



Yukon Historical &  
Museums Association



heritage  
yukon  
Step in to our story

Yukon Historical & Museums Association  
*Strengthening heritage in the Yukon*

2019-20  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

# 2019-20 Highlights

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## **Committed** over \$35,000 in grants through the Yukon Heritage Training Fund

The long-term capacity of the Yukon heritage sector grew through 18 training projects benefitting 40 participants.

## **Planned and hosted** a major international conference

The Our Trails Bring Us Together / *Haa deiyi wóoshxh haa ta.ât / Łách'i tǎn kwaäga dūjal du* Conference attracted nearly 200 attendees from Canada and the United States and marked the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux maps.

## **Secured the loan** of the original Kohklux and Kandik maps

With the assistance of several partners, YHMA arranged for the loan of the original small Kohklux and Kandik maps, which were displayed at the Da Kų and Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centres and available for public viewing.

## **Fostered student learning** through the Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair

32 student projects wowed judges at the 21st annual fair, attended by over 100 students, teachers, volunteer judges, dignitaries, and guests.

## **Recognized achievement** through the 2019 Heritage Awards

John Firth, Helene Dobrowolsky, Ron Ingram, Lillian Nakamura Maguire, Gwaandak Theatre, and Vuntut Gwitchin Government received awards for their contributions to Yukon heritage.

## **Advocated** for Yukon's heritage and heritage community

YHMA was active regarding a variety of advocacy issues relating to the Yukon heritage community, including the early impacts of COVID-19.

## **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.

## **Raised awareness and knowledge** of the Yukon's heritage

Through activities 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 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.

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# A message from The President

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**Sylvie Binette**  
President

What an interesting year it has been—a year of changes and unprecedented times for all of us. Without exception, this year has kept the Yukon Museums & Historical Association’s (YHMA) dedicated and committed staff, volunteers, and community busy at working to identify, protect, and interpret Yukon heritage.

Connecting with and strengthening our community is core to YHMA’s work. It drives the way we continue to improve and diversify our offerings. Highlights for this year include the international conference to mark the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux maps and the development of a travelling exhibit, which is now available for rental.

Near the end of the year, COVID-19 changed our world, and YHMA was quick to take action through advocacy. YHMA also sat on several committees to represent heritage interests, and submitted feedback on various proposals.

We were able to pack in one more “crowded” event before the pandemic and celebrate our community via the Yukon Heritage Awards, with an inspiring address on archives and records in digital age by Dr. Laura Millar. Wasn’t that timely?

Thank you to our capable and hard-working Executive Director Lianne Maitland and summer student Elisha Ida, to our temporarily outgoing, devoted director Sally Robinson, and to Kaitlin Normandin for her role as President and then Director. Another big thank you to all our volunteers, members, donors, partners, sponsors, and funders—we couldn’t do it without you.

In closing, I’d like to dedicate this report to Bonar Cooley, past president of the Teslin Historical & Museum Society. May we be thankful for his contribution to Teslin and Yukon heritage, and may it be celebrated for many generations to come.

A message from

# The Executive Director

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**Lianne Maitland**  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lianne Maitland".

Every year while preparing this report, I have the opportunity to look back over all the activities which the Yukon Historical & Museums Association (YHMA) undertook over the course of the year. As I worked my way through, I was impressed by how much we accomplished. It can be difficult while in the thick of things to see the whole scope, and certainly this was not an exception.

While there were many notable projects this year, a stand-out initiative for 2019-20 was the Our Trails Bring Us Together / *Haa deiyi wóoshxh haa ɬa.át / Łáčh'í tǎn kwaága dūjal du* conference. With the addition of a travelling exhibition and the loan of the original Kohklux and Kandik maps, this conference was beyond our usual scope. Such a huge project could be only accomplished through the combined efforts of multiple partners and our amazing organization committee, and they deserve a hearty round of applause!

In fact, everything that we do is made possible by the contributions of our supporters, without whom YHMA would not exist. From our dedicated Directors, who guide the organization, to our donors and funders, who provide us with vital financial resources, to the public that accesses our programs and services, and everyone in between—members, volunteers, partners, sponsors, and more—each one of our supporters is critical to YHMA's success.

