



**CH'Èts'IK Sranän  
AKA FROSTY MONTH**

**Director's Update**



By Deb Nagano

Happy New Year! I can't believe how the time went by. I have been keeping busy with re-reading our Final Agreement Chapter 13 – Heritage, Heritage

staff meetings, going over our Heritage budgets, helping out with the two day First Trapper event and looking forward to the trapping camp up at T'oo shan dek (Han), T'oo sha njik (Gwich'in) made out of Poplar or Poplar cache – Cache Creek. I am also chairperson for the World Heritage Project that Paula Hassard is coordinating. These meetings are very interesting and open to TH members. Please drop by when you have time and see how we are proceeding and/or ask Paula for an update.

I am taking a course at our Dawson Yukon College every Monday until April 7 with online video conferencing in the afternoon. The course is First Nations Traditional Knowledge. I'm learning about the importance of traditional knowledge in Yukon First Nations' cultures, and its use in cultural preservation and how we express our identity. We are learning about how oral

histories, environmental knowledge and shared experiences, traditions, social interactions and spiritual beliefs all play a role in the evolution of traditional knowledge. Approaches to collecting, managing, and maintaining ownership and control of traditional knowledge are being looked at. My instructor is Mark Nelson, and on our first day we had Randal Tetlich drop in and talk about how he was raised on the land and the teachings that he received from his Elders. His talks are always very humorous and interesting; he is a good teacher.

**YOUR TH HERITAGE DEPARTMENT**

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<b>Sue Parsons</b> , Collections Manager	993-7144
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<b>Kylie Van Every</b> , DZCC Gift Shop	993-6768
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<b>Paula Hassard</b> , UNESCO Project (term)	993-2429

# World Heritage Project Update

By Paula Hassard

To get UNESCO status we would need to show how Tr'ondëk-Klondike compares with other similar places. I've been getting messages from as far as away as Mexico, Peru and Panama from Yukoners who are visiting other sites where the indigenous and mining heritage is alive and well. One of them said: "We were quite astounded at the designation and of course immediately decided that Dawson was far more worthy!"

But why do people visit World Heritage sites (WHS)? Our working group member David Neufeld had these thoughts:

*"...the important point is not their WHS designation but their reflection of human creativity, passion or appreciation. That is the take home message for me. WHS focus on their meaning and work hard to share it with others in the world. Certainly I can appreciate the fine workmanship and craft skills present ...but ultimately it is the spirit of these places that draws one in. It is being able to stand there gasping in awe and comprehension, and hearing the rest of the world doing the same thing with you. These places connect us together. Their creative diversity amazes me and makes me appreciate the many different ways there are to be in the world - each beautiful and complete in their own way.*

*The Tr'ondëk-Klondike can offer this. I am pleased to be able to share in the work of presenting our own version of this human diversity and beauty."*

## TR'ONDËK-KLONDIKE SLIDE NIGHT

### What does Tr'ondëk-Klondike mean to you?

Come to a fun evening of slides and music by local jazz musicians, on Thursday, February 6, at 7 p.m. at KIAC.

For details call Paula at 993-2429.

For more information visit our website [www.tkwhstatus.ca](http://www.tkwhstatus.ca), or feel welcome to drop by to see me at Madame Tremblay's.

## Q & A (Part THREE)

### Would UNESCO tell us what to do?

No. We would be expected to keep up the standards that won the designation but UNESCO does not impose any new restrictions. If there are problems, UNESCO may investigate and offer advice. The community decides what is important and is in control of managing it.

### Who would manage the site?

The site would be managed by representatives from the organizations that already manage various parts within the site (e.g., Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, City of Dawson, Yukon Government, Parks Canada, Klondike Visitors Association, Dawson City Museum etc.). Their work would not change, other than coming together to report to UNESCO on the state of the site and activities.

### How long does it take to be designated a World Heritage Site?

A nomination usually takes at least three years to prepare. It has to be sent back and forth to Canadian officials before it is submitted to the World Heritage Committee. The evaluation period takes another year and a half, and includes a site visit by evaluators. If we go ahead in May 2014, Tr'ondëk-Klondike could enter the nomination process as early as January 2016, for possible designation in 2017-18. What is in a nomination dossier?

The nomination package explains why the site has universal value, meets World Heritage criteria, is authentic, intact and well-managed, and how it compares to similar sites around the world. This must be backed up by extensive research and rationale.

You can find out more about this project by visiting [www.tkwhstatus.ca](http://www.tkwhstatus.ca)