



YUKON HISTORICAL & MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

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## PAINTING TO PRESERVE THE PAST



*Smith House*



*Donnenworth House*

YHMA has been planning some much needed conservation work on the two properties that we manage in Whitehorse and we need your help! If you have walked by the Smith or the Donnenworth House lately I'm sure you will agree that both houses are in desperate need of a facelift. Split boards and peeling paint are no way to treat some of Whitehorse's finest examples of early residences.

With the generous donation of paint from the City of Whitehorse, the technical expertise of the Yukon Government's Heritage Resources Unit and some muscle from the membership YHMA is hoping to have the circa 1904 buildings looking like new again in time for the summer season.

In order to finish this work YHMA is calling on its members to donate some time out of their busy schedule to join us in a painting party late in May, hopefully either the weekend of May 20-21 or May 27-28. Come out for the weekend, a day or an hour, any help will be greatly appreciated! YHMA will provide all the necessary painting supplies as well as some refreshments to keep you hydrated and full while you assist us in this important job.

If you are interested in helping out in any way please contact Rebecca Jansen at (867) 667-4704.

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## YHMA NEWS

In excited anticipation for the upcoming summer tourist season, YHMA along with all the heritage attractions are prepared to offer visitors a unique cultural experience. Many of the attractions have been working diligently over the winter to complete new exhibits, conservation, programs, websites and virtual exhibits. We hope you take the time to get out and visit your community museums, cultural centres and interpretive centres this summer and see first hand the work they have done!

### Marketing

YHMA has embarked on a new joint marketing project with the Heritage Attractions this year that will seek to increase member-attractions group tour, meeting, and incentive business by providing the information that these buyers require in order to make decisions about where to host events or receptions, bring group clients or include in a unique one-off itinerary for a corporate event. This project will include a detailed database of the services available from the heritage attractions and will be a nice companion to last year's production of the *Guide to Heritage Attractions*. YHMA hopes to be able to launch the new database by the end of next month. Stay tuned for more details.

### Discovering Northern Gold Research Symposium

With the generous support of the Community Development Fund and the Yukon Historic Resources Fund, YHMA and partners are organizing a research symposium. The symposium, *Discovering Northern Gold*, will be taking place October 13-14, 2006 in Whitehorse. A call for papers was issued early in the New Year with a March 31 deadline and the planning committee was very pleased to see the varied and interesting proposals that were submitted. However, there is still some room for interested presenters. If you are working on research that you would be interested in sharing with a national and international audience please forward your proposals to Rebecca at YHMA as soon as possible.

### International Museums Day

On May 18, 2006 you are invited to take part in the celebrations by visiting your local museums. This year's theme, Museums and Youth, will allow the museums to engage the Yukon youth in learning about museums and Yukon history. Whitehorse museums will be offering free admission for the day with discounts on memberships. Several events will also be taking place. A detailed listing of all the events will be listed in a special insert in the Yukon News on May 17, 2006.

## 2006 YUKON HISTOR!CA FAIR



Minister Taylor visits with students  
at the 2004 Histor!ca Fair - YTG Photo

The Yukon Histor!ca Fair Steering Committee would like to invite you to attend this year's fair on **Thursday May 4, 2006** at the High Country Inn. Opening ceremonies begin at 9am, judging will take place from 9:30am to noon and will be open for public viewings of the projects in the afternoon.

Thank you to our major sponsor, The City of Whitehorse and the Department of Tourism & Culture for making this event a reality.

For more information visit:

[www.histori.ca/fairs/default.do?page=index](http://www.histori.ca/fairs/default.do?page=index)

# HERITAGE CANADA FOUNDATION

By Glenda Koh, Governor

The HCF's mission is to preserve and demonstrate and to encourage the reservation and demonstration of the nationally significant historic, architectural, natural and scenic heritage of Canada with a view to stimulating and promoting the interest of the people of Canada in that heritage.

I was pleased to join the board of governors of HCF in September, 2005. The Yukon has some unique conditions and experiences to share with the rest of Canada and I would appreciate any insight into how they can enhance a national perspective on heritage.

Below I have noted some of the interesting new and ongoing activities HCF is involved in. If you would like more information on any of them, please feel free to contact me, or visit the HCF website at [www.heritagecanada.org](http://www.heritagecanada.org).