On behalf of the YHMA staff, I would like to extend my thanks to all of you. I submit this report for your consideration with great pleasure.

As we all continue to respond to the pandemic that gripped the world in March, rest assured YHMA will continue to work on behalf of Yukon heritage.

# 2019-20 Board of Directors

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Kaitlin Normandin, President/Director  
Sylvie Binette, Vice-President/  
President  
Cathy Hines, Secretary

Allison Belshaw, Treasurer  
Sally Robinson, Past President  
Judy Hartling  
Georgianna Low

## 2019-20 Staff

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Lianne Maitland  
Executive Director

Elisha Ida  
Community Relations Coordinator

## Committees

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**Membership Committee:** This committee is responsible for monitoring member satisfaction and reviewing YHMA's membership program.

**Lease and Property Management Committee:** This committee assists the Executive Director in property management issues.

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

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

**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.

**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

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The Yukon Historical & Museums Association was established in 1977 by a group of concerned and passionate individuals to create a united voice for understanding and promoting heritage and history in the Yukon. Today, YHMA is a territorially-incorporated Society and a registered charitable organization whose membership reflects the scope and diversity of the Yukon heritage community, comprising heritage organizations, heritage sector workers, and others actively involved in the heritage sector or who have an interest in heritage.

We keep apprised of issues and advocate on behalf of the Yukon's heritage and heritage sector. We continue to build a learning environment for history and culture and the development of skills and best practices in the heritage sector. We share knowledge with the Yukon heritage community and support each other in protection and conservation projects.

## Vision

Yukoners encounter and celebrate their heritage daily.

## Mission

YHMA will strengthen heritage in the Yukon through leadership, advocacy and education.

## Values

Vibrancy  
Fun  
Passion  
Partnerships  
Encouragement  
Inspiration  
Sharing

***YHMA at the heart of the heritage community:***

70+ volunteers

55 members

400+ participants in YHMA programs and services

# Strengthening YHMA, Strengthening Community

YHMA serves to connect, engage, and share information among members of the Yukon heritage sector, and to raise awareness of and support for the territory's unique and diverse heritage. No easy feat for a community scattered across over 480,000 km<sup>2</sup>!

Over the past year, YHMA has undertaken a wide variety of activities aimed at strengthening the organization and improving our ability to support Yukon heritage and the heritage community.

We did this in a number of ways:

- **Hosted an international conference to mark the 150th anniversary of the Kohlux maps** in partnership with the Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center and Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, bringing together over 50 presenters and 130 additional attendees from Canada and the United States.
- **Produced a travelling exhibition on the Kohlux and Kandik maps** in connection with the conference, now available for rental.
- Worked with our partners to **secure the loan of the original small Kohlux and Kandik maps** from The Bancroft Library in California.
- **Assisted heritage professionals, organizations, and members of the public in finding contacts and resources**, both financial and informational, for their heritage-related projects.
- Conducted our **first annual stakeholder survey** to identify advocacy priorities and ways to improve our programs and services.
- Continued to deliver our **core programs and services**, advocate on behalf of Yukon heritage, share timely heritage news and information, and maintain our national and territorial networks.
- Ran a **series of vintage, antiques, and collectibles sales and community garbage clean ups** as fundraisers, forging new connections with heritage enthusiasts.
- **Supported our Executive Director in pursuing additional training** on cultural tourism, non-violent crisis intervention, copyright law, and digital literacy.
- Embarked on a **coaching project** through the National Trust for Canada Launch Pad Coaching Grant to develop an **improved fundraising program**.

## *Growing an Audience*

1200+ social media followers

400+ e-bulletin subscribers



# Leadership & Advocacy

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## 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.

YHMA Vice President Sylvie Binette attended TIA Yukon's 2019 Fall Conference representing YHMA, while President Kaitlin Normandin continued to represent YHMA on the TIAY Board of Directors. In this role she supported early research and advocacy efforts led by TIAY in response to COVID-19.

## National Conference and Meeting Attendance

YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended to the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) national conference, helping to maintain the 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.

