



**TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN
REDP COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS**

**TR'ONDËK-KLONDIKE
World Heritage Nomination Project
2015-16**

Project Management Report – for June 19, 2015

Major accomplishments during the last two months included hiring a new assistant, conducting community OUV consultations, and continuing to provide feedback on the technical and thematic research papers we have commissioned to support the nomination. We also focused on communication activities at events such as the Gold Show and TIAY conference, and gave presentations to stakeholders (tourism, placer mining, and business).

New staff

Interviews were held the week of April 21st. with Project Management Committee members Lee and Paula, and TH Human Resource staff. We're very pleased to welcome Molly Shore as the Communications Assistant for the World Heritage Project. Molly has a wealth of experience in administration and communication, including four years of previous work at Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and long-time involvement with community groups and events. She will be coordinating communications for the website and social media, presentations, as well as conducting research and writing.

Defining the Site

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV):

As suggested by consultant Christophe Rivet, the Project Management Committee organized a number of workshops to refine the draft OUV in the '*Strategic Direction for the Tr'ondëk-Klondike WH Proposal*' report. Sessions were held with the Advisory Committee on May 12th and 13th, and with key community representatives on May 21st. These were summarized and partially transcribed to convey a sense of the community in their own voice. This input was reviewed and followed by another workshop with local experts on June 10th. Some individuals submitted written comments, and international expert Christina Cameron was also engaged to provide her impressions. The recommendations from both groups show a lot of similarities regarding concepts and re-wording, with the key message that there needs to be a better balance between the newcomer and First Nations story, and more compelling language. There was no consensus about the 'frontier culture' in criteria vi), as some felt it should be used in conjunction with the idea of 'homeland' and others felt it should not be used at all, because the colonial connotations were considered negative.

Project Management Committee members Barb and Paula had a teleconference with Christophe on June 8th to discuss the work plan and process. He confirmed he would be able to provide his advice and revisions by July 10th. We had originally hoped to vet the revised OUV by international experts in a fall workshop, producing an assessment of authenticity and integrity. Due to timing issues, this plan was changed to hosting a 'Mock Evaluation' by international experts in May of 2016, when the weather is suitable for viewing the cultural landscape. A similar exercise was conducted at Grand Pré to tweak the argument and prepare for an actual site evaluation. This change means that the assessment of authenticity and integrity will be done later in the fall, through other contracts and in-house. Christophe requested that the dates for the Global Comparative Analysis be pushed back until the parameters for comparison (OUV, attributes, integrity and authenticity) are finalized.

Research:

Project Management Committee members continue to provide feedback and extensive editing on the papers that we have contracted to support the nomination.

The Fishing paper examines the relationships between the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the community of Dawson, and the salmon of the Yukon River and demonstrates "the resilience of the culture and community and their ability to adapt to change". It includes interviews with contemporary local fishers Angie Joseph-Rear, Roberta Joseph, Ryan Peterson, Tim Gerberding and David Curtis, giving it a compelling and authentic voice. Supplemented by another study of the archaeological sites related to fishing, it will help us identify attributes and stories to support the continuity of TH land use.

The final draft of the Placer Mining historical research paper is currently being edited. It gives a comprehensive review of the history and evolution of placer mining districts, forms, lifestyle 1880's-1950, legislation, milestones, settlement patterns, changes challenges and technological advances, and the involvement of First Nations in placer mining and the cash economy. An important section describes key representative evidence of the evolution of placer mining within the proposed site, which will assist us in the identification of attributes to support the continuity of placer mining.

Tara Christie will be extended this summer to continue oral history interviews with placer mining families, who were "surprised and flattered that there was interest in stories from the placer miners' perspective". Tara reports that common themes include: strong ties to and respect for the land, sense of place and home, self-reliance, independence, and pride in their work and being placer miners.

The Project Management Committee, Molly, and David and Elaine Rohatensky hosted ERA architects on a field visit from May 19-22nd. These researchers have been contracted to write a thematic paper on the evolution of architecture as part of the Tr'ondëk-Klondike cultural landscape. They were toured around Forty Mile, Dawson and Bear Creek Compound as well as receiving orientation to the TH story at Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, and meeting with the Dawson Heritage Advisory Committee. They

specialize in heritage structures and small communities, and were very impressed by the people and what a special place this is.

Defining Management

Aboriginal Tourism Workshop:

Keith Henry from BC Aboriginal Tourism Association gave a presentation and workshop on First Nations tourism activities in BC at Dänojä Zho on April 29th. Participants included Jackie Olson, Debbie Nagano and TH Heritage staff, as well as Paul Robitaille as KVA representative. This helped stimulate discussion about the vision for TH Heritage visitor programs, which will feed into the management planning for a future world heritage site. Keith sent an example of an aboriginal tourism plan, and is willing to assist TH in the preparation of a similar document.

Funding Update

A one-year extension to the project has been integrated into our work planning and budgets, with a target date of submitting the nomination in February 2017. This impacts our territorial funders more than our federal, as CanNor funding is only for two years at a time. The Yukon CDF revision has to be approved by the Minister, and changes to the deliverables are in progress. The CanNor annual report was submitted with numerous appendices, and we are already looking at preparing a new application.