Some of the noteworthy items and new areas of activity that HCF has been focusing on over the past 6 months, which relate to both programs and governance, include the following:

- The organization has recently hired a new executive director, Natalie Bull, whose energy and expertise is proving invaluable.
- The now-annual Worst Losses and Ten Most Endangered Places has recently been released. HCF has been responding to many of these threatened places.
- Canada's new Governor General will be the patron of the HCF, which means she will lend her name to the foundation and to the cause of heritage preservation.
- HCF is embarking on a stewardship demonstration program at the HCF's flagship property 5 Blackburn Avenue in Ottawa. In addition to longer term management planning, the building may become a site where best practices in conservation are demonstrated and green building technologies as they relate to heritage preservation can be showcased. Recently, the building underwent an energy audit.
- HCF is increasing its focus on partnering with organizations with complementary interests in order to reach the various areas in which heritage preservation is relevant- for

example, organization representing planners, architects, heritage conservationists, museums, parks, municipalities, etc. HCF is looking at ways of keeping heritage preservation at the forefront of various disciplines, while also drawing on the expertise of those organizations.

- HCF is working on a stewardship policy for the organization in order to better define HCF's mandate. This is a large task that is central to the question of what HCF hopes to achieve.
- Staff are developing the program for the fall conference being held in Ottawa with the theme "Heritage in an Electronic Age."
- The organization is working on its various governance and procedural policies, including privacy policy, communications policy, and advocacy policy.
- This year's recent Heritage Day featured promotional and educational materials with the theme "Our Cultural Heritage Places."

In addition, HCF is involved in a variety of programs and activities on an ongoing basis, only some of which are listed below:

- Promoting the annual Doors Open program in which heritage sites open their doors to the public.
- Producing the quarterly magazine Heritage – most recent issue focuses on some of the endangered places.
- Issuing regular communiqués on heritage issues, such as endangered buildings and issues of national significance.
- Ongoing partnerships with local organization
- Remaining a good steward of its 5 properties
- Partnering with its subsidiary, Rue Principales, the Quebec-based equivalent of the Main Street Program
- Operating the annual heritage awards program
- Active in Young Canada Works program
- Ongoing maintenance of the foundation's endowment



## YUKON ARCHIVES NEWS

### ***The Alaska Highway: A Yukon Perspective***

A small band of correspondents, technical experts, web masters and foot soldiers have created *The Alaska Highway: a Yukon Perspective*, an epic virtual exhibit covering the complex history of the highway's and the Canol pipeline's construction. The stories are told using film footage, sound recordings, textual records and photographs created by the men and women that worked (and occasionally played) on the highway and Canol projects. The exhibit also contains a section that documents the highway's profound impact on First Nations people, wildlife, the environment and the economy.

The exhibit's design mimics the golden age of comic books, capturing the excitement, the drama and the immensity of this wartime feat. The opening of the exhibit will be announced soon...

### **Alaska Highway and Canol Bibliography**

A new bibliography is available on the Yukon Archives website ([www.yukonarchives.ca](http://www.yukonarchives.ca)) of all sources in Yukon Archives pertaining to the planning, construction, and subsequent use of the Alaska Highway and Canol project. The bibliography includes books, photographs, films, sound recordings, diaries, and many other types of records that document these extraordinary events in Yukon's past.

### ***Black History of the Yukon***

In recognition of Black History Month, Yukon Archives, Yukon Human Rights Commission and Yukon Status of Women's Council had its official launch of *Black History of the Yukon* in February. The educational display consists of three panels that focus on the "Early years" (Klondike) period, "the Alaska Highway" period and "Women," with a special feature on Lucille Hunter and her family. Schools, museums and community groups may borrow the display through the Yukon Archives display circulation program. For further information telephone 867-667-5321.

### **Yukon Archival Advisory Program**

David Porter has completed another season as Archives Advisor between June 2005 and March 2006. He carried out site visits to museums and First Nations with archival programs in Whitehorse, Burwash Landing, Haines Junction, Dawson City, Pelly Crossing and Teslin. Conservator Lloy Osburn accompanied him on all the site visits to provide conservation advice and assistance. Advice on archival management was provided to the Yukon Enrollment Commission and the Council for Yukon First Nations. David also introduced the program guidelines and criteria for the new National Archival Development Program (NADP) to seven institutions. The Yukon Archival Advisory Program is made possible by financial assistance from the federal government through the Library and Archives Canada Contribution Program for the archival network, in addition to funding assistance from the Friends of Yukon Archives Society.

