



FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN



Cover Photos:

Upper:

View of Fort Selkirk, December, 1989.(J. Peepre)

Lower:

Plane on its way to Fairbanks, with (left to right) Sophie Anderson, Old Abraham, John McMartin, Mrs. McMartin. (Dan Van Bibber, Van Bibber Coll., Yukon Archives)

FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for the:

Department of Tourism, Heritage Branch,

and the

Selkirk First Nation

Prepared by J.S. Peepre and Associates

with

Jackson and Johnson Heritage Research and Consulting Ltd.

Read and Associates

Bufo Incorporated

John Keay, Architect

Lord Cultural Resources Planning Inc.

March, 1990

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RE: FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN

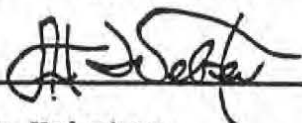
It is hereby agreed that:

1. We approve and endorse the goals, objectives and strategy outlined in the Fort Selkirk Management Plan dated March, 1990 prepared by J.S. Peepre & Associates, as clarified by the letter to the Plan steering committee from J.S. Peepre dated May 2, 1990.*
2. We shall work co-operatively with a community development approach to manage Fort Selkirk as a living heritage site and so as to preserve, develop and interpret Fort Selkirk for the benefit of all Yukoners.
3. As an interim measure, we shall immediately take steps to establish a joint committee to make recommendations upon and to oversee the implementation of the Plan and otherwise to manage Fort Selkirk. This committee will be structured and expected to work in the same manner as the Plan steering committee.

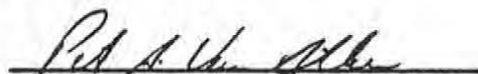
Our intent is that the Plan shall be implemented and Fort Selkirk shall be managed in accordance with the Plan and the recommendations of this committee. Final oversight on these matters shall remain with the undersigned, subject to the principle of Ministerial accountability.

4. This Memorandum is subject to the outcome of the on-going land claim negotiations between the Selkirk First Nation and the Governments of Canada and Yukon with respect to Fort Selkirk. We agree that the parties should conclude a Selkirk First Nation Final Sub-Agreement on Fort Selkirk as soon as possible. It is understood that the provisions of the Sub-Agreement shall be paramount.

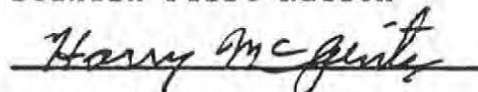
THIS MEMORANDUM being approved and executed at Pelly Crossing, Yukon this 8th day of June, 1990 by:



Art Webster,
Minister of Tourism,
on behalf of the
Government of Yukon



Chief Pat van Bibber,
on behalf of the
Selkirk First Nation



Chief Harry McGinty,
on behalf of the
Selkirk First Nation

*see p.32a in Management Plan

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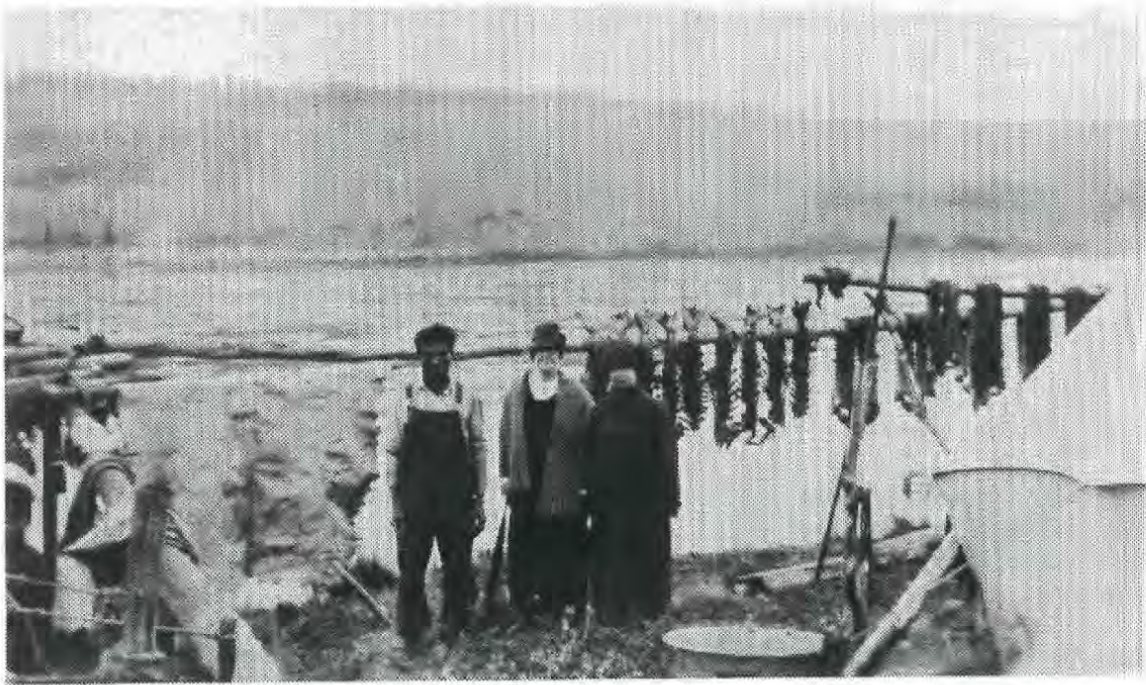
HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

Part 1 begins with a **Vision** for Fort Selkirk. The rest is **Background** information, describing the heritage and natural resources of Fort Selkirk. **Interpretive Themes** are outlined. Visitors to the site are profiled, and the existing facilities and services are listed.

Part 2 is the **Management Plan**. The planning approach, management areas and development are described. The protection and treatment strategy for heritage resources is outlined. Options for visitor facilities, services and interpretation are provided, along with maintenance tasks required.

Part 3 is the **Implementation Framework**. The strategy for implementation and impacts of development are described in the this section.

The **Appendices** summarize capital and operating costs. A chronological historical outline concludes the report.



Fish camp with Copper Charlie (on left), Mrs McMartin (middle) and Kathleen Martin (right). (Van Bibber Coll., Yukon Archives). Elders still pass on these traditional techniques, and tourists are now interested in seeing how fishing was and is done.



Back Row, L-R: Stan Johnson's mother Elsie, Mrs Coward, Julie Roberts, Jessie Baum, Emma Tom Tom, Johnny Tom Tom, and Maggie Luke; Front Row, L-R: David Tom Tom, Danny Roberts, Danny's sister, Franklin Roberts (David Tom Tom Coll., Yukon Archives). Themes about *Heart and Soul* make meaningful interpretive stories at Fort Selkirk if they're linked to families.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We were privileged to have the help of many people in the preparation of this report. The families in Pelly Crossing provided much of the inspiration and many ideas for Fort Selkirk's future. We thank the community for the chance to speak to elders who had fascinating stories to tell about their Fort Selkirk experiences. Roger Alfred was our guide during the site visit and helped organize the meetings. We thank Danny Roberts for the use of his cabin at Fort Selkirk.

The Fort Selkirk Management Plan Steering Committee members gave guidance throughout the study. Many report reviewers helped improve the final product. We would like to acknowledge:

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Stanley Jonathan shows how to make a replica of Three Way Channel Fish Basket. Left to right: Stanley Jonathan, David Grennan, Darren Johnnie, Greg Hare, Eugene Alfred. (Ruth Gotthardt, 1989).



Working on a model of a fishwheel at Fort Selkirk. Left to right: Magdalene McGinty, Bernice Johnny, Lynda Joe, Kevin McGinty. (Ruth Gotthardt, 1989).

PART 1 : BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.0 A VISION FOR FORT SELKIRK

Fort Selkirk is a special part of what we are in the Yukon, our past, our cultures, and our aspirations for the future. We view the past with fascination, for it helps define who we are today. When we look to the future we try to find ways of respecting and building on the past, but we are enthusiastic about new challenges and experiences. This report is the first step in planning for the future of Fort Selkirk. The Selkirk First Nation has a clear idea for the role of Fort Selkirk; the Yukon Government also has an important interest in the management of heritage resources on behalf of all Yukoners. Together, there is a common vision for the future of Fort Selkirk. This vision, as stated below, is the basis of the Fort Selkirk Management Plan:

Fort Selkirk is a living cultural heritage site. As a meeting place it has a long tradition of multi-cultural human use. To the Selkirk First Nation it is part of their homeland, a special place for spiritual and cultural renewal. To the visitor, Fort Selkirk provides a rare glimpse into the native way of life and is a striking reminder of the history of trade and settlement in the north. This heritage must be protected.

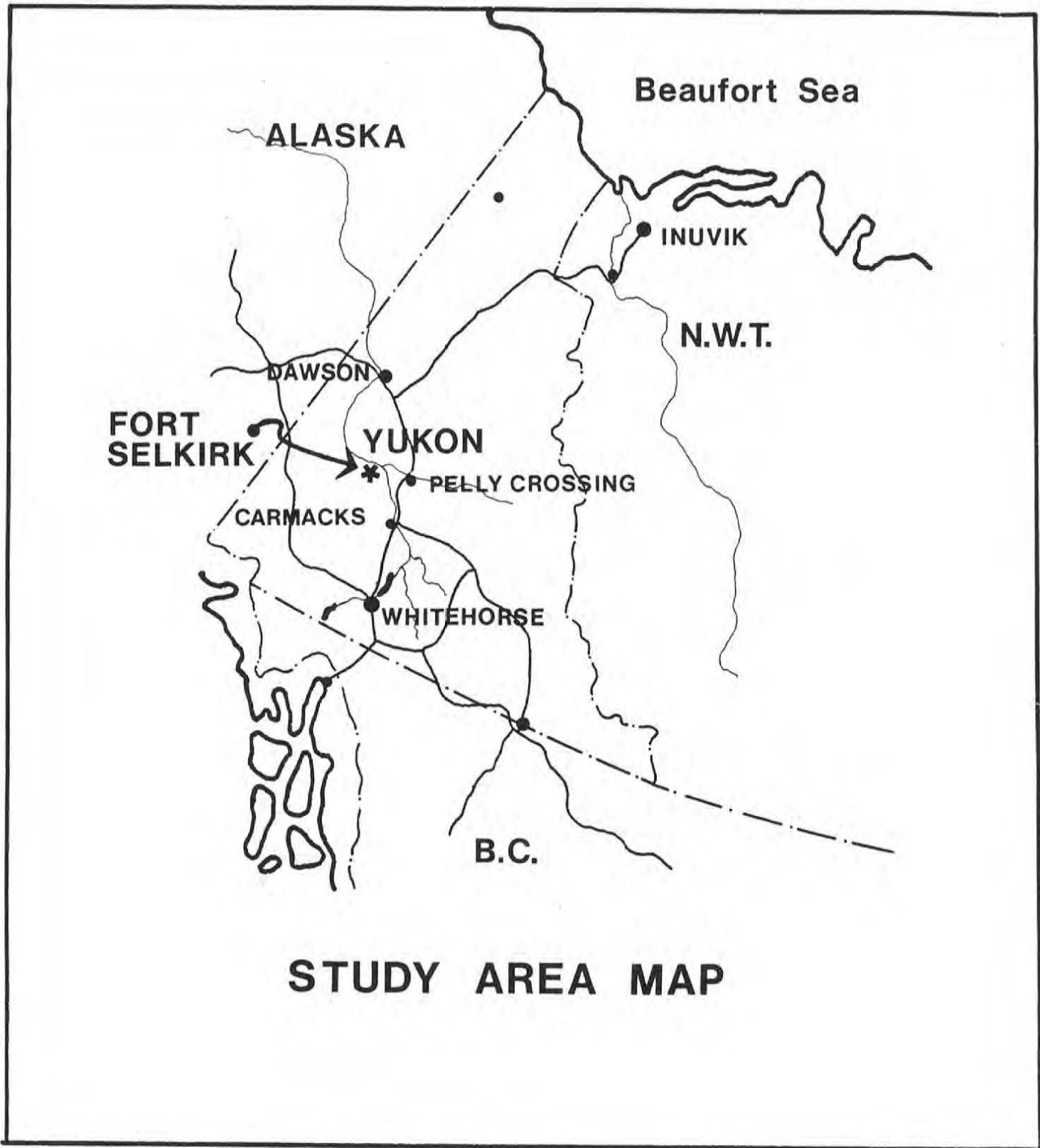
The native way of life will be respected at Fort Selkirk, and the Selkirk First Nation will be able to foster the growth of their culture. Cultural and educational activities planned by the Selkirk First Nation would be encouraged. Visitors will seek understanding through interpretation, education, and self-discovery. Native youth will learn from their elders.

