

# What is the Tr'ondëk-Klondike project?

Story & photo  
by Dan Davidson

In two previous columns I have given some of the background behind Dawson City's interest in applying for UNESCO's World Heritage Status designation. The Klondike region was placed on the national short list for this status in 2004, and I have outlined some of the earlier investigations that have taken place towards making it a reality.

The latest project is called Tr'ondëk -Klondike: Future World Heritage Status? and is being led by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as what is described as "the flagship of nine projects that are underway, with potential benefits for the whole community. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is managing the process of exploring the cultural, social and economic impacts of possible World Heritage status on behalf of community partners.

"An Advisory Committee consists of representatives from the Klondike Visitors Association, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Parks Canada, and the Government of the Yukon, as well as four residents."

In the interests of full disclosure, I am one of

the chamber reps on this committee and, as a journalist, I have been writing about this subject on and off since Pierre Berton first brought the possibility to my attention in 1997.

Since much of the Dawson City area is already comprised of several overlapping National Historic Sites, and the town already has a Historic Management Bylaw (several versions dating back some 30 years), adding World Heritage Status to the local mix would make very minor changes to how people live here now.

No hunting, fishing, mining or trapping rights would be affected, nor would local taxes and utility rates. Construction guidelines in the downtown core area have been in place for decades, so no change related to World Heritage Status would occur there.

The potential benefits include economic, social and cultural factors.

There is a tourism draw associated with World Heritage Status, so we could expect to see visitors who have an interest in indigenous, cultural and industrial as well as natural sites. There would likely be more international visitors.

There would be a greater



*Tourists already come to Dawson by the thousands. Would World Heritage Status bring more of them? This group of Europeans viewed the vista from the Midnight Dome in mid September.*

local and regional interest in learning and celebrating more about what makes this area so special, and a commensurate increase in community pride connected with living in, hosting and safeguarding one of the world's most precious places.

We could expect to find a greater ability to leverage funds and attract partnerships for research, protection, and interpretation of heritage, and perhaps turn back the clock on some of the Parks Canada cutbacks that have had such a negative impact here.

The nomination process, which would take a number of years to complete, would promote better relations between governments,

businesses and community groups.

The project is being managed by former Parks employee Paula Hassard, with the title of World Heritage Project Manager. Specialists have been recruited to work on various aspects of the study, which is beginning by attempting to define the "outstanding universal value" statement that is an essential part of any nomination.

This is an exploratory study at present, seeking to determine the degree of local and regional support for this designation and discover if it is indeed possible to assemble the elements of a successful submission to the International Council

on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the body which would make the final decision.

Fuller details, and a survey for anyone wishing to comment on this topic, can be found at the project's website (<http://tkwhstatus.ca/>) and also on its Facebook site.

I'll return to this topic sometime in the next few months, once that OUV statement has been drafted. So far there have been two sets of local and specialists' workshops aimed at developing this key part of the study, the most recent having taken place in early December.

The advisory committee meets monthly to review the progress of the study so far.

## RSS grad takes top award in Montreal

From [postsecondary.ramafirstnation.ca](http://postsecondary.ramafirstnation.ca)

RSS graduate Sidney Schafrik, who is on track to complete his Ph. D. in Natural Resources Engineering at Laurentian University, took home a bursary from Ontario First Nations Technical Services and Careers. In addition he submitted a paper to compete with the best research papers from the best engineering students in the world.



Out of thousands of entries, Sidney was one of only six students invited to present their paper at the Global Mining Conference in Montreal. Sidney presented his ground breaking research in front of the top mining engineers and executives from some of the largest companies from across the globe. Following his presentation, Sidney's paper was awarded the distinction of being the top paper in the world in the Ventilation Category.

## Public Information Session on Advance Care Planning Wednesday February 12, 2014

WHERE: Odd Fellows Hall; Upstairs

TIME: 7:00PM-8:30PM

Light refreshments provided

Film & Information session on Advance Care Planning  
An opportunity for questions and discussion  
Printed material will be available

Session will be facilitated by Dr. Danusia Kanachowski,  
Palliative Care Physician and Emily Tyson, MSW, Clinical  
Resource Social Worker with the Palliative Care Program.  
For more information, please call 456-6807 or  
email [jan.mckenzie@gov.yk.ca](mailto:jan.mckenzie@gov.yk.ca)