### **Staff Changes: Arrivals and Departures**

We have some happy news and some sad news. We are happy to welcome two new faces in the front office: Trish Boleen, who is acting in the position of Library/Archivist Assistant; and Monica Pope, who recently started as the Administrative Assistant. However, we are sad to say goodbye to Shannon Olson, Collections Assistant and resident systems guru, who is resigning on April 13 after over 10 years at the Archives. While we're sure Shannon will miss us terribly, she'll console herself with travel, gardening, reading, paddling, cycling, hiking, weaving, making music, exploring her creative potential and all-around enjoying life.





## MacBride Museum

Construction is almost finished; the animals have been brought in from storage and have found their new home in the Natural World exhibit. The new gallery will include an overview of Yukon's geology and wildlife, a children's Discovery Zone devoted to activities and programs. The scheduled opening is on International Museums Day, May 18, 2006.

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MacBride Museum's photographic exhibit entitled "Centre of the City: Front & Main" featuring the evolution of Main Street in Whitehorse is on display at Arts Underground on the lower level of the Hougou Centre until the end of May.

MacBride Museum summer hours start May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 days a week 9am-7pm. If you would like more information about MacBride Museum events, programs and services please call (867) 6672709.

## YUKON HERITAGE RESOURCES BOARD

Prepared by Loree Stewart, Executive Director



Since the Yukon Heritage Resources Board's submission to the Winter 2006 Newsletter, YHRB has held two 2-day meetings (February 3/4 and April 7/8). Some of the work and activities that the Board focused on include:

### 1. Strategic plan

- Review of Mission, Vision and Values
- Review action plans to include YHRB mandatory activities as outlined under the UFA and the *Historic Resources Act*
- Board will continue to refine the plan
- When completed, the Board will share its strategic plan with governments and the heritage community

### 2. Yukon Historic Resources Fund (YHRF)

- Annual intake (October 15, 2005) was restricted to aboriginal language

- initiatives to help contribute to the preservation of Yukon First Nations traditional languages
- As there were some funds left, the Board asked for another intake for projects with a closing date of January 15, 2006
- The Board recommended 4 of the 6 applications received for a total amount of \$26,059; Minister Taylor accepted the Board's recommendations
- The next intake for applications to the fund is October 15, 2006

### 3. Museum Strategy and Implementation Plan

- The final museums strategy and implementation report were mailed out in December, 2005
- The Board recommended that an implementation plan be produced and

that a representative panel to review the museum strategy be established

- The Minister announced March 23 that the Department of Tourism and Culture will work with the heritage community to create an advisory group who will provide a mechanism for the implementation and ongoing review of the Museums Strategy, and will develop criteria for the museums Special Projects Assistance Program
- The Board continues to support the establishment of an advisory group and the development of an implementation plan

#### **4. Language Sub-group committee of YHRB**

- Under Chapter 13 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, YHRB was established to make recommendations to the Minister and to Yukon First Nations on a number of heritage issues, including the means by which the traditional languages of Yukon First Nations can be recorded and preserved
- To recognize the importance of this role, YHRB formalized its Language Sub-group from an ad hoc to a formal committee at its February meeting
- The committee continues to keep itself informed on the state of aboriginal language preservation in the Yukon, the scope and nature of Yukon aboriginal language work in progress and ways and means by which the traditional languages can be further recorded and preserved
- The committee provided comment on the report "Towards A New Beginning" prepared by the Task Force on Aboriginal Languages and Culture for the Department of Canadian Heritage to the new Minister of Canadian Heritage, Hon. Bev Oda. YHRB extended an invitation to Minister Oda to see firsthand how the Yukon is moving along

with language issues, and how Canada can contribute to these Yukon initiatives

- The committee formally requested a seat on the Council for Yukon First Nations' Yukon First Nations Languages Caucus who propose to convene all Yukon initiatives into one entity to protect, promote and preserve Yukon First Nation languages
- The Board supported attendance of its executive director at the recent University of Victoria linguistics course "Language in First Nations Culture"
- The committee will continue to monitor the language situation in the Yukon

#### **5. The Legion Hall, Mayo**

- One of the two imperative responsibilities of the Board is to make recommendations on the designation of Heritage Sites as Designated Heritage Sites (UFA 13.5.3.9)
- The Board regularly evaluates and makes recommendations on the nomination of sites as laid out in our Designation Procedures Manual based on the *Historic Resources Act* and the UFA
- At our April meeting, the Board evaluated the Legion Hall in Mayo as a Yukon Historic Site and forwarded its recommendation to Minister Taylor
- Designated sites are eligible for listing on the Yukon Register of Historic Places and the Canadian Register of Historic Places

We welcome the opportunity provided by YHMA to inform the Yukon heritage community of Yukon Heritage Resources Board recent activities.