Heritage structures and sites will be protected and maintained according to guidelines set out in the plan. Reconstruction of some buildings could help recreate a setting from earlier times, as well as be useful in the present. In time, the interior of some heritage structures may be restored to interpret the past. Other buildings will be left as they are, some used for services or others for display. New buildings or shelters for use by Selkirk First Nation members or tourists should be located and designed to complement the heritage character of the site.

All visitor activities and development will be compatible with the heritage resources and character of the site. A balance must be found between visitor services and the need to protect the peaceful and spiritual aura that is at the heart of the Fort Selkirk experience. In the short term, visitors will be self-sufficient, but the future sale of food, crafts, or guiding services would be in keeping with the trading history of the site. A more complete interpretive story will help visitors gain an appreciation of Fort Selkirk. Signs and guiding services may be provided, but ample room should be left for individual exploration.

The plan will be implemented in stages, using a community development approach. Growth in tourism will be gradual and in keeping with the Fort Selkirk setting. Training, education, business and employment opportunities will occur at a pace determined by the Selkirk First Nation. Where possible, cooperative funding and management arrangements will be used to implement the plan.

Fort Selkirk will grow as a place of renewal, and a place to strengthen connections with the past. It will also be a place for visitors to see and hear first hand the heritage left from early settlement and trade.



2.0 INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan was commissioned by the Heritage Branch of the Department of Tourism, in cooperation with the Selkirk First Nation. A steering committee with representatives from the Selkirk First Nation, the Heritage Branch, Tourism Development Branch, and the Parks, Resources and Regional Planning Branch guided the consultant's work. The plan reflects the perspective of the Selkirk people as well as the interests of the Yukon Government.

Considerable heritage restoration and stabilization work has already been done at Fort Selkirk. Archaeological work, oral history, education programs, gatherings, and traditional lifestyles have been on-going activities. A campground and some interpretive signs are in place and the site is visited by hundreds of residents and tourists each year. The site facilities and heritage resources can handle today's number of visitors, but increased use without a management plan could create problems. This plan is required to guide the future use, preservation, and development of the Fort Selkirk heritage site.

The plan does not address land or heritage resource ownership at Fort Selkirk. It is based on a community development approach and assumes some form of government-Selkirk First Nation cooperative management to:

- *allow for the native way of life,*
- *ensure heritage protection and allow for research,*
- *encourage cultural, spiritual, social and economic development,*
- *provide for visitor use and appreciation of the Fort Selkirk heritage.*

2.1 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Fort Selkirk is located on the Yukon River in central Yukon Territory. Pelly Crossing is the nearest community on the Klondike Highway, about 3 hours drive north of Whitehorse. The Fort Selkirk heritage site lies in the heart of the region used by Selkirk people for generations. Families from Pelly Crossing work and live at Fort Selkirk seasonally, and many people visit family and friends there.

The site is one of the most outstanding features along the length of the Yukon River. In the past, traders have plied the waters of the Yukon River and its tributaries, often converging on Fort Selkirk. Today's tourists travel on long wilderness journeys passing legendary places on the Yukon River. Fort Selkirk is already a feature of the journey to these travellers and may ultimately become a highlight.

The site is adjacent to three tourism regions, but does not fall readily into either the Silver Trail, Dawson City, or Campbell area. There are relatively few services or other developed tourist attractions along the mid-portion of the Klondike Highway. Minto, Five Finger Rapids, Tatchun Lake and Midway are the main points-of-interest for many tourists. The regional setting could be used to develop a distinctive image and additional services or features of which Fort Selkirk could be a part.

2.2 STUDY AREA BOUNDARIES

The planning area includes the Fort Selkirk townsite and immediate vicinity. The Yukon River, Pelly River confluence, the lava bluffs, forested ridges, and Victoria Rock are seen from Fort Selkirk and are an essential part of the setting. These places are adjacent to the planning area but they should be managed to complement the use and protection of Fort Selkirk. (See details of boundaries in Part 2, The Management Plan.)

3.0 HERITAGE THEMES FOR FORT SELKIRK

Background

The oral traditions of Selkirk First Nation people identify the Fort Selkirk vicinity as an important meeting place for countless generations of their ancestors. Archaeological evidence shows that it was used thousands of years ago. Its location at the confluence of the Pelly and Yukon Rivers made it a good location for trade. The rivers offered salmon and other fish for food. Large mammals such as bison, moose and caribou, plus many smaller animals and birds were used for food, while hides and furs provided clothing, shelter, and other needs. People from far away brought exotic items like obsidian, copper, and sea products to exchange for the fine furs and skins of the Pelly-Yukon area.

Several decades of indirect contact with Europeans through Tlingit traders preceded the first meetings between Northern Tutchone people and Hudson's Bay Company trader Robert Campbell. Campbell built a trading post at the mouth of the Pelly in 1848, and later moved to the present site. In 1852, Tlingit traders ransacked that post, probably hoping to eliminate their competitor. The HBC abandoned trading in the southern Yukon but Northern Tutchone and Tlingit people carried on with their trade. Many changes occurred throughout the northwest as non-native settlement expanded. After 1880 the Tlingits allowed non-native people to cross the coastal mountain passes. Prospectors and travellers visited Fort Selkirk enroute to or from gold workings down river.

Northern Tutchone people continued to use the site and were joined by non-native people on a permanent basis after 1889. When the Klondike Gold Rush brought thousands of stampedeers to Dawson City, the Yukon Field Force was headquartered at Ft. Selkirk. A brief building boom occurred as hotels, stores, and other businesses were established. Steamboat traffic, telegraph construction, and a steady stream of people on the river changed earlier patterns of life for Northern Tutchone people. They integrated many new goods, services, and employment into their seasonal activities, but experienced hardships related to game shortages, epidemic diseases, and social change. The boom was soon followed by decline. Most non-native residents left but Fort Selkirk remained an important place for Northern Tutchone people to live, trade, work and celebrate. When road construction in the 1950s ended steamer traffic on the Yukon River most residents moved to Minto or Pelly Crossing.

Selkirk Indian people still hunt, fish, and trap in the vicinity of Fort Selkirk. Danny Roberts has maintained a home at Fort Selkirk to the present day. He greets people from around the world who visit the site as a heritage attraction. Since the late 1970s, building restoration activities have given new life to Fort Selkirk in summer. Elders and youth have participated in archaeological and oral history research at the site, which is a promising sign that traditions from long ago have a place in the present and will continue to be preserved for the future.



"Fort Selkirk ca. 1937" L-R: St. Andrews Anglican Church, Armstrong Cabin, MacMartin Cabin, Selkirk Hotel, Stone House and Catholic Church. (Ward Coll., Yukon Archives) This building would be classified a *Landmark*. People in Pelly Crossing remember the planting of the spruce tree in front of the church.



"Selkirk, view of townsite looking S.E. from Catholic Church at right." Stone House is on left, with Selkirk Hotel and Anglican Church to right. (Father Bobillier Coll.) The forest now obscures this view.

The Purpose of Themes

Distinctive heritage themes will set Fort Selkirk apart from other important heritage sites in the Yukon. Heritage themes will provide a focus for interpretation and education at Fort Selkirk. They may also provide a framework for education, interpretation and promotion outside of the site. Themes and subthemes identify the important messages to be interpreted and provide a framework for organizing information which, without thematic structure, would be simply a collection of facts and stories.

THEME : "MEETING PLACE"

The dominant image for Fort Selkirk is a meeting place. Maps reveal a pattern of numerous trails and rivers that converge at Fort Selkirk. This image captures many of the major stories and messages of the site:

Selkirk as a meeting place for the Northern Tutchone people living in the area;

Selkirk as a meeting place for Northern Tutchone and native people from outside the area, e.g. Tlingit, Han, etc.;

Selkirk as a historical meeting place of native and non-native cultures;

Selkirk as a meeting place for non-natives - William Ogilvie and George Dawson arranged their rendezvous for Fort Selkirk as a reliable meeting place during their "wilderness" explorations;

Selkirk as a meeting place for two major river systems, the Yukon and the Pelly;

Selkirk as a meeting place for people and wildlife - its location reflects its proximity to good hunting, trapping and fishing grounds;

Selkirk as a modern meeting place for cultures - here is the opportunity for tourists and other river travellers to meet with the Selkirk people.

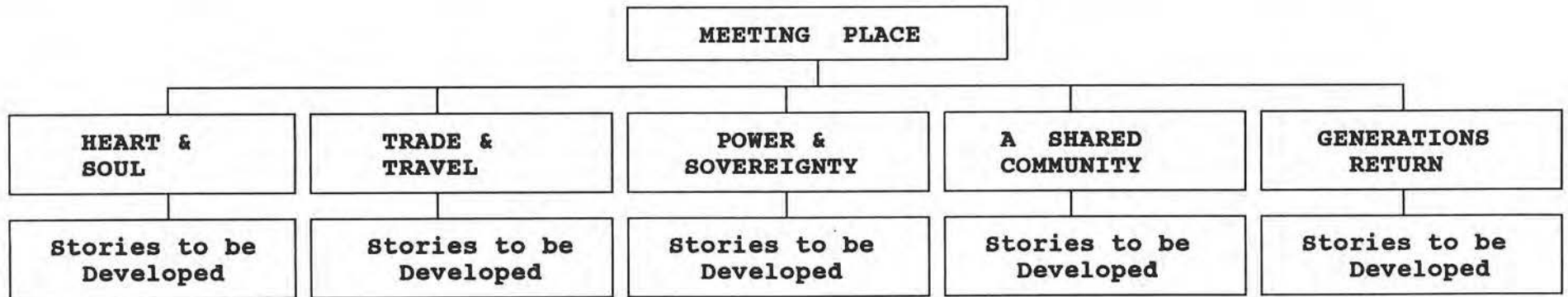
Within this theme of "Meeting Place" are a number of subthemes.

Subtheme : "HEART AND SOUL"

The most important subtheme is the meaning that Fort Selkirk holds for the Selkirk Indian people. For generations this site and region has been the "home base" for the Selkirk people. Oral histories recount this long association including memories of an erupting volcano hundreds of years ago, stories which parallel the scientific record of events. The strong desire of the Selkirk First Nation to continue to use this site reflects its role as the heart and soul of a people. While the location may first have been chosen as a result of the excellent fishing and hunting nearby, and the suitability of the terrain for a settlement, its long use has brought additional importance to Fort Selkirk. The oral traditions describe

Table#1

FORT SELKIRK HERITAGE THEMES AND SUB-THEMES



the site as an exciting place where families were raised, where friendships were renewed after food-gathering trips, where the people danced and stick gambled, where generations are buried, and now, the place to which generations return. The return to Fort Selkirk reflects the desire to re-affirm and enhance the Selkirk First Nation members' connections with the site and its rich spiritual associations.

