianne Maitland
Executive Director

Lianne Maitland

2016-17 was in many ways a year of transition for the Yukon Historical and Museums Association. This summer we bid farewell to Nancy Oakley, our Executive Director, and to Liam Campbell, our summer student and Programs Coordinator, who both departed for new opportunities. Since I joined YHMA in the fall, I have been working hard to take up their mantles and continue their good work.

We also completed our first year of under a new three-year operational funding agreement with the Government of Yukon (YG), and wrapped up another three-year funding agreement with YG for the Yukon Heritage Training Fund. These multi-year funding agreements have provided us with stability and enabled us to focus more on program delivery.

This year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of our founding meeting, held on March 12, 1977 and attended by over 25 concerned and passionate Yukoners who wanted to create a united voice for understanding and promoting heritage and history in the Yukon. While the heritage sector has changed a great deal in 40 years, YHMA's passion for it has not diminished. It is a great privilege to be able to work towards the safeguarding, conserving, and sharing of Yukon's world-class natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of future generations.

It has been wonderful a getting to know the YHMA Board, members, volunteers, and partners. I am happy to be able to share the many accomplishments of YHMA that our supporters have helped us to achieve over the last year in this Annual Report. Thank you, mashi cho and gunalchéesh!

2016-17 Board of Directors

Sally Robinson, President
Katie Newman, Vice-President
Cathy Hines, Secretary/Treasurer
Isabelle Fréchette, Treasurer
Marc Johnston, Past President

Cindy D. Charlie
Mike Mancini
Rebecca Manias
Jake Paleczny
Owen Williams

Committees

Heritage Training Fund Committee: This committee meets quarterly to review, select, and approve funding applications, ensures compliance with the Community Training Fund Operating Procedures for Regional and Sectoral Training Funds, and also reviews and updates the HTF Training Fund Policy, including application guidelines and criteria, on a regular basis.

Joint Marketing Committee: This committee is comprised of YHMA institutional members who have opted into the Joint Marketing program. The committee typically meets twice per year and is intended as a forum to provide affordable, effective promotion for members, to build capacity by disseminating best marketing practices and relevant information, and to encourage cross-promotion and collaboration among participants.

Heritage Fair Committee: This committee meets as necessary to assist in the planning and coordination of the annual Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair.

Awards Committee: This committee convenes annually to accept and review nominations for the Yukon Heritage Awards.

Fundraising Committee: This committee meets as necessary to coordinate special fundraising efforts for the Association.

Conference Committee: A conference committee is struck as necessary to organize YHMA's conferences and symposiums.

Ad Hoc Committees: Ad hoc committees are struck as necessary to address special projects or issues that arise.

About YHMA

Mission

YHMA will inspire and share a passion for Yukon heritage by providing opportunities and support for education, networking, advocacy, partnerships and awareness.

Vision

- We will inspire a passion for Yukon history in everyone.
- We will have a well-defined and focussed role.
- We will be a central place where everyone can:
 - Learn about history, heritage and best practices
 - Share their interests and perspectives on heritage
 - Come together to identify common interests
 - Support the protection and preservation of Yukon heritage.
- We will use and share best practices in heritage.
- Our board and members will want to be actively involved in the YHMA.
- We will use creative partnerships for the promotion, protection and preservation of Yukon heritage.

YHMA at the heart of the heritage community:

50+ volunteers

50+ members

500+ participants in YHMA programs and services

Values

Vibrancy Passion
Fun Partnerships
Encouragement
Inspiration Sharing

Communicate, Connect, Collaborate

YHMA serves to connect, engage and share information among the Yukon heritage sector. No easy feat for a community scattered across over 480,000 km²!

In meeting this challenge, we have adopted a simple philosophy: by better connecting our members to YHMA and one another, we can nurture a positive environment that encourages knowledge-sharing and collaboration among practitioners, while raising awareness about the Territory's unique and diverse heritage.

Building communication tools developed in 2014, YHMA set out to activate the Yukon heritage network.