The Yukon Heritage Resources Board office is located at 412 Main Street in the Taylor House, Whitehorse, phone #: 668-7150 and email: [yhrb@northwestel.net](mailto:yhrb@northwestel.net)



Greetings from the Dawson City Museum!! The snow has just about gone, the sun is staying up until 10 pm and it's getting warmer during the day; spring is finally here! We have been busy these past few months and we are excited to share some new developments at the Museum.

In partnership with Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture, we will be presenting *Miracle Planet* this summer. The high-definition film series takes viewers on a four-billion-year journey through the history of life on planet earth. We are very excited about this partnership opportunity and look forward to working with local community groups in the future. Keep watching for dates and times of showings.

The Museum is also currently finalizing the Visible Storage redesign and will launch it to the public this summer. The Virtual Museums of Canada exhibit project will be completed by summer's end and we are looking forward to its big online debut.

This summer, the Museum will be hiring a student to act as educational coordinator to plan various summer programs including our film and lecture series so keep your ears open for news of special events and please come out and support your community museum.

We also invite our members to drop by and see the newly reconstructed tenders on our locomotives. As always, we have had a busy winter undertaking conservation of these large industrial beasts!

We are undergoing some internal changes and will shortly be hiring a replacement for Cheryl Thompson who is moving on to new ventures. Good luck Cheryl!

Please have patience with us as we are in transition in the coming weeks. Our research and photograph services may be delayed but only for a short time!

As always, if you have any questions about the above, feel free to contact Julia Pike at (867) 993-5291.

## **EXCITING NEW ADDITIONS AT THE YUKON TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM**



In November of 2005 the Museum put in a lease expansion request to include the former tennis court area. The museum was successful in obtaining the additional land. As our museum continues to grow and expand we want to ensure that we have the room for this expansion.

In January 2006 the museum had an excellent opportunity to purchase a steel building (45 x 80 x 20), at an absolute bargain basement price. Plans for the building are to put it on the tennis court area and at present make it storage for overflow in the Hall #2 and to bring some of the outdoor exhibits inside. The building will arrive at the end of April or early in May. We hope to have it up before opening day May 14, 2006. This will require a lot of volunteer effort and we hope that we can get people out to help put the building together. If you

can assist in anyway please contact the museum, we would appreciate the assistance.

As you have seen, we have re done our Bush Pilot Room almost 2 years ago and there were many photos that did not make it back to the walls. We are happy to say that by May of 2006, in conjunction with Virtual Museums Canada's Community Memories Project, we will be launching the online Exhibit "Above & Beyond" Early Aviation in the Yukon. This on line exhibit will include all the photos from the early Bush Pilot Room and some additional ones as well. We hope to have included some interviews with local pilots and aviation historians. We will be sending out invitations for the launch party that will include a BBQ and tour of our new building so make sure to keep a watch for it in your mail box.



## MIRACLE PLANET SERIES

This past fall and winter the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre was proud to present the *Miracle Planet* series in high definition. *Miracle Planet* is a co-production of the National Film Board of Canada, NHK Japan and the Discovery Channel. This five part series explores the evolution of planet Earth. The presentation was made possible by the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada.

The screenings were successful in bringing in a total of 1136 visitors for public and school group screenings. The public screenings were accompanied by lectures and presentations by scientists in related fields including Charlie Roots (Canadian Geological Survey), Paul Hoffman (Harvard University), Bruce Bennett (Yukon Environment), Karen Pelletier (Yukon Geological Survey), Paul Matheus (Yukon Palaeontology), and Greg Hare (Yukon Archaeology).

Screenings for school groups were provided for students and teachers from area schools. Yukon Education and the Innovators in the School Program assisted in providing information about the series. The National Film Board of Canada provided educational resources for before, during, and after the students attended a screening.

Satellite screenings at the Northern Lights Centre in Watson Lake brought in 173 visitors to public and school group screenings. Satellite screenings are planned in Dawson City this spring through the Dawson City Museum.

### Great Hall Upgrades

The exhibit reconfiguration in the Great Hall of the Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre is set for completion this spring. The reconfiguration allows for greater flow through the Centre for group tours and special events. A new introductory exhibit is scheduled to be officially unveiled on International Museums Day, along with a new exhibit featuring the work of George “Rinaldino” Teichmann.



*Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre Great Hall*

## LAUNCHING COMMUNITY MEMORIES

The Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) Heritage department is pleased to announce the launch of a new website called "Carmacks, Yukon: A Northern Tutchone Homeland". A Community Memories project on the Virtual Museum of Canada website, the site outlines the history of the Northern Tutchone people of the Carmacks area through pictures accompanied by textual history.