During the conference, Lianne attended a meeting with the national and provincial museum associations to discuss items of mutual interest. Topics discussed included the 2018 report of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage regarding Canadian museums, and the response from the federal government, as well as advocacy during the federal election.

At this meeting, YHMA also joined other provincial and territorial museum associations in committing to support a research project led by the Alberta Museums Association to ensure the project is representative of the Yukon and Canada as a whole. This project will focus on the value of museums in society as perceived by the public, and on the development of advocacy tools based on this research.

## Museums and Cultural Centres Roundtable

YHMA Vice President Sylvie Binette and Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended the Yukon Museums and Cultural Centres Roundtable hosted by the Museums Unit, Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon in November 2019 as observers.

The Roundtable provides Museums Unit clients the opportunity to come together to connect, discuss matters of mutual interest, and set shared goals.



*The 2019 CMA national conference was held in Toronto. Credit: Petrus Lommerse*

Participating as an observer allows YHMA to stay connected with the museum community and appraised of current activities, issues, and initiatives.

## **Yukon Tourism Development Strategy**

YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland held a seat on the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy (YTDS) Implementation Committee, which formerly had the role of Steering Committee. The Implementation Committee advised the Department of Tourism & Culture on the development of the Terms of Reference for the new Yukon Tourism Advisory Board (YTAB), which replaced the YTDS in March 2020.

## **Klondike National Historic Sites Advisory Committee**

YHMA Director Sally Robinson continued to represent YHMA on the Klondike National Historic Sites Advisory Committee. She attended two meetings over the course of the year, advocating for a protection-based approach to built heritage and for more attention to be given to the extensive artefact collection.

## **Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy**

In May, YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended a public engagement session on the Creative and Cultural Industries Strategy to be developed by the Government of Yukon. As one of the few representatives in attendance working in heritage, Lianne helped to bring the perspective and needs of the sector into the conversation. The strategy is still in development.

## **Federal Election**

YHMA worked with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and provincial museum associations to develop an infographic and clear messaging to communicate priority recommendations to support the museum sector for use during the federal election.

With support from the provincial and territorial museum association, including YHMA, the CMA sent letters with these recommendations to all party leaders, and followed up on the recommendations post-election with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The museum associations were pleased that a review of the national museum policy, one of our key recommendations, was included in Minister of Canadian Heritage Steven Guilbeault's mandate letter, and continue to advocate for this commitment to be fulfilled.

## **Museum Funding**

Responding to a request from the museum community, YHMA shared concerns regarding museum and cultural centre funding levels with Yukon Minister of Tourism and Culture Jeanie Dendys. Executive Director Lianne Maitland spoke with representatives from each Museum Unit client. YHMA then shared the results, including requests and recommendations, in a letter to the Minister.

In response, Minister Dendys met with YHMA and a selection of Museum Unit

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

client representatives to further discuss the matter. Although YHMA was not successful in securing additional funding at that time, we continue to advocate for both increased funding and an updated policy and strategy for Yukon museums and cultural centres.

## **MacBride Museum Tax Abatement**

In response to the MacBride Museum of Yukon History's ongoing efforts to secure abatement for property taxes from the City of Whitehorse, YHMA issued a public statement of support and wrote a letter to Mayor and Council calling upon the City to grant MacBride Museum's request. The letter also highlighted the social and economic value the museum brings to the community.

## **Canadian Index of Wellbeing**

YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland participated in a public engagement session to inform a Yukon-specific version of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing survey. She advocated for the inclusion of Yukon-relevant metrics related to heritage and culture as an essential part of a happy, healthy society.

## **Roundtable on Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Indigenous Culture & Tourism Sectors**

At the invitation of the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association, YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended a stakeholder roundtable to inform a socio-economic impact assessment of the Indigenous culture and tourism sectors.

## **COVID-19 Response**

YHMA quickly took action when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, liaising with the Museums Unit to clarify funding distribution and terms for museums and cultural centres, as well as cooperating with TIA Yukon to collect feedback on the impacts of COVID-19 on the heritage sector. YHMA then wrote to Yukon Minister of Tourism and Culture Jeanie Dendys, highlighting these impacts on and urging the department not to allow them to negatively affect current or future funding, which received a positive response from the Minister.