We did this in a number of ways:

- Grew engagement with Yukon heritage community by reaching out to heritage organizations and individuals not previously connected with YHMA
- Continued sharing timely heritage news and information through our **e-bulletin, website and social media channels**
- Actively partnering with members to develop and deliver capacity-building initiatives like our **Joint Marketing Program**
- Created a forum for the local heritage community to come together with historians and academics from across Canada, the U.S. and overseas to share knowledge at **The North and the First World War Conference**
- Strengthened relationships with extra-territorial partners and advocated for Yukon heritage through activities like the **Government of Canada Heritage Group Meeting**

Growing an Audience

20,000+ annual website visitors

600+ social media followers

350+ e-bulletin subscribers

Education

Yukon Heritage Training Fund

YHMA administers the Yukon Heritage Training Fund (YHTF), which supports opportunities for Yukon residents to increase their skills and knowledge in the heritage sector. Over \$55,000 in funding was approved for applications that provided over 20 training opportunities between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017, from which over 60 individual participants benefitted.



YHMA will support education and provide training opportunities for heritage professionals and non-professional members. In doing so, we will help encourage a deeper commitment to Yukon history and heritage and improve the tools and practices that are used in interpreting and conserving Yukon heritage.

YHTF is funded by the Government of Yukon Department of Education, Advanced Education Unit. All training approved through this fund supports objectives to increase the employability of Yukon's heritage workers and provide Yukon heritage employers with a better-trained workforce. YHMA is dedicated to leveraging the impact of the YHTF to develop the capacity and long-term sustainability of the heritage sector. This is achieved by increasing the number of people with the skills necessary to obtain and maintain work in the heritage sector, increasing job satisfaction and labour market competitiveness, and by providing human resources which enable the Yukon

to develop its heritage resources at a world-class, professional level.

Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair

The annual Heritage Fair is an educational initiative that encourages students to explore Canadian heritage in a dynamic and captivating learning environment. Students use the media of their choice to share their learning about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones and achievements in Canadian History, or their own family or community history – and then proudly present their research at a public exhibition.

The fairs give students a voice to tell their own stories in their own ways, and their enthusiasm, creativity, and passion make the fairs a highlight of the school year.

The 18th annual Fair was held on May 5, 2016 at the Yukon Transportation Museum (YTM) in Whitehorse. 52 students from nine schools across the territory and Northern BC showcased their research to over thirty enthusiastic volunteer judges, as well as their peers and the public. Over 200 people enjoyed the day's event.



Students also had the opportunity to participate in educational activities at the Beringia Centre.

Participating schools ranged from Atlin to Old Crow, with individual projects spanning from the equipment needed to traverse the Chilkoot Trail during the Gold Rush to old Gwitch'in cooking techniques and everything in between. The volunteer judges had their work cut out for them trying to choose winners for the various prizes available to the students.



Credit: Bruce Barrett

The goals of the Fair include creating an engaging learning environment for students to strengthen their appreciation for Canadian heritage, and developing students' roots in their communities and cultures to inspire them to participate in shaping Canada's future.

Networking & Advocacy

Charity Croquet Tournament & Après Croquet

In 2016 YHMA one again hosted its major fundraising event: our charity croquet tournament! The event provided the opportunity for participants to win fantastic prizes, earn bragging rights and support the work of YHMA. The event raised some much-needed funds, helped raise awareness of Yukon heritage and heritage organizations, and proved to be a fun and sociable networking event. 18 participants squared off in this one-day event, which was held on the lawns of the S.S. Klondike National Historic Site in Whitehorse, while numerous spectators cheered them on.

A huge thank you to all of the wonderful community and corporate partners who helped support this year's event!

YHMA will strengthen the ties of the heritage community through the facilitation of interaction among all stakeholders with an interest in Yukon heritage. This will be accomplished through fun and memorable



Credit: Bruce Barrett

Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIA)

As a Designated Organization (DO), YHMA maintains a permanent seat on the TIA Yukon Board of Directors. Through this position, we continued to share the interests and concerns of the heritage community with the broader tourism sector and to play an important connecting role between these groups.

Government of Canada Heritage Group Meeting

YHMA participated in a meeting between provincial and territorial museum associations and the Government of Canada Heritage Group to discuss and provide feedback on upcoming changes, funding programs, and projects within the Canadian Heritage Information Network, Canadian Conservation Institute, and Programs and Policies Directorate. This was a valuable opportunity to share a Yukon perspective to help strengthen Federal support of the heritage sector.

This was followed by a meeting of the national and provincial/territorial museum associations, during which the groundwork was laid for a National Training Strategy. It was also chance to connect with colleagues across the country to discuss matters of shared interest, keep a finger on the pulse of the national heritage community, and strengthen our national network.