Another element of this subtheme is the connection of other cultures to the site. Tlingit and other native groups visited here and in some cases married into the community. Families - the Harpers, Camerons, Horsfalls, Van Bibbers, McMartins, Wilkinsons, and others - also lived here and made it their home. This is one of the special qualities about Fort Selkirk that distinguishes it from many other sites. Fort Selkirk remained a vital community and a meeting place for many cultures long after the rush had ended.

Subtheme : "TRADE AND TRAVEL"

For hundreds, perhaps thousands of years, aboriginal people met in the Fort Selkirk vicinity to trade. Much of the trade was between the interior people and the coastal people who brought their dentalia shells, eulachon grease and other products of the sea to trade for superior quality furs, skins and other interior resources. Later the Tlingit would bring European and American trade goods such as guns, knives and kettles to trade for furs, skins, meat and fish. Exchanges with the peoples to the north and west were for copper and other items and there may have been an extended trade network all the way to the arctic via the Gwich'in people.

From an interpretive perspective, trade and travel are exciting stories. Where did the visitors stay? What were the social aspects of these visits - ceremonies? gifts exchanged? celebrations? bargaining? Trade also brought problems as the Tutchone people were caught in the middle of a trade dispute between the Tlingit and a newcomer on the scene, Robert Campbell of the Hudson's Bay Company. Campbell gave his name to a native family of the area in appreciation for their help after the Tlingits had ransacked his post.

The Klondike Gold Rush solidified Fort Selkirk's role as a regional commercial centre for trade and supply. After the gold rush, the community still played this role as a steamboat stopping point, a centre for the area's wood camps, a communication centre as a result of the telegraph line, and as a base for trading and provisioning. Fort Selkirk remains an important travel point for river travellers and has the potential to once again be an active trading site.

Subtheme : "POWER AND SOVEREIGNTY"

Fort Selkirk is in a prime location for transportation, for hunting and fishing, for trade, and for settlement. This fact has led to struggles over who should have power and sovereignty over the site. Of necessity, the Selkirk First Nation has historically had strong leaders such as Thlingit Thling, Hanan and Big Jonathan. The destruction of the Fort Selkirk trading post resulted from anger on the part of the Tlingit over who would control trade with the Northern Tutchone. This incident provides a great interpretive opportunity which would be enhanced by further archaeological exploration of the Campbell trading post.

Explorers such as Schwatka (1883) underlined the lack of an official Canadian presence in the Yukon. Ogilvie and Dawson (1887) were sent to investigate and delineate Canadian

interests in the Yukon. Anglican and Roman Catholic missionaries competed for "religious" sovereignty in the 1890s. The arrival of the NWMP and the Yukon Field Force during the Gold Rush confirmed Canadian sovereignty in the Yukon.

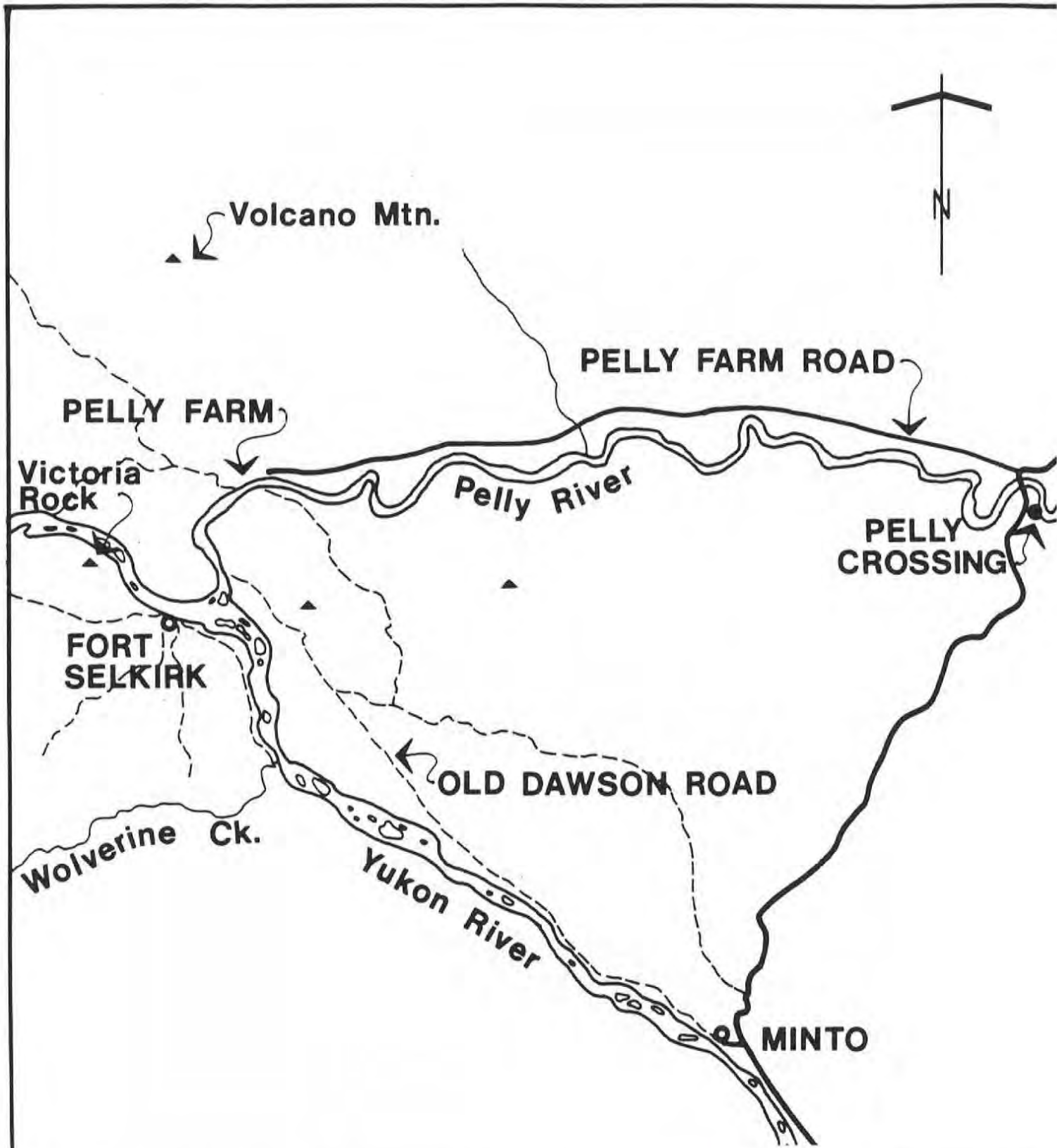
These events had a pronounced affect on the native people. The new residents surveyed and subdivided the townsite, moved burial sites to a central graveyard, and created a reserve for the natives 3 miles away (which was never inhabited). The native population did not leave, but were relocated to one end of the townsite. In response to the many sudden changes at Fort Selkirk, the Selkirk Indian people began to organize in new ways to deal with these different circumstances. These led to today's Selkirk First Nation.

Subtheme : "A SHARED COMMUNITY"

The Selkirk First Nation were and are a sharing community, another key requirement of a meeting place. For generations, they were the central social community in an enormous trading network. And for over fifty years they shared occupation of the site with non-native settlers. For decades, the two cultures shopped at the same stores, attended the same churches, traded with each other, and participated in all of the other activities that typify a single community. During the gold rush, the town was bustling with activity: churches, stores, hotels, sawmill, farm, wood camps, docks, telegraph office, NWMP, and Yukon field Force barracks. Later, as the non-native population declined, the pace of life was slower. The last two families - one native and one non-native - left Fort Selkirk together.

Subtheme : "GENERATIONS RETURN"

The meeting place that is Fort Selkirk will once again be a lively community. For the Selkirk First Nation, the revival is a chance to meet their past with its vital cultural and spiritual memories. It is the desire of the Selkirk First Nation that both the old and new generations return to Fort Selkirk, if only seasonally, to exchange knowledge and ideas and re-affirm their roots at this place. Other generations from other cultures will return as well. Once again travellers in the Yukon will seek out Fort Selkirk as a meeting place of history and cultures at the bend in the river, where the Pelly joins the Yukon.



FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN: SETTING AND ACCESS

Scale: 1:250,000

4.0 SETTING AND SITE RESOURCES

4.1 SETTING AND ACCESS

Fort Selkirk is situated on the south bank of the Yukon River, about 1.5 km downstream of the Pelly River confluence. The site lies on a broad, forested river terrace at an elevation of 436 m. (1,429 ft.). The surrounding rolling hills of the Lewes Plateau rise to 900-1200 m. (3,000-4,000 ft.). From Minto on the Klondike Highway, Fort Selkirk is about 38km downstream on the Yukon River. It is roughly 55km downstream from Pelly Crossing on the Pelly River. The closest road access is at Pelly Farm, located 8 km up the Pelly River. Pelly Farm is a one and a half hour drive from Pelly Crossing. The farm is privately owned and permission is needed to use the property. Many old trails and roads converge on the Pelly River confluence and Fort Selkirk area. None of these are in good driving condition.

The Pelly Crossing airstrip is 45km from Fort Selkirk. The Fort Selkirk strip has been periodically maintained by YTG, but is in fairly rough condition. The airstrip has no official status with the Ministry of Transport, and is not shown on maps as a useable landing site. It may be used by pilots at their discretion and also for emergency fire-fighting .

4.2 HERITAGE RESOURCES

The Fort Selkirk site is culturally and historically important to the Selkirk First Nation, to other Yukoners, and to many people outside the territory. Heritage resources related to the site exist in many different forms and locations. This outline of heritage resources considers native languages, people, and activities of the present, as well as events, oral narratives, objects, sites and buildings from the past.

4.2.1 Oral Traditions

Fort Selkirk has a rich fabric of oral traditions tied to the surrounding landscape, natural resources, cultures, people and events of the region. Selkirk First Nation elders relate mythological stories about the creation of the world, people, and animals. Events from the more recent past such as volcanic eruptions (500 years B.P.), Tlingit /Tutchone trade practices, and the destruction of Robert Campbell's post are part of their oral traditions as well. Likewise they heard about the gold rush, missionaries, and other visitors from their grandparents and parents. Having lived in the area all their lives, elders have a keen sense of changes that have taken place in their environment. They know the Northern Tutchone (and some Tlingit) names for landforms, special places, animals, plants, traditional tools, and technology. Family and personal names, kinship relationships and ties to Indian people throughout the Yukon are all important threads in the history of Selkirk people.

Although the most important sources for this knowledge are still the elders themselves, oral history recording programs conducted by the Selkirk First Nation recently have created a collection of tapes, transcripts, and reports for some of this information. Some stories have been published in books such as *My Stories are My Wealth*, and *Part of the Land Part of the Water*. The Council for Yukon Indians (Curriculum Development Program), and the Yukon Native Language Centre also have tapes pertaining to Selkirk people. The Yukon Heritage Branch has tapes and transcripts of recordings made at the site with elders (Elders Oral History Project 1985).