YHMA also collected and shared relevant resources through the e-bulletin.

## **Letters of Support**

YHMA provided letters of support to a variety of Yukon heritage-related projects and organizations for funding applications.

## **Memberships**

YHMA maintains paid or reciprocal memberships with a variety of other heritage-related organizations in the Yukon and nationally. These memberships help YHMA to stay up-to-date on important issues within Yukon and across the country, promote Yukon heritage, and make valuable connections.

**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.

# Education and Awareness

## 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. Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, over \$35,350 in funding was committed to 18 different training projects. 40 participants directly benefitted as participants in funded training projects.



YHTF is funded by the Government of Yukon Department of Education, Labour Post-Secondary and Labour Market 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 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 that 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.



Over 100 people gathered in the Yukon College gymnasium on May 2 for the 2019 edition of the Fair. Participating students represented grades 4-7 and five different schools in the communities of Faro, Haines Junction, and Whitehorse. Together, 33 students shared 32 different projects with their peers, judges, and the public.

As part of our ongoing partnership with Yukon College, students also enjoyed fun, educational activities organized and delivered by College staff. These activities took place in various departments throughout the school, offering students the opportunity to explore the facilities and learn about available programs.

As usual, project topics were varied. Many students chose to pursue genealogical projects, exploring the lives of their ancestors. Others focused on topics related to the Yukon, including hand games, Moosehide, and Martha Black. Still others examined important national figures, historical events, and

inventions such as Elsie McGill, the Underground Railroad, and caller line identification.

In total, nine grade-specific awards, nice special awards, and three People's Choice awards were distributed to deserving projects.

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. The students' enthusiasm, creativity, and passion make heritage fairs a highlight of the school year.



*Judges examine a student's project at the 2019 Heritage Fair.  
Credit: Bruce Barrett*

## Workshop on Non-Violent Crisis Intervention

YHMA arranged for Joshua Klassen of Yukon Government Social Services to teach a free, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention workshop for heritage sector workers, including seasonal staff, in late May. The Old Log Church Museum graciously donated space to host the workshop. In total, 18 participants from 6 different organizations completed this day-long workshop, including YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland and seasonal staff member Elisha Ida.

## Culture Days

YHMA continued to hold a seat on the Culture Days Yukon steering committee, led by the Yukon Arts Centre. Culture Days is a nationwide festival that aims to foster appreciation, support of, and participation in the cultural lives of communities amongst all citizens through free or low-cost activities. Culture Days 2019 ran from September 27-29.

**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.**

YHMA partnered with the Old Log Church Museum to present a talk by John Firth, entitled "The Caribou Hotel and the Fine Art of History Finding the Writer." Throughout the weekend, members of the public also had the chance to participate in YHMA's second annual Heritage Highlights Scavenger Hunt, which encouraged participants to

explore downtown Whitehorse to discover interesting facts about heritage and answer the scavenger hunt questions.

Almost twice as many people participated in the scavenger hunt compared to 2018, and three lucky winners received prize packs made up of generous donations from Angelina's Toy Boutique, Baked Café, Coast Mountain Sports, Murdoch's Gem Shop, and Yukon Built.

Special thanks to our sponsors and to CJUC, Old Fire Hall, and Yukon Wide Adventures for hosting scavenger hunt clues.



*A scavenger hunt participant poses for a selfie with a Richard Shorty print at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Credit: Alison Trimble*

## **Our Trails Bring Us Together / Haa deiyí wóoshxh haa ła.ât / Łäch'i tăn kwaäga dūjal du Conference**

From October 24-27, 2019, nearly two hundred people came together at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre (KDCC) for the Our Trails Bring Us Together / *Haa deiyí wóoshxh haa ła.ât / Łäch'i tăn kwaäga dūjal du* Conference. This conference marked the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux maps and explored both the Kohklux and Kandik maps as well as related topics.

Approximately 50 presenters led over 30 conference sessions. In addition to these sessions, two pre-conference learning events took place. Four local grade four classes visited the KDCC and participated in a series of activities focusing on the maps, led by Rhoda Merkel, Cathy Hines, Ellen Johnson, Linda Johnson, and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elder Gerald Isaac. In addition, 18 heritage professionals took a digital preservation workshop led by Ern Bieman of the Canadian Heritage Information Network.