The success of the site is due in part to the assistance of Ruth Blackjack on much of the writing, and the Yukon Archives in working with the LSCFN Heritage department to reproduce pictures related to Carmacks. The site can be viewed by visiting:

<http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/English/CommunityMemories/flashDisplayer.php?exNum=0000280>

Other community Memories projects completed on Yukon include: “George Johnston and His World: Life and Culture of the Inland Tlingit” and “Mysterious 36”. To view these and other Yukon Virtual Museums Exhibits visit [www.virtualmuseums.ca](http://www.virtualmuseums.ca)



April 18, 2006

## **PUBLIC SESSIONS TO BE HELD FOR ARTS AND HERITAGE VILLAGE**

WHITEHORSE - Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor today has announced that the Yukon public will be given more opportunity to comment on the proposed Whitehorse Arts and Heritage Village Development Plan in a series of public sessions.

"Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and Artspace North are to be commended for their leadership in the preparation of this initial vision of an arts and heritage village for the Whitehorse waterfront," Taylor said. "The Yukon government has reviewed the report and recognizes that the public needs to be given more opportunity for input."

The Yukon government will be working closely with the proponents of the report and other greater stakeholders to develop a process to encourage public participation on the future use of the government's component of the waterfront, at the foot of Main Street, which includes an arts and heritage village.

Further details about the public sessions will be announced in the coming weeks. Ideas from these sessions will be made available for further public review.

"It is essential that any future development on the Yukon government's component of the Whitehorse waterfront reflects the vision and aspiration of Yukon citizens and complements the work already done or being planned by other governments," Taylor said.

The Yukon government supports the Whitehorse waterfront development initiatives to date, which consist of \$425,000 for the trolley extension to Spook Creek; \$500,000 in support of the MacBride Museum expansion; \$609,500 for the Roundhouse relocation and refurbishment; approximately \$110,000 for the restoration of the Fire Hall; and \$9.5 million in Canada Strategic Infrastructure Funds for the waterfront development in support of identified projects by the City of Whitehorse, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Yukon government. In addition, funding has been provided in support of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation land claim settlement which focused on their development aspirations on the waterfront.

"As a member of Main Street Yukon Society, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and as the president of Artspace North, I am encouraged to see the next steps identified and being acted upon to bring our waterfront alive with arts and culture," Mary Jane Warshawski said.

"The Yukon government remains committed to waterfront development in Whitehorse as evidenced by its accomplishments to date in this area," Taylor said. "The government will also work with stakeholders and interested parties to review the use of the Yukon government owned historic buildings located on the Whitehorse waterfront."

# YUKON HISTORICAL & MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

YHMA will be holding this year's Annual General Meeting **Tuesday June 13, 2006**, Yukon Day, at the Yukon Archives beginning at **5:30 PM**.

Celebrate Yukon Day by becoming more involved in the protection of Yukon Heritage. YHMA is currently seeking new members to sit on the Board of Directors. Members residing in Yukon Communities are encouraged to join. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone please call Rebecca Jansen, Executive Director at (867) 667-4704 or Helen Couch, Nominations Chair at (867) 633-5232.

Memberships can be purchased or renewed before the AGM. Please note only current members will be permitted to vote.

The AGM will include the presentation of annual reports, the budget and will be followed by the election of officers.

Refreshments will follow the AGM. All are welcome!



The YHMA newsletter is the official newsletter of the Yukon Historical & Museums Association.

We welcome our members to submit articles, project reports pictures and other related announcements for publication in upcoming issues.

Submission deadlines for upcoming Newsletters are:

Summer: July 7, 2006  
Fall: October 6, 2006  
Winter: January 12, 2007

Please email submissions to [yhma@northwestel.net](mailto:yhma@northwestel.net)

## YHMA MEMBERSHIP

Please support the Yukon Historical & Museums Association by purchasing a membership. Your support is needed!

Type of Memberships available:

Senior/Student: \$10.70      Individual: \$21.40  
Organization: \$26.75      Family: \$32.10  
Corporate: \$107.00

### Interested in becoming a volunteer?

YHMA is always seeking volunteers willing to provide their skills and knowledge to our organization. If you are interested in any of the following committees please call Rebecca Jansen at 667-4704 or Email [yhma@northwestel.net](mailto:yhma@northwestel.net)

- **Conference Planning (Heritage Awards)**
- **Heritage Buildings**
- **Newsletter**
- **Museums**
- **Fundraising or Training**