Private Members Bill C-323

Through our membership in the National Trust for Canada, YHMA was active in sharing information about Private Members Bill C-323, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (rehabilitation of historic property) and its potential benefits to heritage and other areas with our members, social media followers, and politicians. If successful, this Bill would establish a tax credit for expenses related to the rehabilitation of a historic property, thereby encouraging preservation over destruction.

Acting on behalf of membership and in partnership with heritage-related stakeholders, **YHMA will advocate on significant and relevant heritage-related issues.**

Conference and National Meeting Attendance

YHMA sent representatives to the Canadian Museums Association and National Trust for Canada annual conferences and national meetings, helping to maintain profile of the Yukon's heritage and heritage sector as well as making new connections, collecting ideas and resources, and contributing to national heritage initiatives.

Partnerships

The North and the First World War Conference



The centenary of the First World War offered an opportunity to better understand the relationship between the North and the conflict - until this ground-breaking conference, a relatively unknown chapter of Yukon and world history.

In 2014, YHMA coordinated a series of initiatives to commemorate the First World War and explore its impact on the North. These activities culminated in the *North and First World War* conference held in Whitehorse, May 9-15, 2016.

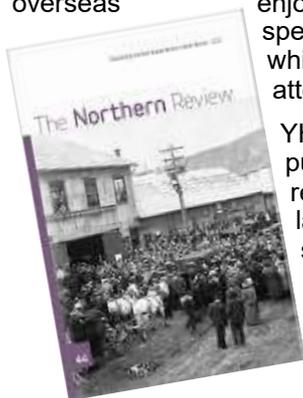
This international event was co-produced by the International Centre for Northern Governance & Development at the University of Saskatchewan, in partnership with Yukon College and with the support of numerous community organizations and sponsors.



Credit: Gary Bremner

Over 125 participants from Canada, the U.S., and overseas

enjoyed training workshops, a variety of presentations and special events, and a three-day study tour to Dawson City, while many more members of the local community also attended a number of commemorative activities.



YHMA arranged for the conference proceedings to be published in a special edition of Yukon College's peer-reviewed journal, *The Northern Review*, ensuring a lasting legacy for the conference and representing a significant addition to the body of resources on WWI and Northern history. The journal can be accessed online at <https://doi.org/10.22584/nr44.2017.100>. A limited number of hard copies are available through YHMA.

Awareness

2016 Yukon Heritage Awards

The Yukon Historical & Museums Association presented the annual Yukon Heritage Awards during Heritage Week, with the support of the Government of Yukon Historic Sites Unit. The Yukon heritage community was on hand to hear speaker Molly Shore present on the Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site nomination process and celebrate the achievements of the following recipients:

Dr. Ruth Gotthardt (History Maker Award): Recently retired Yukon Archaeologist Dr. Gotthardt has authored and co-authored many significant studies that have put Yukon at the forefront of important northern research. Ruth has played a huge part in exploring, documenting, and protecting Yukon archaeological sites and artifacts.

Sid van der Meer (History Maker Award): Sid van der Meer is a local historian, owner of the Border Town Garage and Museum in Beaver Creek, and an entertaining and knowledgeable story-teller. He is a treasure house of tales related to his collection of vintage and Alaska Highway memorabilia, which he shares with visitors and Yukoners throughout the summer.



Credit: Kathy Jones-Gates

Village of Mayo (Heritage Conservation Project of the Year): The award was presented to the Village of Mayo in recognition of their conservation and restoration of the Mabel McIntyre House, also known as the Mayo Mining Recorder's Office. Mabel McIntyre, a local First Nation woman, lived in the house between 1946 and 1981 and gave it much of its most recent significance. This award is sponsored by the Historic Sites Unit.

The North and the First World War Conference Committee (Helen Couch Volunteer of the Year Award): Made up of Dr. Ken Coates, Dr. Brent Slobodin (co-chairs), Michael Gates, Max Fraser, Piers McDonald, Dan Davidson, Joanne Lewis, and Marius Curteanu, the committee put in two years of hard work to produce an entertaining and informative conference to illuminate a previously little-known and poorly understood era of Yukon History.