Community/Stakeholder Engagement

- **World Heritage speaker at Tourism Industry Association (TIAY) Conference – April 17-19**

The Tr'ondëk-Klondike Project partnered with TIAY to sponsor Jenna Boon from Joggins WHS in Nova Scotia. Jenna spoke about "*The benefits of UNESCO WHS for Community Economic Development & Visitor Experience*", leveraging the UNESCO label, impacts, successes, and community engagement. Jenna also gave two workshops to participants on "*UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Identifying Strategies for tourism growth and development*". She met with the Advisory Committee for a Q&A on April 17th, staying afterwards to meet discuss the nomination with Project Management Committee, and providing some very useful advice. Paula, Barb, Tara, Dan and David attended portions of the conference.

- **Gold Show – May 15-16**

Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage had a booth at the Gold Show featuring our new trade show display, accompanied by a new pop-up display and brochure developed specifically for the placer mining community. The booth was manned by Molly, Paula, and members of the Advisory Committee: Debbie, Paul, Tara and Dan, and was well received. We are developing an 'outreach log' to

record comments from conversations at events such as these, as well as in other situations.

- **Strategy for addressing concerns about YESAB**

A key concern of placer miners is that the TKWHS may result in additional requirements at YESAB or from regulators. In consultation with the Project Management Committee, Tara Christie developed an approach on “how the TKWHS project could be proactive in addressing this concern, particularly for miners in the boundary and buffer”. The strategy involves the Project Management Committee having conversations with regulators and follow-up letters from the Advisory Committee to key agencies such as YESAB, Yukon Government (EMR, DAB and Tourism), miners, and potentially *Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in* (Council and Lands Department). The implementation of the strategy has to occur before visits to placer miners are made – anticipated in August and September.

- **KPMA Presentations – May 15**

Tara Christie gave an update on the *Tr’ondëk-Klondike* World Heritage project at the KPMA Directors Meeting (8 directors, 3 staff members in attendance). Some of the feedback included:

- re-iterated concerns about potential impacts to miners, relationship with TH;
- pleased to hear that there is a plan to educate/inform regulators and assessors;
- assurances they would receive updates over the summer and “alerts” if needed
- very interested in the interviews and documenting placer history, exhibit ideas.

- Tara also gave an update at the KPMA General meeting (about 70 people). The President assured members that the Directors were briefed, looking out for miners concerns and relying on Tara to ensure that KPMA was notified if something arose or input was needed. Some conversation occurred later re:

- how is a cultural site different than a natural site?
- other sites where things went wrong
- role of UNESCO after designation achieved, management plans
- starting a “Wikipedia” site – one for stories related to Dawson for everyone, one site specifically for miners

- **Dawson City Chamber of Commerce (DCCC) – June 18**

Molly gave her inaugural slide presentation to an appreciative DCCC audience of about 9 local business representatives, speaking about the project background, who is involved and the process. Discussion occurred around whether designation will help Parks Canada leverage more funding, or be less likely to suffer cuts; the need to get the message out that it will not impinge on anyone's personal life or work; suggestions such as going to tailgate meetings, and - as we are never going to get complete community support – to strategically aim to prevent active opposition. A comment was made that the

project has transformed the narrative in a very positive way, including First Nations then and now.

Press coverage

- **What's Up Yukon news article - May 7**
"World Heritage Planning Gets a Big Boost" by Dan Davidson
- **CBC Radio News coverage - May 27**
Jackie Olson was interviewed in a special report by Leonard Linklater in response to the news release about CDF funding for World Heritage. Leonard said "The hopes and dreams of Dawsonites just got a major shot in the arm" and asked how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is involved.
- **CBC 6:30 am News - May 28**
World Heritage Nomination Funding

Long-term Work Plan

Summer and fall 2015 - Complete research, boundary/buffer, OUV/integrity/authenticity, photo/video, maps

July 2015 to Jan. 2016 - Management plan (incl. tourism) and MOU

Oct. 2015 to Jan. 2016 - Begin writing draft nomination chapters

Nov. 2015 to March 2016 - Global comparative analysis

Feb. 2016 - Face to face meeting between PCNO and project team

Feb. to July 2016 - Draft chapters sent back and forth to Ottawa, with drafts to stakeholders for review

May 2016 - Mock evaluation - international experts

August 1, 2016 - SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED DRAFT NOMINATION, APPENDICES, MAPS, PHOTOS TO PCNO

August/Sept 2016 - Revisions

Sept. 30 - Nov. 15, 2016 - WH Centre informal review, comments re: completeness

Nov. 15 - Dec. 1, 2016 - Address comments, outstanding issues, process for completing nomination

Dec. 1, 2016 - FINAL DRAFT SUBMISSION to PCNO

Jan. 4 - 25, 2017 - Final printing, signing event

Feb. 1, 2017 - FINAL DRAFT SUBMISSION to WHC

March 2017- May 2018 - ON-SITE EVALUATION BY ADVISORY BODY

Jan. 31 - March 31, 2018- Additional information to Advisory Body

May 2018 - Advisory body makes recommendation (6 weeks prior to WHC meeting)

May/June/July 2018 - WHC MAKES DECISION

July 2018 - End of project nomination funding