

## Workshop#1 Report

Day 1 of Workshop #1 was convened at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 20, 2013 at the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall in Dawson, YT.

Present were members of the Outstanding Universal Value (O.U.V.) Professional Working Group:



**Workshop #1 Professional Working Group:** T.J. Hammer, Grant Zazula, Lee Whalen, Paula Hassard (Project Manager and raconteur), Jody Beaumont, David Neufeld, Doug Olynyk (Chair), Barbara Hogan, Rebecca Jansen, Sheila Greer, Sally Robinson, Christian Thomas. (Missing: Jen Laliberte, Kylie Van Every, Allie Winton)

Doug Olynyk introduced himself to the working group as their chair and gave a brief introduction to the immediate task at hand, the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the World Heritage list of sites. The approximately 1000 sites inscribed on the list include 60 industrial sites, 24 of which are related to mining. It was explained that the working group will be doing very preliminary work to help determine whether Tr'ondëk/Klondike warrants the type of investment required to prepare a full nomination, giving examples of several of Canada's most recent nominations (Grand Pré - \$3 million/3 years and Pimachiowin Aki - \$6 million+/6 years+). Doug described the fact that Grand Pré was nominated as a Cultural Landscape and Pimachiowin Aki, as a Mixed, cultural and natural, Site and that the Pimachiowin Aki nomination has been thus far unsuccessful – primarily because the criteria for designation are very rigorously applied and that it is problematic for evaluating Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) to apply cultural and natural criteria harmoniously. Much of Workshop #1 would be

spent identifying and gathering the many values and attributes of Tr'ondëk/Klondike to form a "vocabulary" for any O.U.V.

The first order of business was to have each member of the working group introduce themselves, briefly identifying their affiliations, backgrounds and areas of expertise.

Rebecca Jansen – YG Historic Sites. Background in researching and assigning values to built heritage in Dawson.

Christian Thomas – YG Archaeology. Background in archaeological investigations in the Tr'ondëk/Klondike region.

Grant Zazula – YG Paleontology. Background doing Ice Age paleontology and geology in the goldfields.

Sally Robinson – YG Historic Sites. Interpretive Planner. Previously lived 23 years in Dawson and did work as a heritage contractor.

Sue Parsons – TH Heritage Dep't. Collections Manager. Background in artifact conservation and cataloguing. Dawson resident

Paula Hassard – TH Heritage Dep't. Tr'ondëk/Klondike World Heritage Site Project Manager. Formerly worked as conservator for Klondike NHS, Parks Canada. Dawson resident.

Doug Olynyk, O.U.V. Working Group Chair. Retired Manager of Historic Sites for YG has worked extensively with TH and previously worked on Dawson sites for Parks Canada. Background in land claims, legislation, heritage resource management planning, ICOMOS (national & international).

Barbara Hogan – YG Historic Sites. Manager. Former long-time Dawson resident and heritage contractor specializing in industrial sites, value statements and designations. ICOMOS Canada board member.

Allie Winton – TH Heritage Dep't. Heritage Researcher. Working on Masters in Cultural Geography. Dawson resident

Lee Whelan – TH Heritage Dep't. Heritage Officer. In charge of land-based heritage. Background in artifact conservation working for Canadian Heritage. Dawson resident.

David Neufeld – Public Historian. Retired Parks Canada historian with extensive work with TH (Tr'ochëk NHS, etc.) and with other First Nations on national commemorations.

Jody Beaumont – TH Heritage Dep't, Traditional Knowledge Manager. Background in anthropology and archaeology and working with Elders and on articulation of First Nation values. Dawson resident.

T.J. Hammer – Manager of Terrestrial Archaeology, Parks Canada, Ottawa. Worked with Yukon Government and TH on archaeology of Tr'ochëk and 40 Mile. Born and raised in Yukon.

Jen Laliberté (and brand-new daughter, Silas) – Phd candidate, Aboriginal Studies, Trent University. Dawson resident.