Other former residents and people with knowledge of Fort Selkirk have been recorded as well. These sources generally offer information about post-gold rush events, personalities, and activities related to riverboat technology, telegraph line operation, police work, trapping, store operations, etc. In 1978, the Yukon River Aural History Project conducted a series of recordings on Yukon River history. Included are interviews with Henry Breaden, G.I. Cameron, Don Jones, George Dawson, and others. Brief summaries as well as the tapes are available at the Yukon Archives (81/32). The Yukon Archives has several other tape series on people and places in the region (eg. May Menzies Collection). The Heritage Branch conducted on site interviews with a number of people (Fort Selkirk Oral History Project 1984) for which transcripts and tapes are available.

4.2.2 Archaeological Sites

Fort Selkirk Sites

Three sites have received Borden designations at Fort Selkirk. (These are official designation numbers assigned by The Archaeological Survey of Canada.). KeVe2 is located at the upriver end of the site, extending from the traditional dog salmon fishing camp there down to the vicinity of Danny Robert's cabin. It has yielded artefacts dating from 300-2000 years ago. The earlier occupation (circa 2,000 B.P.) appears to have been a small camp. Artefacts from the occupation around 300 B.P. show that the area may have been a trade rendezvous. The second Robert Campbell post located in front of Danny Robert's cabin is designated as KeVe1. Some prehistoric and historic artefacts, as well as extensive structural remains of the post have been found in test pits dug there. KeVe10 located on the Swinehart Farm road just behind the townsite was a prehistoric campsite where some scattered stone flakes were found.

Other Related Sites in the Vicinity

Other sites in the immediate area have a bearing on interpreting the regional archaeological context of Fort Selkirk and in providing visitors with a sense of the setting and meaning to landmarks such as Victoria Rock or the Pelly River confluence.

These include Nju Yen Tlek ("It [the river] cuts through here"), (KeVf1), also known as Three-way Channel. This was a traditional fishing site probably used in the last century. Five fishbaskets along with other fishing technology were discovered during the archaeological project sponsored by the Selkirk First Nation and the Heritage Branch in 1988 and 1989. Also recovered at the fishing site were three hammerstones and a bow. A campsite associated with the fishing site is located on the upriver end of the island.

Tthi Ts'ach'an or Victoria Rock (KeVe7) is another traditional fish camp where a canvas canoe frame was found. MacNeish excavated KfVd2 at Pelly Farm in 1960. Another MacNeish site is KeVd3, 3 miles upriver from Fort Selkirk where microblades were found. This prehistoric site is of some concern since it is washing out and it represents an interesting example of an early river-side camp. KfVe3 is a small look-out southwest of Volcano Mountain.

Another fishcamp (KeVd7) behind Robert Campbell's first post produced a skin scraper, various bone and stone fragments, plus hearth material dated A.D. 1350 +/- 70. The post site itself (KeVd8) also yielded some prehistoric material as well as remains of the post buildings. At Wolverine Creek (KeVd6) there are three cremation sites and two fenced



"Taylor & Drury Store ca 1920 or '21" (Tidd Coll., Yukon Archives). A summer store or other services could be located here or in the Stone House. *Trade and Travel* theme can be highlighted here.



"Interior of the Schofield and Zimmerlee store." (John Gregg, 1937., HBC Archives). An interior restoration of a store, the RCMP station, or a family house could be considered for interpretation.

graves. More than 1,500 stone flakes, in association with charcoal dated at A.D. 1470 +/- 80 were also recovered from here, near a moose lookout that is used to this day.

4.2.3 Heritage Structures And Sites

From an architectural perspective, Fort Selkirk expresses in a simple, clarified form some classic town planning ideas which serve to articulate the site and place it firmly in the context of its natural surroundings. The imposition of a grid, the basic symbol of the western sense of order, is readily apparent. More interesting is the focussing of views down through the remainder of the town and out to the surrounding natural landscape, views which are opened up and contained by the buildings in a very formal way. The buildings are strong elements which, because of their simplicity and siting, help to define the surroundings. They could be viewed as an attempt to provide a refuge from the overpowering scale of the landscape.

The Field Force Site is even more rigid, a carefully measured compound of structures oriented not to the landscape but formally inward-looking, defining a parade ground. The buildings themselves, several of which have been moved elsewhere, exhibit a high degree of uniformity.

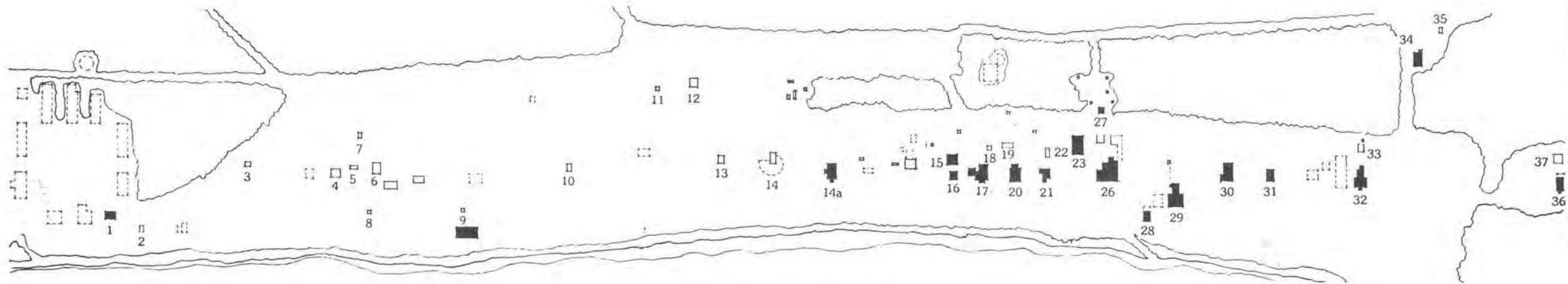
Both of these are an obvious contrast to the use of buildings by the Tutchone people. They had no reason to put structures on a grid, and their buildings were generally smaller as suited their seasonal and part time occupancy. On the death of an owner, or abandonment, they were often burnt or dismantled. At this stage, the relatively limited number of these buildings enhances their importance from both the architectural and interpretive points of view. Brush shelters and later, tents, were traditional accommodation. Log buildings were adopted when non-native peoples arrived.

None of the buildings at Fort Selkirk are monumental, or have any particular significance in terms of architectural style. Buildings throughout the town are modest in scale and finish, constructed of local materials, and are eloquent statements of the realities of a subsistence economy in the North. They provide a message dealing with the economics of shelter and the use of materials. The buildings as well respond to the rigors of the climate, with their compact size allowing winter warmth.

4.2.4 Artefacts

Prehistoric archaeological artefacts recovered at Fort Selkirk range in age from about 2000 years to around the time of contact about 150 years ago. They consist mainly of numerous types of stone flakes and microblades. One copper point and one biface scraper were found, but these items were not located within a context that allowed them to be helpful in dating the site. Other items collected were ceramic shards, glass beads, and a piece of a clay pipe. These specimens are useful mainly for research purposes, although casts and/or originals of some items might be used in interpretive displays at the site. Most of these artefacts are located at the Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism pending deposition with the Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization, at the completion of analysis.

Ethnographic objects like the hammer stones, fishbaskets, and bow recently collected in the region are useful for interpreting traditional lifestyles of Northern Tutchone people. Although located off-site at present (in Selkirk First Nation office at Pelly Crossing and Yukon Archaeologist's office in Whitehorse), these items might be used for replication



YUKON RIVER

- 1 - Orderly Room/Blanchard Cabin
- 2 - Frank Blanchard Cabin
- 3 - Old Silas Cache
- 4 - Robert Luke Cabin
- 5 - Double Cache
- 6 - Stan Jonathon Cabin
- 7 - Jackson Jonathon Cabin
- 8 - Peter McGinty Cache
- 9 - Big Jonathon Cache
- 10 - Tommy McGinty Cabin
- 11 - Old Abraham Cabin
- 12 - Johnny Anderson Cabin
- 13 - Andrew Baum Cabin
- 14 - Joe Roberts Cabin

- 14a - HBCo Store Foundation
- 15 - Garage
- 16 - Machine Shop
- 17 - Coward Cabin
- 18 - Greenhouse
- 19 - Shed
- 20 - RCMP Detachment
- 21 - Devore Cabin
- 22 - Shed
- 23 - Stable
- 26 - T & D Store
- 27 - Larsen/Lankins Cabin
- 28 - School
- 29 - Rectory

- 30 - St. Andrew's Anglican Church
- 31 - Armstrong Cabin
- 32 - Charlie Stone House
- 33 - Stone Shed
- 34 - St. F.X. Catholic Church
- 35 - Cache
- 36 - Wilkinson Cabin
- 37 - Unidentified

EXISTING SITE
 FORT SELKIRK
 MANAGEMENT PLAN

projects (replication means to make a copy of something), or in some circumstances, for display at Fort Selkirk. Some Selkirk First Nation members may have similar objects, or things like old style skin clothing, which they might be prepared to have photographed for display purposes. In some cases these items might also be suitable for replication to produce display items.

Historic artefacts are widely scattered throughout the site, in and outside of buildings. At least two preliminary inventories of these items have been done (Porter 1981; Fort Selkirk Town Site : Preliminary Artefact Inventory 1989). Both lists include a wide variety of small wooden, glass and metal objects such as boxes, bottles, tin cans, nails and bolts. Some medium-size objects of more significance include traps, saw blades, barrel stoves, and furnishings. There are a few larger items like a buzz saw, car, and a wooden sleigh. Some artefacts have been collected in the Stone Shed for storage. There was also a small collection of artefacts in the Heritage Branch Marwell Storage Centre but these items have been returned to the site. While few of these artefacts are unique or highly significant, most have a useful role to play in giving "life" to the site for interpretive purposes. They were/are the stuff of everyday existence and visitors can gain an appreciation for what was available and what was adapted to various purposes by residents.

When Fort Selkirk residents moved to Minto and Pelly Crossing in the late 1940s and 1950s, many of them left furnishings and other belongings in their homes and caches. Apparently some of these things were removed by other people over the years, but it is not known whether any of this material still remains in the territory. It is possible that other Fort Selkirk items are also held by museums or private individuals in the Yukon.

4.2.5 Documentary Sources

The Yukon Archives has extensive documentation on Fort Selkirk. The Heritage Branch produced a *Fort Selkirk Bibliography* (Dobrowolsky 1988) which lists Yukon Archives references for published sources, corporate records (Anglican Church records), films, government records, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and tape recordings. The Yukon Archives has finding aids for other collections which include relevant data (eg. White Pass & Yukon Route Collection). Numerous photographs, such as the Van Bibber collection, and films such as the G.I. Cameron collection, offer a visual record of Fort Selkirk over many decades. The Yukon Archives also holds the Yukon Waterways Sites Survey, a collection of maps, photos and drawings published in 1973 by Parks Canada.

Fort Selkirk material is located at several other repositories too, notably the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg, the National Archives of Canada at Ottawa, and at the Selkirk First Nation office. The Hudson's Bay Company Library has published accounts of the fur trade and the HBC Archives holds original post records and correspondence series for Fort Selkirk. One post journal is located at the National Archives of Canada, as well as photos and field journals for the Yukon Expedition of 1887.

The Archaeological survey of Canada holds copies of manuscript reports and photos related to archaeological investigations in the region. The original Kohklux map (drawn by Chilkat Chief Kohklux 1869) which shows Tlingit travel routes to Fort Selkirk, and meeting places with Yukon Indians is at the Bancroft Library in California. A copy is located at the Yukon Native Language Centre (YNLC). The Kohklux map is featured in the CYI Curriculum Program *Athapaskan/Tlingit Transition Grade 3 Cultural Enrichment Kit*, while Fort Selkirk is the focus of a booklet produced by the Department of Education called *Explorations*. YNLC also holds typescripts of Reverend T.H. Canham's diaries which include daily entries for the time he spent at Fort Selkirk (1899-1908). The Selkirk First

Nation holds photographs of elders and families, band administrative records, and copies of tapes, research reports, and other data on projects at Fort Selkirk.