*A young girl views the Kandik Map, on loan from The Bancroft Library, at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Credit: Doug Joe*

Kohklux and Kandik maps. Guests enjoyed a feast while taking in performances from four Indigenous performance groups from the territories represented on the maps.

Perhaps most notable was the loan of the original small Kohklux map and Kandik map from the Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley. After

On the Saturday evening, a public gala to celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux maps and the coming together of communities with a connection to both the

year-long negotiations, these maps arrived the week prior to the conference and went on display at the Da Kų Cultural Centre during Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' (CAFN) Kohklux Map Potlatch. Following their trip to Haines Junction, the maps were installed at the KDCC and remained on display until the close of the conference.

Also on display was a special travelling exhibition on the Kohklux and Kandik Maps, prepared by YHMA and its partners to mark the anniversary and complement the conference. Consisting of pop-up banners and map reproductions, the exhibition is now available for loan.

This project was organized by a planning committee comprising representatives from YHMA, Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center (JKHC), KDCC, CAFN, Parks Canada, and Yukon Archives, as well as Elders, independent scholars, and other volunteers. Project partners included the JKHC and KDCC. Sponsors and funders included Yukon Government, Yukon Chamber of Mines, Association franco-yukonnaise, and Yukon Energy.

Initiatives such as conferences serve to strengthen our local heritage networks and ties outside the territory, as well as to encourage knowledge-sharing, new research, and new perspectives.



*Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elder Gerald Isaac speaks to a group of students about the Kandik Map. Credit: Doug Joe*

## 2019 Yukon Heritage Awards

February 17, 2020 saw a busy evening at the Yukon Archives, with over 50 guests coming out to attend the 2019 Annual Yukon Heritage Awards ceremony, coinciding with National Heritage Week.

Connecting with the Heritage Week theme, "Bringing the past into the future," guest speaker Dr. Laura Millar gave a rousing and inspiring address on archives and records in a digital age, encouraging listeners to start managing their own records to help ensure future archivists are not inundated with unnecessary and extraneous records.

Awards were presented to the following recipients:

- John Firth (Annual Heritage Award): A long-time Yukoner and born storyteller, John combines his passions for writing and Yukon history by capturing stories of interesting people, places, and events and sharing them in an entertaining style that is easy to read and enjoy. He is the sole author

of a number of books relating to Yukon heritage and has contributed to others, including the well-known *Whitehorse: An Illustrated History* and

Recognizing that everyone can have a role to play, YHMA will develop long-lasting, respectful and innovative partnerships for the promotion, protection and preservation of Yukon heritage.

*Yukon Sport: An Illustrated History*. John's first book, released in 1990, was *Yukon Challenge: the story of the Yukon Quest*, later republished as *Yukon Quest: The 1000-mile dog sled race through the Yukon and Alaska*; in 1999, he was awarded the Yukon Commissioner's Award in recognition of his work to preserve Yukon dog mushing history and heritage. In addition to documenting Yukon heritage in his written works, John has also served as a member of the Yukon Heritage Resources Board.

- Helene Dobrowolsky and Rob Ingram (History Makers Award): Both Helene and Rob have been key contributors to the field of Yukon heritage since their arrival in the territory in the 1970s. Rob became the Government of Yukon's first Historic Sites employee in 1979, while Helene became the first Yukon Archives researcher in its present location at Yukon Place. Rob conducted the first historic sites inventory for the Yukon, and helped to develop the policy and procedures for nominating Yukon historic sites. As an oral history specialist, Helene has trained hundreds of people in the techniques and ethics of managing and carrying out oral history projects. Since 1988, Helene and Rob have worked in partnership as cultural and heritage resource consultants under their business name, Midnight Arts. Their work can be found in management and interpretive plans for Yukon historic sites, interpretative pamphlets and flyers for heritage places across the territory, online exhibitions, numerous books on Yukon heritage, and many other places.
- Lillian Nakamura Maguire (Helen Couch Volunteer of the Year Award): As a founding member of Hidden Histories Society Yukon, Lillian has, to date, dedicated eighteen years to the organization and its mandate to foster and increase the understanding of ethno-cultural history in the Yukon. Through the contributions of Lillian and others, Hidden Histories conducts research, produces displays, and coordinates events that enlarge the representation of diverse individuals and communities in the documentation and interpretation of Yukon history. Lillian's dedication to documenting, exploring, and sharing diverse stories has enriched both Hidden Histories Society Yukon, and the field of Yukon heritage as a whole.
- Gwaandak Theatre and Vuntut Gwitchin Government (Innovation, Education, and Community Engagement Award): Gwaandak Theatre and Vuntut Gwitchin Government's (VGG) multi-year, community-based project, *Ndoo Tr'eedyaa Gogwaandak* (Forward Together): Vuntut Gwitchin Stories, celebrates Gwich'in storytelling tradition and Indigenous language revitalization through the production of a series of radio plays. The plays are