Peter Long (Innovation, Education and Community Engagement Award): Peter Long's recent research and website publication, *Forgotten Trails: Walking the Hepburn Tramway*, demonstrates leadership and an outstanding contribution to Yukon heritage preservation. Peter's work on the Hepburn Trail is fueled by his desire to have aspects of our local history valued, protected, and developed.

Culture Days & Doors Open

YHMA worked with the Yukon Arts Centre to help coordinate Culture Days & Doors Open activities. Culture Days & Doors Open are nationwide movements that help increase public access to and appreciation of culture and heritage through free events, encouraging residents to be tourists in their own town.

Culture Days was launched in 2010 and aims to foster appreciation, support of, and participation in the cultural lives of communities amongst all citizens. Originating in Scotland in 1990, Doors Open has since spread to dozens of countries and thousands of cities, providing millions of visitors with the opportunity to explore buildings and sites important to their communities that may not otherwise be accessible.

Between September 30 and October 2, Yukoners and visitors took part in 24 activities organized across the Territory, including several hosted by YHMA and its members. The YHMA offices in the Donnerworth House played host to a "Historian Fireside Chat": folks were invited to stop in for coffee and tea and visit with local historians as they share some of their favourite stories from Yukon history and adventures while 'on the job'. Our sincere thanks go to Sally Robinson, Helene Dobrowolsky, and David Neufeld for their fascinating stories.

Heritage Day Colouring & Trivia Contest

Each year, Yukon celebrates Heritage Day on the third or fourth Friday in February. Celebrating this year's theme of "My Canada!", YHMA coordinated a newspaper colouring and trivia contest, featuring an image created by local artist Chris Caldwell. Kids were invited to colour in the drawing and answer Yukon trivia questions to be entered to win several fabulous prizes generously donated by Parks Canada.



Engaging New Canadians

A gift to new Canadians for the first year of their citizenship, the Cultural Access Pass provides complimentary admission to more than 1,000 of Canada's cultural treasures from coast-to-coast-to-coast. The Cultural Access Pass encourages Canada's newest citizens to discover our rich cultural history, world-renowned artworks, historical figures and stunning parks.

As part of its awareness-raising activities, YHMA distributed numerous Cultural Access Passes to new Canadians in the Yukon during 2016-17.

YHMA will inspire a passion for heritage by raising awareness. YHMA will raise awareness both within and outside of the Yukon, and in doing so, we will encourage people to see history and heritage as fun, interesting and vibrant.

Thank You | Supporters Circle

The Yukon Historical & Museums Association is pleased to recognize the support of our members, the Yukon community, businesses, and government partners who support us. Our ongoing work helps to safeguard, conserve and share the Yukon's rich and diverse heritage with Yukoners and visitors from around the world. Your ongoing support ensures this heritage enriches the lives of current and future generations.

Thank you...

- To the dozens of volunteers who commit hundreds of volunteer hours to our programs and activities, year after year.
- To our generous individual donors, community organizations and corporate partners who support our activities through sponsorship and donations.
- To our local, territorial and federal government funders for their continued support of important heritage initiatives.

Adäka Cultural Festival
Air North, Yukon's Airline
Alpine Health
Audrey McLaughlin
Bean North Coffee Roasting Co. Ltd.
Binette Cultural Solutions
Bruce Barrett
City of Whitehorse
Candy's Fruit Stand
Coast High Country Inn
Copperbelt Railway & Mining Museum
Government of Canada
Hair Sensations
Hootalinqua Motion Pictures
International Centre for Northern
Governance and Development
JaS Varieties
Jim Robb
Karl Gurcke
Katie Newman
Keno City Snack Bar
Keno Community Club
Klondike Visitors Association
Linda Johnson
Lori Eastmure
Maggie Leary
Michael Gates
Midnight Arts
Miles Canyon Historical Railway
Society

Morgen Smith
Muktuk Adventures
Myrna's Period Costume Rentals
Northern Vision Development
Northwestel
Outcrop Yukon
Parks Canada
Patricia Halladay Graphic Design
Piers MacDonald
Riverside Grocery
Royal Canadian Legion
Takhini Hot Pools
The Croquet Store
Village of Mayo
White Pass & Yukon Route Railroad
Yukon Archives
Yukon Brewing
Yukon Chamber of Mines
Yukon College
Yukon Denture Clinic
Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism
Association
Yukon Government
Yukon Mines Legacy Foundation
Society
Yukon Transportation Museum
Yukon Wildlife Preserve
Anonymous donors