4.2.6 Landscape Features

Many features in the Fort Selkirk area have special meaning to the people who have lived there. Important landscape features in the planning area include Victoria Rock, the Pelly River confluence, and the lava bluffs opposite the townsite. Volcano Mountain lies outside the planning area, but is a prominent geographic feature associated with many native stories. Wolverine Creek just upstream from Fort Selkirk has been used as a water source but has been found contaminated in recent years.

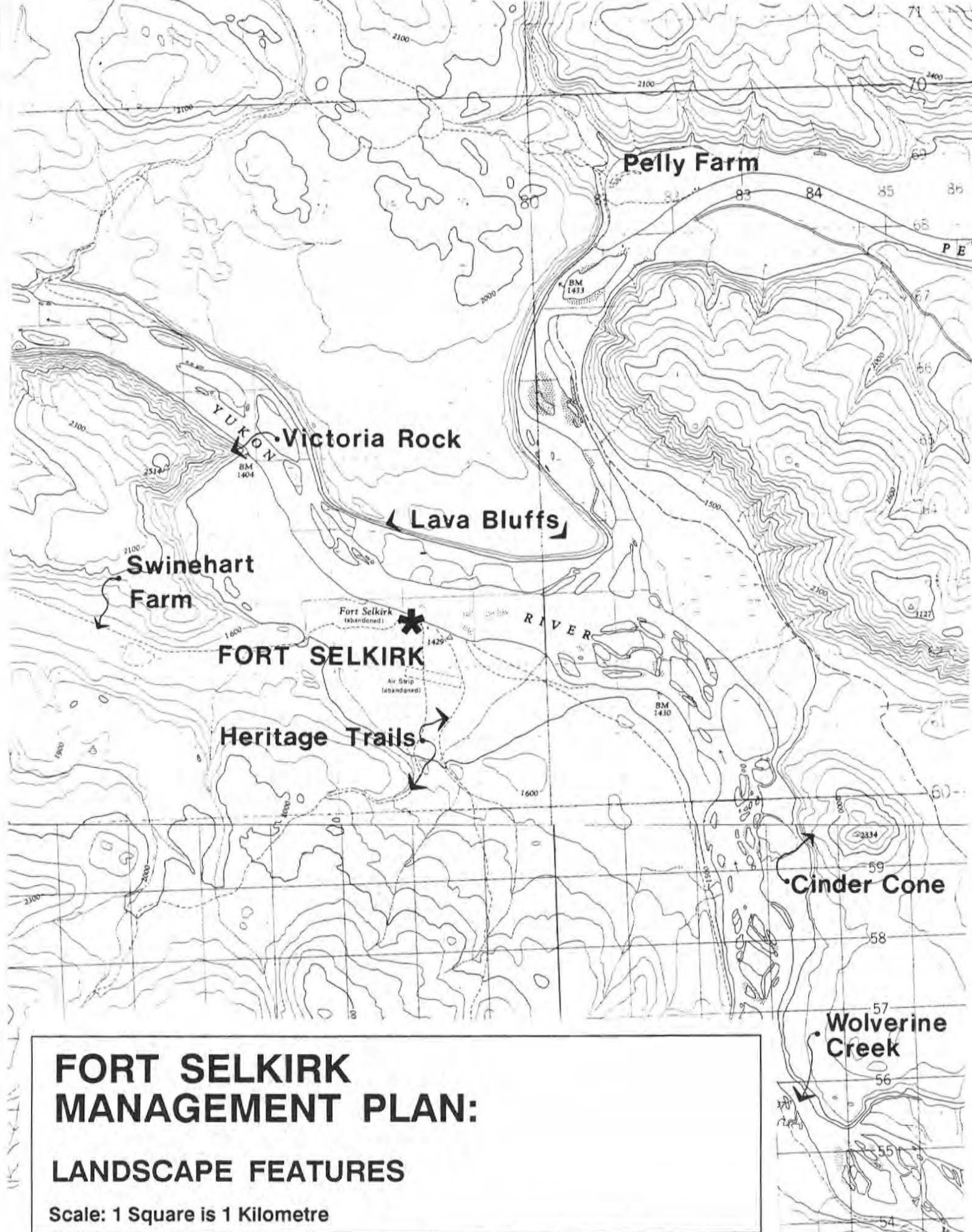
Landscape Features Summary:

<i>Victoria Rock</i>	- <i>native name, Tthi Ts'ach'an; spiritual place, landmark, campsite, fishing place,</i>
<i>Lava Bluffs</i>	- <i>native name, Melu; dominates view from Selkirk, geologic interest, stories about cannon practice by Yukon Field Force,</i>
<i>River Sloughs Trails</i>	- <i>fishing, navigation, wildlife, connections to White River, Aishihik, Kluane Lake, Selwyn, Dawson, as well as local trails to Victoria Rock and other places,</i>
<i>Cinder cone</i>	- <i>just upstream of Fort Selkirk on opposite shore; native name, Ne Ch'e Ddhawa,</i>

2.2.6 Way of Life, Past and Present

One of the intriguing aspects of Fort Selkirk is its location in the midst of the Selkirk Indian people's traditional homeland where people have been hunting and gathering for thousands of years, and still continue to do so. Summer visitors may see people along the river setting fishnets or drying their catch. They may see people going hunting or returning with moose or caribou. Selkirk First Nation members might be tanning a hide, sewing moccasins or other items. There could be stickgambling, drumming or dancing, and other celebrations at the site. Elders might be teaching young people their language, stories, and lifeways. If winter tourism develops, visitors could see trapping, hunting, and winter survival gear in action. Dog teams and snow machines would add to the sights and sounds at the site. When Danny Roberts or other Selkirk Indian people are at Fort Selkirk they present the best opportunity for visitors to understand Fort Selkirk lifestyles past and present. They may explain where and what resources exist in the area, how their people have evolved past techniques into present practices for survival, and many other aspects of Fort Selkirk history.

While Selkirk First Nation members relate to the site as "home" many people from elsewhere will identify the location of Fort Selkirk as remote. The lifestyle of non-natives in past decades will be of interest to them. Visitors will want to know how food, shelter, and warmth were obtained by those people, and at what cost. Spiritual needs are evoked by the churches and cemeteries. Communication systems used in early years to reach the outside



FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Scale: 1 Square is 1 Kilometre

world are no longer seen, but the past importance of the telegraph line, summer steamboats, winter stageline and mail service are evident to the visitor today.

4.3 NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND USE

Natural resources are part of the Fort Selkirk heritage. Local people continue to use these resources for food, shelter, medicine, clothing and other supplies. Today, the natural environment is important to visitors for its wild beauty, its recreational opportunities, and for its links with the culture and history of the site. Site planning must take into account the natural environment.

4.3.1 Climate

Fort Selkirk has a continental climate with pleasant but short summers and cold winters. It is wetter and colder than Whitehorse. Annual temperatures average -5 C, with July at +15 C and January averaging -30 C. The May to September average is +11 C. Annual precipitation is 276mm with a little less than half of this falling from June to August. The early autumn and late spring can be very agreeable times to visit Fort Selkirk, for brilliant fall colours or mild weather winter activities.

4.3.2 Geology

Fort Selkirk is on the Lewes Plateau, just north of the Dawson Range. Although the geology is complex, a few interesting features stand out. The ridges to the south of Fort Selkirk are made of granite, but it is the massive basaltic lava flows across the Yukon River that dominate the setting. According to Bostock (1936), these flows originated from Volcano Mountain to the north, and dammed the rivers forcing the Yukon to cut across a spur of its former valley below Selkirk. The volcano ceased to erupt perhaps only a few hundreds of years ago. (Recent work by Lionel Jackson, Geological Survey of Canada sheds more light on the local geology. This information will aid in future site interpretation).

Victoria Rock, just 3km downstream of Fort Selkirk also consists of basalt and other metamorphosed (changed by heat and pressure) rocks. Bostock's geological maps show the extent of lava flows in the area.

Fort Selkirk lies on a terrace made of glacial drift (from the last ice age) and alluvium (sands, silts and gravels deposited by the river). Volcanic ash from the White River eruptions was also deposited in the region, although archaeologists have not noted its presence at the Fort Selkirk site. The surface geology has changed with events like the lava flows, movements of the river channel, and possibly ash accumulations.

4.3.3 Hydrology

The Yukon River water flow fluctuates from highs in June-July to low levels in September-October. The townsite elevation is above the high water flooding mark. Flooding is not known to have occurred at Fort Selkirk in recent times.

The main flooding risk is from ice dams during spring break-up. Break-up normally occurs mid to late May depending on weather conditions. These events are difficult to predict, but

could damage structures such as boat landings or buildings too close to the river bank. Victoria Rock, just downstream of Fort Selkirk, is a known bottleneck where ice jams frequently occur.

The lower terrace at Fort Selkirk, where the work camp is located, does not appear to have been damaged by ice or flooding in the last 25-30 years. River navigation records would provide more detailed descriptions of historic water levels.

4.3.4 Vegetation

Fort Selkirk lies in Ecoregion 12 as defined by Oswald and Senyk (1977). This central Yukon zone of rolling hills and plateaus is dominated by white and black spruce forests. Lodgepole pine colonizes areas after forest fires, with aspen and balsam poplar on disturbed or well-drained sites. Willows, shrub birch, cinquefoil, soapberry and alder are typical shrub species, with feathermoss dominating the understory in forested areas. Wildflowers, like the spring crocus, are abundant in the townsite.

Native people traditionally used many plant species for medicinal purposes, a practice now taught by elders during the summer at Selkirk. The Fort Selkirk site was cleared for fuel wood during the early part of the century. Stumps from the steamer era can still be seen amongst the trees of the new forest. Dan Van Bibber says that when the cleared area behind Fort Selkirk was meadow, strawberry picking was popular. The deciduous growth around Fort Selkirk forms an effective firebreak supplementing the protection provided by the airstrip.

4.3.5 Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife is a crucial part of the Fort Selkirk heritage. People have hunted and trapped animals in the vicinity for generations. Many of the Yukon's game and furbearing species may be found here. Common species likely to be seen by river travellers include moose, black bear, coyote, red fox, arctic ground squirrel, rabbit, and muskrat. Other species include grizzly bear, sheep, wolf, wolverine, lynx, martin, mink, and weasel. Birds of prey, waterfowl, songbirds, and game birds such as grouse are frequently viewed along the river valley. The Pelly River confluence area is used as a staging ground by migratory birds such as Sandhill Cranes.

Elders speak of the caribou migrating across the lava terrace north of Fort Selkirk. Bostock (1936-p.45) wrote that in "some years they (caribou) appear in large numbers along the Lewes River from Selkirk to Carmacks... (they) return in great herds of many thousands in July." These migrations no longer exist, but are an important part of the heritage.

Salmon have been fished from the Yukon and Pelly Rivers for centuries. Today, sport fishing for these species, as well as grayling, is part of the tourist's wilderness experience.

4.3.6 Land Use and Tenure

All land use and tenure except private lands in the vicinity will be subject to the terms of the land claims agreement.

Since 1966 and 1985, major portions of the Fort Selkirk townsite have been reserved as a Territorial Historic Site by the Yukon Heritage Branch for the purpose of resource

protection and development. The Hudson's Bay Company owns a lot at its old store site, and the Anglican and Catholic Churches have private titled land.