Guest speaker Dr. Laura Millar. Credit: Michael Gates



based on long-ago and contemporary Gwich'in stories from Old Crow, which speak to the vital relationship between people and land. A total of seven radio plays, three in Gwich'in and four in English, were developed with the active involvement of community members at all stages, from scriptwriting and translation to performance and production. The plays are available as podcasts and illustrated script booklets online at [vuntutstories.ca](http://vuntutstories.ca) and are free to download for the general public.



*The 2019 Yukon Heritage Award recipients and dignitaries (L-R): Commissioner Angélique Bernard, Patti Flather and Leonard Linklater (Gwaandak Theatre), Lillian Nakamura Maguire, Helene Dobrowolsky, Rob Ingram, John Firth, MLA Paolo Gallina. Credit: Michael Gates*

The Yukon Heritage Awards honour individuals, organizations, and businesses that have made a special contribution to the conservation or interpretation of some aspect of Yukon's heritage. Nominations are invited from the public and are reviewed by the Awards Committee, which selects the recipients.

## Heritage Day Colouring Contest

Held on the Friday preceding the last Sunday

of February, Yukon Heritage Day coincides with not only National Heritage Week, but also the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Festival. Taking a new approach for an established activity, YHMA ran our 2019 Heritage Day Colouring Contest at Rendezvous KidsFest, organized with assistance from Boys and Girls Club of Yukon. The contest was also made available online for those who could not participate in person.

Kids had the opportunity to colour a fun picture commissioned from Chris Caldwell, inspired by the national Heritage Week theme, "Bringing the past into the future." Out of 30 official entries, we selected three winners in each of three age categories. Thank you to our prize donors, the Old Log Church Museum and Parks Canada.

## Carcross Field Trip

Last summer, we offered YHMA members and supporters the opportunity to



*Ages 5 & Under winner Grace C.'s first place colouring contest entry. Credit: Chris Caldwell and Grace C..*

**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 events and activities that encourage learning and sharing.

connect in Carcross while taking in the Haa K̓usteeeyí celebration and enjoying a private tour of the Caribou Hotel. Owner and heritage enthusiast Anne Morgan led the tour of this Yukon historic site. Ten people took part in this event.

This fun excursion was inspired by many similar field trips from YHMA's early days, which fostered a sense of community while also enhancing awareness and knowledge of Yukon heritage.



*Outside the Caribou Hotel, Carcross. Credit: Elisha Ida*

## Vintage & Antique Sales

Over the course of the summer, three YHMA-hosted vintage and antique sales in LePage Park attracted approximately 400 customers. A wide variety of books, antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing, and more were available for sale from YHMA and other vendors, with YHMA's table filled with generous donations from community members.

These sales acted as both fundraisers for the association and as an effective platform to

engage with the public, raising awareness of the association, our work, and Yukon heritage, in particular the heritage status of the LePage Park buildings.

## Thank You | Supporters Circle

The Yukon Historical & Museums Association is pleased to recognize the support of our community. Every year, dozens of individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments help us to safeguard, conserve, and share the Yukon's rich and diverse heritage, whether as members, volunteers, donors, partners, sponsors, funders, or otherwise. Your ongoing support ensures Yukon heritage enriches the lives of current and future generations.

Thank you...

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