Regrets:

Duane Froese – Univ. of Alberta, Associate Professor. Canada Research Chair in Northern Environmental Change. Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Expert in Ice Age geology of Klondike. Conflicting schedule – giving presentation on Ice Age Klondike at Yukon College.

Ken Coates – Univ. of Saskatchewan, Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Historian and author of numerous books related to Yukon history and aboriginal history and rights. Conflicting schedule – teaching.

Michael Gates – Historian and writer (History Hunter). Former Dawson resident and Parks Canada employee. Conflicting schedule – giving keynote address at Alaska Historical Ass'n in Haines, AK.

Sheila Greer – Anthropology consultant. Extensive work with Yukon FN – primarily CAFN. Did archaeology along Dempster Hwy for TH/YG. Likely circling overhead as Air North tries to land.

Doug commended the excellent depth, knowledge and experience of the group and good representation of the community and First Nation Heritage Dep't.

Following introductions, basic housekeeping information was relayed and Doug described the mandate of the group as well as basic operational framework and processes of the World Heritage Convention, referring to documents previously circulated via e-mail.

**(Please refer to Workshop #1 PowerPoint presentation appended to this report for details of the following topics)**

UNESCO definition of three types of Cultural Heritage and why Tr'ondëk/Klondike would best fit as a "Cultural Site".

UNESCO definition of Outstanding Universal Value

World Heritage Convention criteria (total 10, six of which pertain to Cultural Heritage)

Canada's Tentative List of World Heritage nominations – what it is and what it means.

The description of The Klondike on the Tentative List cites criteria 4 & 5. Should 2 and 6 also be considered?

Klondike on Tentative List included Chilkoot Trail, Skagway and Seattle waterfront. The US is not interested to date. We are looking at the feasibility of Tr'ondëk/Klondike being able to stand alone with a more significant inclusion of First Nation heritage than originally conceived.

Discussion of the geo-political (3<sup>rd</sup> World) shift in makeup of World Heritage Committee and a study of gaps in heritage represented on the World Heritage list. Tr'ondëk/Klondike nomination could benefit.

Four of the 11 sites put on Canada's Tentative List in 2004 have since been nominated and inscribed on the World Heritage List. Pimachiowin Aki was nominated but has been deferred. With the

Tr'ondëk/Klondike nomination being initiated it is expected that it would be “rolled over” should a new list be started.

The terms Integrity and Authenticity – two critical qualities of any nomination – were introduced and discussed.

The Advisory Bodies evaluating a nomination for the World Heritage Committee are extremely critical and rigorous and will not be bluffed or emotionally swayed. Imagine proving the O.U.V. to someone from Indonesia who has never been to the Klondike or even experienced snow.

This working group will initiate the listing of Values and Attributes but will need to include the ideas of the broad community. The lists become the “vocabulary” of the O.U.V. after screening through filters of criteria, integrity and authenticity.

There need to be physical attributes to make it a “Site” but intangible attributes and values can be included.

Even simple words describing values can have many meanings to many people and be limiting. The goal is to make the O.U.V. as all-encompassing and unambiguous as possible.

The exercise of the group listing Values and Attributes was begun. **(The lists of Values, Attributes and Characters arrived at over the course of Workshop #1 are appended to this report).**

There were excellent and far-reaching discussions which have been recorded on tape surrounding the listing of Values and Attributes by Working Group members. It was intended to transcribe the workshop proceedings. (This has not been done as of the date of submission of this report. The budget may not permit).

The morning session focused on values associated with Tr'ochëk/Klondike.

Much of discussions centred around how big of a deal the gold rush was in the grand scheme of things, especially from a First Nation perspective. It being just a blink of time in an ancient continuum. On the other hand what about the FN heritage can be described as of O.U.V.? (e.g. Pimachiowin Aki). The definition of cultural landscape needs to be expanded to include not just alteration of but interaction with the natural landscape.

We talked about the fact that World Heritage could create a platform to tell stories and relate core community values. The community-based process for developing an O.U.V. can be more important than any preconceived outcomes.