The original Indian Reserve (where the Selkirk Indians were asked to move) is still registered at a location across from the Pelly River confluence. The Fort Selkirk airstrip and surrounding land is now registered with YTG, and the cemeteries are registered as lots under Indian and Northern Affairs jurisdiction. Gold Rush Tours holds a lease just downstream from Fort Selkirk. A private lot is still shown on maps at the old Swinehart farm just west of Fort Selkirk, but this is now crown land.

Hunting, trapping and fishing are the main land uses in the Fort Selkirk area. These activities do not take place only at Fort Selkirk; they occur throughout the region at different times of the year. No placer or mineral exploration claims have been registered in the study area, ie. within the townsite or proposed buffer area. Private lots are located near the Pelly River confluence and one private lot is 1 km upstream from the confluence, on the Yukon River.

The Casino Trail road, if built, could affect access to Fort Selkirk in the future. When completed as currently planned the route will pass within 40km. of Fort Selkirk.



Fort Selkirk, looking south-east to the Pelly River, which enters the photo on the left side. The photo shows the importance of preserving the views from Fort Selkirk. Big Jonathan's House is visible as the dominant structure at the south end of the site. The open area behind the main townsite is part of the proposed Preservation Area "B", for community building. (J. Peepre, Dec. 1989)



"Steamer *Nora* tied to shore at Fort Selkirk, ca 1898. Note cook throwing scraps to dogs on shore." (Case and Draper Coll., Alaska Historical Library) This photo is a powerful reminder of the changes brought by the Gold Rush. *Trade and Travel* theme.

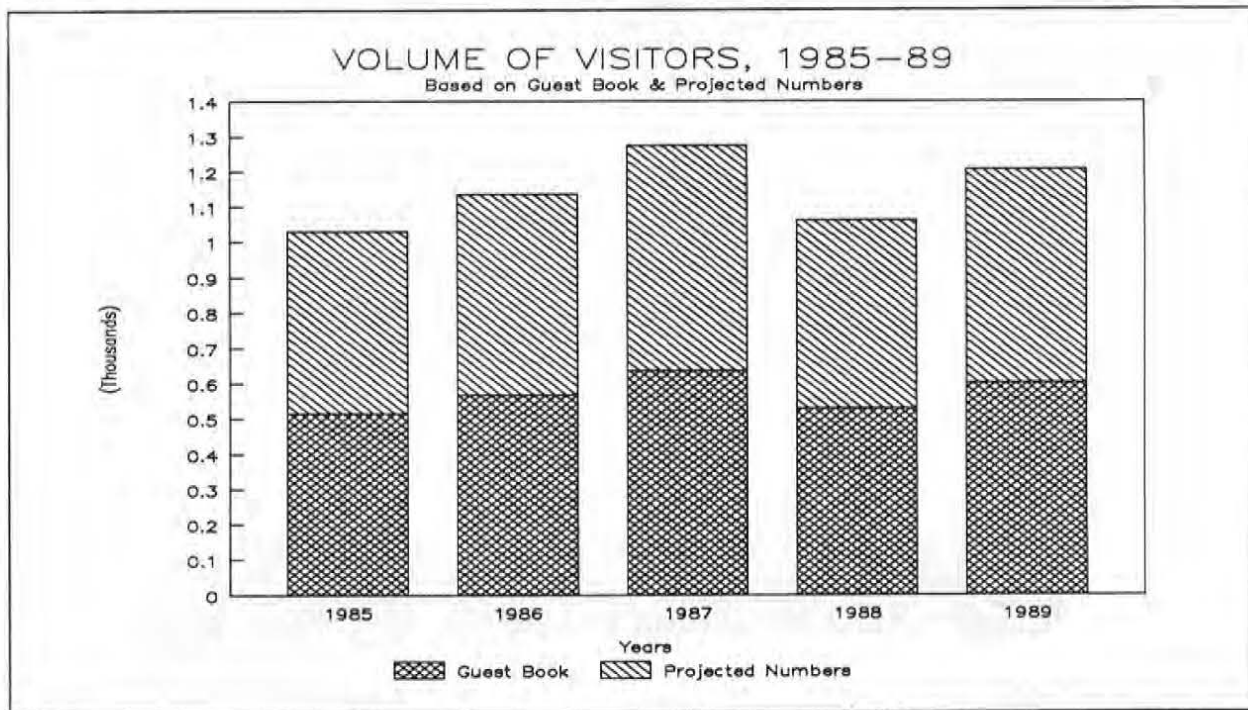


"Mooseskin boat at Fort Selkirk from *After Big Game in the Yukon* by Neville Armstrong" (Yukon Archives). River transportation is one story link to the Meeting Place theme.

5.1 PRESENT USE

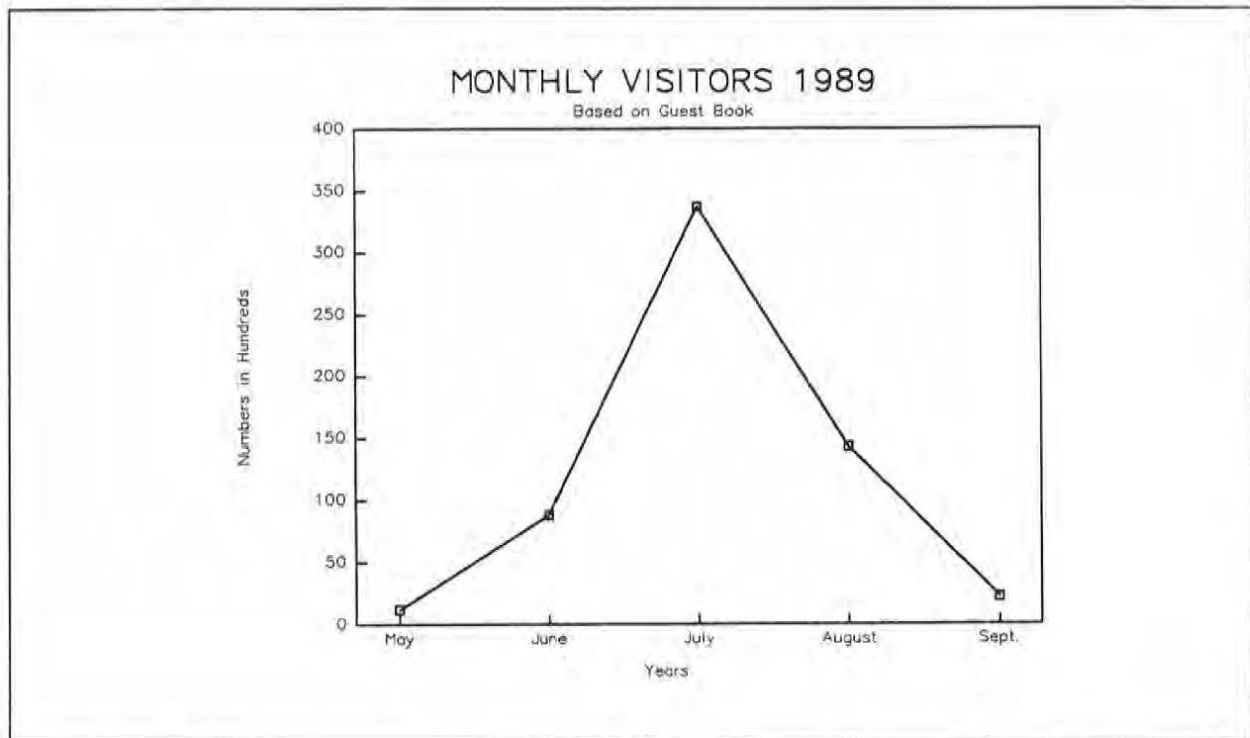
The best information source on visitation to Fort Selkirk is the Guest Book kept by Danny Roberts, who resides at the site during the summer and much of the spring and fall. Estimates of the proportion of visitors who sign the Guest Book range from 50% to almost 100%. Figure #1 shows the number of visitors from 1985 to 1989, based on a maximum estimate. There has been some fluctuation in numbers of visitors over the five year period, but use of the site has tended to remain reasonably consistent. Practically all visitors arrive by boat.

Figure #1



July is the most popular month to visit the site, with more visitation in this month than all other months combined (see Figure #2). Numbers drop off dramatically in August, and there are even fewer visitors in June and September. Although use of the site by Yukon residents is highest in July, use by those from outside the territory is spread out more evenly between July and August. Daily visitation varies from 2-6 in June/Sept. up to 50 in July.

Figure #2



Present use of the site can be categorized into three distinct components:

Local users

This is predominantly Selkirk First Nation members, but also includes other residents of Pelly Crossing and nearby communities;

Those boating on the Yukon River

This group includes Yukoners, other Canadians, Europeans, and Americans; They may be on guided or unguided trips.

Special use visitors

Included in this category are visitor groups such as school children, and cadets.

5.1.1 Local Users

Origin and Demographics

Selkirk First Nation members of all ages use Fort Selkirk. The population of Pelly Crossing provides an indication of the age distribution of the local visitors (See Figure..). The community has experienced a population growth of about 4 % per year since 1985, with total population reaching 244 people in 1989. Based on the present age distribution of the community, population growth will continue for some time. About 55% of the population is male and 45% is female. Almost all residents of Pelly Crossing are of Yukon Indian ancestry.

Table #2

Age Distribution of Pelly Crossing and Yukon *		
Age	% in Pelly	% in Yukon
0 - 14	27%	24%
15 - 24	18%	16%
25 - 34	17%	22%
35 - 44	14%	19%
45 - 54	11%	10%
55 - 64	7%	6%
65 plus	6%	3%

* Source: Statistical Review, Second quarter, 1989

Attitudes/Activities

Selkirk First Nation members have used and continue to use Fort Selkirk for traditional uses - hunting, trapping, fishing, berry picking, as a burial ground, and for its network of trails. They have strong ties with Fort Selkirk as a gathering place. It is a place rich in memories of family and community, and the site is an important part of their dreams for the future. Over the past eight years, the Government of Yukon involvement in the site has provided economic benefits to the Selkirk people from the archaeological field school, building stabilization and construction work, and oral history projects.

Length of Stay

Length of stay at the site by Selkirk First Nation members tends to be longer than that of other visitors, ranging from Danny Roberts who resides at the site through-out the summer and much of the spring and fall, to those working on restoration of the site or with the archaeology field school who stay most of July and August, to those who visit for a day.

