



Radio Zho hosts Kim Joseph (left) and Tish Lindgren (right).

## Director Update

by Jackie Olson



Jùk drin hontl'át hq̄q̄! (It's really nice today!)

I can't believe we're talking about August already! It seems summer just arrived and we're already preparing to go into harvesting mode. The department has been very busy as usual, with many projects on the go. I've moved

over to the Executive Director's office to oversee administration for the interim. HR will be posting for a training position for the Heritage Director's role. If you have an interest in management, have great people skills, and are in tune with your culture/heritage, apply for the opportunity to work in the field for a year or maybe two.

We held a hide-tanning camp at Nänkāk Chèòlaj (Land of Plenty). The camp was well attended. It was good to see so many people out to enjoy



the day and trying a hand at the hide-preparation process. Several people went on a diamond willow hunt back by the river; they were successful in gathering many beautiful pieces. Always great to enjoy the outdoors—so peaceful and a chance to free your mind and use your physical strength to get the job done! The second part of the camp is being planned for end of August. Look forward to seeing you there.



Scraping hides at Hide-Tanning Camp with Georgette (second from right) and Elders.



I had the opportunity to head across river and see what all the hype was about over Orchid Acres! Well, let me tell you it was a pleasure to climb around the side of a hill and get bitten by a hornet to view these incredible orchids! Nature's wonder at its best. Why they chose this particular area to shine is unknown. It's a treasure that will be showcased with a beautiful walking trail designed to protect the ground where the flowers bloom, but allowing everyone to enjoy their beauty at the same time. The summer youth work crew have a big job in front of them, but they are taking it all in stride. I look forward to seeing the finished trail.

The caretakers have been busy with Tr'ochëk and 40 Mile flood restoration. The high river deposited so much sand and debris at both the sites—luckily there's not too much damage to property, mostly clean up. This has dampened on our plans to open Tr'ochëk to tours this summer. Nature will have its way every time; all we can do is deal with it.

World Heritage Status is being talked about a lot lately. TH has received funding to explore further the possibilities to have world recognition here in Dawson. The story of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is one of the reasons the Klondike area has been shortlisted as a possible UNESCO World Heritage site, a place so special it has value to all humanity. This idea has been around for many years. Now there is new momentum, and a group of community partners is coming together to explore what World Heritage status could mean for everyone in Dawson. The Klondike has a rich and layered past going back thousands of years. It is a story of extraordinary adaptation and change, of

people and the land. World Heritage status could help people recognize the full spectrum of our history: the gold rush and mining, Dawson City and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, how these living traditions contribute to world history and culture, and understanding our shared past, present and future. During the next year we will hold workshops to develop a Statement of Universal Values and identify places that illustrate these values. The results will be rolled up in a feasibility report for community partners to decide whether to go ahead with a nomination. We'd like to hear what you think is special about this area. What would be important for all peoples of the world to value and maintain?

The DZCC is in full swing. They had a little snag in their summer exhibit and are working the bugs out! If you haven't seen Michele Olson's performance yet, please do. The store has many new products in for the summer—very stylish indeed! The real hit has been the weekly international Radio Zho program. It was broadcast live each Wednesday, from noon to 1 p.m., from our beautiful riverside location.

Fish camp just finished up. At last report, they caught 21 fish! More to come on that in the next newsletter.

There are many great things going on this summer: the Hän Singers were invited to attend the Teslin Gathering, and the Midway Musicfest at is coming up. You can go either way, north or south, to enjoy some culture.



*Radio Zho guests, Ecka and Wayne.*



**Radio Zoo guests, Peter Menzies (left) and Simon Crelli.**

The Henderson Slough reburial has been set for August 14. We have a great appreciation for all the guidance we received with that process.

As we move along with our daily lives, we must remember to always be kind and considerate of

others. Life is short and we never know when it will be over. It is with sadness I extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Margaret Henry and Nicholas Close-Silverfox. May you find peace and acceptance in your heart during this time of sadness.

As always, we are happy to see you come and visit us, share stories, ask questions or share photos. Anytime!

K'ànàncha

Jackie



## ARCHEOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FIELD WORK

By Lee Whalen



This summer, staff from the heritage department, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in youth Aaron Mendelsohn and Jared Lord, assisted Matrix Research and Yukon Government Archeology with field work throughout the Dawson region. While Allie and Jody took Elders out on the land to discuss land use in the region, Lee, Aaron, and Jared helped

archeological crews search for new archeological sites. In spite of the thirsty mosquitos, scorching sun, and 6 a.m. starts, about 40 new archeological sites were discovered. And, as always, we gained

new insights and invaluable knowledge from our Elders and citizens. The words and wisdom of our Elders helps contextualize why, how, and when people used certain places, adding great value to and understanding to what we do.

The field work is part of a larger project intended to add to our current knowledge of places where long ago people camped, hunted, and fished. The new site information will be used to predict likely areas where new sites may be found in the future.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated so far. We will be back at it in August, spending another six days conducting more field work. Contact Lee if you are interested in participating.



*Jared Lord finding stone flakes.*