It is a misconception that the FN was “steam-rolled” by the gold rush. The FN shared so newcomers could survive. There are multiple narratives besides the European concept of nation-building and the federal presentation of Canadian history. This will not be easy to write a balanced story about a dynamic, living community with so many facets of history.

That being said the gold rush was definitely transformative, big enough to influence world economics. Expeditions from the Paris Natural History Museum and the Smithsonian Museum rushed to investigate and collect Ice Age artifacts from the gold fields.

Lunch Break: 12:15 p.m.

The Professional Working Group re-convened at 1:15 p.m.

The afternoon's focus was on populating a list of attributes (places, things and qualities) that manifest listed values.

First day of Workshop #1 adjourned at 4:05 p.m. Sheila Greer had just made her first appearance after a day-long tour de Yukon compliments of Air North.

#### Day 2 of Workshop #1 was convened at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, September 21, at the Community Hall.

Joining the Professional Working Group for this session were community resource experts: Jim Archibald, Glenda Bolt, Trina Buhler, Myrna Butterworth, Greg Hakonson, Rose Hebert, Shirley Pennell, Leslie Piercy, David Rohatensky, Elaine Rohatensky and Helen Winton.

After a round of introductions, Doug presented a PowerPoint slide show (appended) to bring attendants up to speed with the mandate of the working group and to lay out a brief background on the World Heritage Convention, the process and some of the parameters affecting nomination.

There were general discussions and questions.

Work continued on populating the lists of values and attributes with an accent on listing characters/personalities using the depth and breadth of community knowledge of community resource experts.

The morning workshop ended at noon with Doug thanking everyone for their time and input and promising to provide copies of the lists, noting that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

#### Day 2 of Workshop #1 – Afternoon Session. Community presentation and workshop. Dánojä Zho Cultural Centre

After introductory remarks by Paula and introduction of project Advisory Committee members in attendance, Doug delivered a PowerPoint presentation in the theatre and fielded comments and questions from the audience. About a dozen people not on the Working Group turned out and many thoughtful comments and questions were received. The afternoon session ended with people mingling and talking over beverages and snacks.

Day 3 of Workshop #1 was convened at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 22 with a de-briefing session with the Professional Working Group in the Community Hall.

Discussion was initiated by a round table of impressions of the previous two days. The general impression was very positive.

Most discussion was about how the O.U.V. had to position the gold rush in a continuum of FN heritage, the continuation of community and reconciliation of cultures. Convergence and contestation of cultures. Conversation between cultures.

Most felt that Tr'ondëk/Klondike offered a great opportunity to do something different (outside the box) in terms of World Heritage recognition. Inspired a re-invention (once again) of the Dawson story. Differing cultural lenses.

The full spectrum/matrix of sites and stories – “constellation of places and events” “storied landscape” need to be revealed.

Disappointment in number of public at the public workshop/presentation. Can we/should we try to engage more, particularly FN members? Feeling is that the World Heritage discussions were peripheral to life and ultimately wouldn't affect much. Nonetheless the impression is that most community members were supportive. Workshop format is not best forum for FN members.

Group members were impressed with the broad and diverse understanding of Tr'ondëk/Klondike heritage that was expressed by community resource experts. The World Heritage language is being learned.

Characters/personalities/mythic figures for two cultures.

Agreed that the gold rush was the nexus (the “hook”) but needed to be put in context.

Discussion of application of Criteria 2 and 6.

The timing and need for the next workshop was discussed. When should the World Heritage folks in Ottawa be engaged? Best to provide them something to respond to.

Wrap up. Group members were asked to write their own versions of an O.U.V. addressing criteria while the workshop discussions were fresh. Deadline September 31. This should be “stream-of-consciousness” efforts and definitely will be the first of countless iterations so don't worry about weaknesses.

Ultimately the goal is “fair and balanced”, “pure and simple”. We want community members to be nodding their heads when they hear it.

Group members were thanked for sacrificing their weekends and for stimulating discussions. Further assignments and dialogue will continue by e-mail.

Adjournment: 10:30 a.m.