5.1.2 Use by Boaters

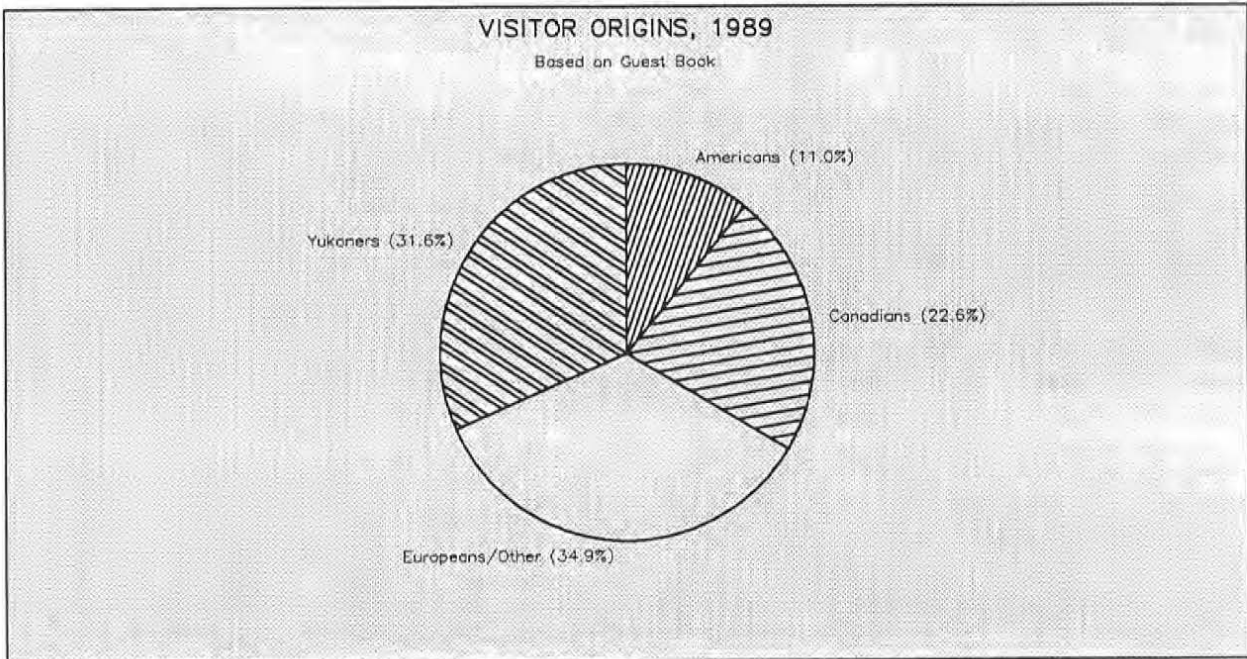
Most people travelling by boat past Fort Selkirk down the Yukon River are going to Dawson City, having started their trip in Whitehorse, Teslin, Carmacks or Minto. All but a few of these boat trips are unguided. Most of these visitors use canoes and riverboats. In 1989, about 352 canoeists/kayakers signed the Fort Selkirk Guest Book, compared to 241 river boaters. Zodiacs and homemade rafts are also used on occasion.

Origin/Demographics

The largest group of visitors aside from local visitors, are Europeans, mainly from Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The site is also visited by Scandinavians, Japanese and Australians. Canadian visitors are primarily from the Yukon, B.C. or Ontario. Contrary to their dominant position overall as visitors to the Yukon, comparatively few Americans visit Fort Selkirk. Many of these are from Alaska. Figure #3 shows the origin of visitors to Fort

Selkirk based on the Guest Book. Discussions with those involved with boaters using the Yukon River corroborate these visitor origin estimates.

Figure #3



From the limited data available and conversations with those familiar with the site visitors, this group travelling by boat down the Yukon River appear to be similar to the adventure travel segment of the tourist market. These visitors are more often male than female, and tend to be younger than the typical visitor to the Yukon. Based on data from the Yukon River visitor survey carried out by the Park Planning Section of the Yukon government in 1988, it is likely these visitors to Fort Selkirk are predominantly 18 to 44 years old and single. They tend to have higher incomes, be employed in professional or managerial occupations and have post-secondary education.

Activities/Attitudes

Based on other studies of adventure travellers, this group wants a unique, participatory experience, unspoiled wilderness, excitement, involvement and activity from their trip. They want their travel experience to be entertaining, challenging and to provide a stimulating, learning experience. Meeting different cultures is something this group values. They seek these new experiences in an uncrowded, undisturbed wilderness. Ways to encourage contact and sharing are described in the plan.

Boaters usually have novice-intermediate paddling skills and according to some observers, frequently don't carry sufficient supplies. Two Yukon companies offer 6-7 canoe tours from Carmacks to Dawson, stopping at Fort Selkirk. Guides provide limited interpretive information, but encourage their clients to wander the site, take advantage of horse rides, or view the photo albums. Group size varies from 10-15.

Length of Stay

Selkirk First Nation members say that quite a few people stay two to three days at Fort Selkirk. The Guest Book confirms this and also suggests that some camp only one night.

5.1.3 Special Use Groups

Special groups might include school tours, professional or special interest groups such as heritage conference delegates or other organized parties.

Origin/Demographics

Students from Pelly Crossing now form the special group which most regularly visits the Fort Selkirk site. The Pelly Crossing School has about 50 students from kindergarten to grade 10. Grades 7 to 10 visited the site for 4 days in the spring of 1989. Pelly Crossing students also participated in the government-Selkirk First Nation sponsored archaeology field schools for the past two summers.

Activities/Attitudes

Currently there are no formal, ongoing programs organized to use Fort Selkirk for Selkirk First Nation projects or any other community functions. For the past three summers the Yukon Heritage Branch has provided funding for joint cooperative archaeology and oral history programs which have brought elders, youth, and specialists together to investigate the history of the site and region. The Selkirk First Nation held its General Assembly at the site in 1988 and stickgambling, drumming, and other activities in conjunction with the meetings.

5.2 FUTURE USE

A high level of use is not necessarily the long term objective for development at Fort Selkirk. The Selkirk people's goals and aspirations in conjunction with the Fort Selkirk Management Group objectives will guide future use levels. Future use of Fort Selkirk can be seen as a continuum ranging from present levels to significantly higher levels. As the Selkirk First Nation continues to develop the organizational capacity to benefit from increased visitation and the economic activities this can bring, access to the site can be improved.

The capacity of the environment (for example, to accommodate waste) and the ability of heritage resources (such as structures) to withstand high use levels must also be assessed. These considerations are described in the Management Plan.

6.0 VISITOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The existing campground is informal, accommodating up to 25 tents, or about 50-75 people. The drying cabin is used for cooking and shelter in poor weather. Fire pits, 9 picnic tables and 4 pit toilets are also located here. The campground is used to capacity on some

summer nights, but over the length of the season, could still accommodate many more visitors. Overflow camping takes place along the river bank, and some camping occurs a few hundred metres downstream.

Big Jonathan's House is used for gatherings of all kinds, and services have been held in the Anglican church. Other heritage structures are entered by visitors, but none are used for specific purposes.

Occasional horse riding and impromptu boat tours to nearby points of interest are two of the informal visitor services provided now.

7.0 INTERPRETATION AND INFORMATION

Interpretation on-site is limited now and, with one exception, focuses on the non-native history of Fort Selkirk. Only the Selkirk First Nation brochure uses some Northern Tutchone names for people and places.

On-Site Interpretation:

Signs:

Many of the cabins and other buildings have small wooden signs which identify the structure by the name of the former occupant, e.g. Stone House, Taylor and Drury Store, Roman Catholic Church. Other signs (also not interpretive) direct visitors to the respective cemeteries, or to the boat landing site. There are three wooden interpretive panels near the ramp from the public landing. These signs focus on the gold rush era, and lack a well balanced summary of the Fort Selkirk history. They are large, which aids in visibility from the river, but also partially obstructs the view of the site.

The Anglican Church has a large wooden sign in front which lists the respective clergy who ministered at this site. An interpretive message is not presented. The size of the sign hinders views and photography.

Four medium-sized signs on posts, covered in Lexan, interpret the history of the Yukon Field Force. These signs provide a good history of the Force and could remain as one part of a more comprehensive overall interpretive message for Fort Selkirk. A stone and mortar monument to the Field Force and the Militia who restored the graveyard and erected the interpretive signs is located near the beginning of the trail to the non-native cemetery.

A booklet entitled "History of the Selkirk First Nation at Fort Selkirk" is distributed on-site and provides a very good introduction to the band and its relationship to the area. It does not provide a comprehensive overview of the site.

A government brochure about the site is out of print and no longer distributed.

Displays

The Fort Selkirk archaeology project members have constructed and displayed various interpretive materials, first in Big Jonathan's House (1988) and then in the Stone House (1989). These were very basic displays but of great interest to visitors.

Selkirk First Nation members have collected medicinal plants into a display, used at Fort Selkirk for educational purposes.

Personal Interpretation:

Danny Roberts and sometimes other Selkirk people, through informal encounters, provide site orientation and interpretation for visitors to Fort Selkirk. His family photo album is often shown, and almost everyone signs the guest book. Archaeologists, students, elders, and others who are visiting or working on the site often have conversations with visitors. While these conversations are often interpretive in content, they take place spontaneously and informally and only when such individuals are on site and have the time available.

During services at the Anglican Church, Lew Johnston would answer questions about the site - other visiting clergy might do the same. Roger Alfred and other members of work crews informally offer insight into the area's culture and history in response to visitor enquiries.

Off-Site:

Fort Selkirk is included in some video materials shown at the Visitor Reception Centres in the Yukon but the site is not promoted as a destination. Travel guides (river guides) e.g. Mike Rourke, frequently include information on Selkirk - generally from a non-native perspective. Various regional and local publications including Shakat (1988), Up Here (Sept-Oct 1989), etc. regularly feature stories on Selkirk.



"Copper Joe". (Kathy Kushneruk Coll., Yukon Archives)

PART 2 THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

8.0 INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan for Fort Selkirk reflects the shared vision of the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government on behalf of all Yukoners. (See Page 1 to review this Vision). The plan embodies the cultural aspirations of the Selkirk First Nation while addressing the need for heritage resource protection and continued visitor use and appreciation of the site.

As with any heritage site management plan, it is a framework for protecting and developing Fort Selkirk. The environment, people, and heritage resources must always be considered together. The plan allows for a gradual pace of sustainable development; each step needs to be considered with respect to the over-all management goal and objectives. The plan looks to the future, yet sets some priorities for action now. All plans need to be flexible if they are to remain useful. This plan could guide the management of Fort Selkirk for some time to come, but as conditions change, development or protection priorities may also shift. This plan is based on cooperative management between the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government. The plan does not address the management structure; where the need for decisions is identified, this authority has been called the Fort Selkirk Management Group, whatever form it may take.

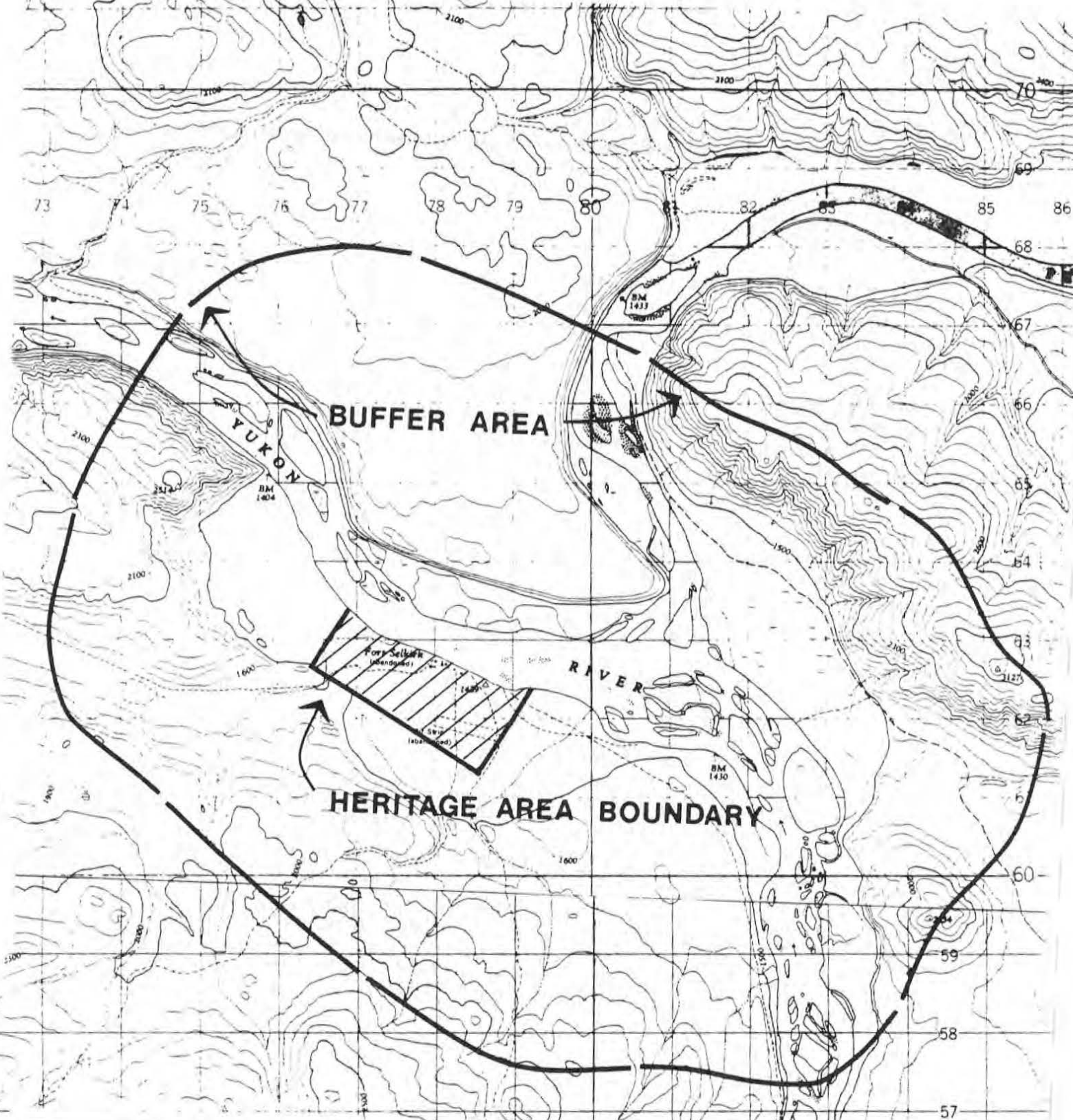
9.0 BOUNDARY DEFINITION

The terms-of-reference for this plan define the Fort Selkirk heritage site as the townsite, cemeteries, trails and other nearby natural buffer areas adjacent to the Yukon River and extending inland to the airstrip. Around this core planning boundary is a wider area of influence including the visible landscape and nearby points of cultural, natural or historic interest. This wider area takes in Victoria Rock, the lava bluffs, the Pelly River confluence and hills beyond, and the ridges just south of the townsite. See Map #4 and 5.

While the lands surrounding Fort Selkirk are not part of the core planning area, the management of these lands should support the integrity of the Fort Selkirk heritage site. Appropriate land uses and management should be carried out regardless of land ownership or management regimes. Land use planning, permitting and regulatory procedures should be applied in favour of protecting the Fort Selkirk setting.

10.0 GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal defines the *purpose* of the plan and the objectives show the *ways to achieve* this goal. Types of objectives range from culture and heritage resource management to tourism development and administration. These statements reflect community views, discussions with the steering committee and government agency staff. The goal and objectives are the basis for the Management Plan.



**FORT SELKIRK
MANAGEMENT PLAN:
PROPOSED BOUNDARY AND BUFFER AREA**
Scale: 1 Square is 1 Kilometre

Definitions

Cultural heritage in this plan refers to the continuum of human use at Fort Selkirk. It embodies early times, the history of settlement and trade, present use, and the spiritual meaning attributed to the site by the Selkirk people.

Living cultural heritage sites are much more than museums of the past. *Living* sites like Fort Selkirk have special meaning today and are part of our culture, past and present. Fort Selkirk will evolve as peoples' needs and aspirations change. The reason for the plan is to protect the cultural heritage resources yet allow for continued development and use.

The Fort Selkirk Management Plan Goal is:

To preserve, protect and develop Fort Selkirk as a living cultural heritage site.*

* See definition of *living cultural heritage* above.

The Fort Selkirk Management Plan Objectives are to:

Culture

- recognize Fort Selkirk as a special place for the Selkirk First Nation to preserve and enhance their social and spiritual well-being now and in the future,
- provide a focus for the expression of the cultural heritage of the Selkirk First Nation, by preserving oral traditions, and traditional and evolving technology,
- provide opportunities for ceremonies, festivals, dances, education and other programs to promote and strengthen the Selkirk First Nation culture,
- preserve and protect the history of trade, settlement and ways of life at Fort Selkirk.

Heritage Resource Management

- protect, conserve and interpret the cultural and natural heritage resources of Fort Selkirk,
- allow for conservation, investigation, and interpretation of archaeological resources,
- allow for continued preservation, maintenance of heritage structures, sites and artefacts at the site; allow for some reconstruction,
- ensure that site improvements and new buildings are consistent with the guidelines set to protect the heritage character of Fort Selkirk,
- provide a way of ensuring that future adjacent land use, roads or resource development are consistent with the Fort Selkirk management objectives.

Education and Interpretation

- provide opportunities for youth to share in the knowledge of elders and others,
- increase public knowledge about the Selkirk First Nation culture from early times to the present,
- increase public knowledge about historical use of Fort Selkirk, from the time of first contact with Europeans to the present,
- increase public knowledge about the need for stewardship of natural and cultural heritage resources and the links between traditional knowledge and scientific understanding of the site and region.

Economic Development

- integrate sustainable economic opportunities with social and cultural development through a community development approach,
- ensure economic development occurs at a pace that allows the Selkirk First Nation to take best advantage of opportunities for employment, training, and business development.

Local Use

- develop a plan that allows for Selkirk First Nation people to live at Fort Selkirk and to ensure that new development is in keeping with the management objectives of the site.

Tourism

- provide visitors with the opportunity to discover and experience a distinctive place on the Yukon River,
- provide for services, facilities and recreation activities that complement visitor use of the site,
- market and promote Fort Selkirk according to the number of visitors that suit the Selkirk people's cultural and economic development aspirations, and is compatible with the site's capacity to handle increased use.

Research

- allow for research to increase knowledge about Fort Selkirk, Selkirk First Nation culture and the region; foster research that has a high level of community involvement.

Organization and Administration

- manage Fort Selkirk cooperatively, between the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon Government,
- establish and enhance a system of administration that allows for training, business, personnel, and financial management,
- seek a stable financial base for cultural development, resource protection, conservation and interpretation,
- provide the necessary security, safety, and fire suppression measures to protect users and site resources,
- seek and obtain the cooperation of visitors, including organized tours, to use the site in a manner consistent with overall management objectives,
- to provide a means of monitoring site management and development and to determine the effects of these on community development.

11.0 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Social, cultural, and economic development opportunities need to be integrated through a community development approach to the use of Fort Selkirk. As opposed to the traditional economic development approach, which emphasizes maximizing business and employment opportunities, the development of Fort Selkirk will better serve the needs and aspirations of the Selkirk First Nation if a community development approach is taken. This involves a more holistic approach and stresses the social and cultural development opportunities as well as economic opportunities. Fort Selkirk means more to the Selkirk First Nation than simply a place to generate income and employment from visitors. It is a place for Selkirk First Nation members to rediscover their spiritual and cultural roots, and a place to build on strengths. Economic opportunities are important but they should not be the primary focus of developing Fort Selkirk.

Development should be a long-term process which reflects the community's organizational capacity, rather than thinking of development as a single point to be achieved. Because of the importance of Fort Selkirk to the Selkirk First Nation, it is essential that development

of the site occurs at a pace which enables them to retain control of the direction of development and achieve any benefits associated with development. The pace of development must be dictated by the organizational capacity of the Selkirk First Nation. Rushing to bring the site to a given state of development may not allow the Selkirk First Nation to consider fully the impacts associated with this state and develop the capacity to take advantage of any resulting benefits.

Recommendations:

- **Develop the organization capacity of Selkirk First Nation.**

The organizational capacity of the Selkirk First Nation can be developed by involving members of the Selkirk First Nation in all aspects of the development and operation of the facility. This includes: planning aspects, personnel management, financial management and monitoring of operations. Where Selkirk First Nation members do not have the expertise needed to carry this out, trainee or "shadow" positions can be established to enable the learning of this expertise.

Use cooperative management and partnerships with government and the private sector as needed to facilitate self-reliance.

- **Set achievable, success oriented objectives.**

Developments and special events at Fort Selkirk should start small, be based on reasonable expectations, maximize the potential for success, and build on this success.

Discussions with Selkirk First Nation members produced many good ideas for activities and business ventures at the site: a store selling photographs or post cards, smoked fish, and beadwork; food services providing traditional foods; boat transportation service to the site; a new campground; new hiking trails; restoration projects; interpretive ideas; horse-back tours; trapping activities, and other ideas. For the best chance of success, these activities will need to be planned and staged through time.

- **Consider innovative strategies to enhance the benefits of economic development.**

Job sharing and job rotation have been used successfully in other places. More people have the chance to benefit from developments in this way, and the work becomes less of a burden on any one individual.

The success of the archaeological field school can be used and extended to other areas such as cultural research and interpretation. This can provide the opportunity for elders and youth to work together.

- **Provide training as an important component of any development or special event at Fort Selkirk.**

In addition to training for specific job skills, whenever possible training should be broadened and transferable from one area to another. The array of skills needed to manage Fort Selkirk is extensive: hospitality, management, financial, resource management, administration. As well, knowledge of the Selkirk First Nation culture, the site history, and traditional lifeways is essential.

The training should use a variety of methods: on-the-job training at the site and course work. Different sources for training should also be explored: on-the-job training in government offices, Canadian Parks Service training and exchanges with other similar facilities. Expectations, however, need to be kept realistic. Only a small number of part-time, seasonal jobs will be available initially.

- **Maintain a holistic view of site development.**

Through time site development should combine activities in cultural research and expression, social development, strengthening of subsistence activities, development of economic ventures, and improvement of community facilities and services.

Through consultations with the Selkirk First Nation it is apparent that Fort Selkirk's importance encompasses many facets of their way of life and can serve as a catalyst to build the community's strengths in many areas. The social and economic development opportunities arising from the activities noted above will combine to strengthen the Selkirk First Nation as a community in all the areas which are of importance to it.

- **Develop infrastructure in Pelly Crossing.**

Whenever possible, staging areas and ancillary developments should benefit Pelly Crossing or Selkirk First Nation members. Over time as Fort Selkirk develops, spin-off economic benefits to the region will result from increased visitor stays. Basic services, (for example, tourist accommodation), need to be provided in Pelly Crossing for the Selkirk First Nation to benefit from this. The existing campground could be used as a staging area for boat tours to Fort Selkirk.



"Fort Selkirk-Savoy Hotel: Major Armstrong is the wearing white scarf." (Vancouver Public Library Coll.) This building is no longer standing, but the image of early winters is strong.



"Fort Selkirk in the late forties. View of townsite looking upriver". Probably taken from Taylor & Drury window. (Father Bobillier Coll.)

12.0 PLANNING STEPS

The Fort Selkirk management plan goal states a *purpose* for the site and the objectives identify *ways to achieve* this goal. The study team considered several potential planning approaches, but only one emerged as suitable for Fort Selkirk. Since cultural growth, heritage protection, education, community development, and visitor access and site appreciation are key objectives, all development choices must reflect these.

The approach to planning Fort Selkirk is based on a process of *building on what's there now*. Each successful step can be used as a basis for starting the next one, until a sustainable level of activity and development is achieved. The ultimate success should not be measured only by the number of tourists. More development and increased use is not necessarily a long term objective. The plan will first reflect the goals of the Selkirk people while ensuring that heritage resource protection and treatment objectives are met. Visitors will be assured continued access.

The importance of cultural development and heritage resource protection will be common to all phases of planning. Based on this approach, a range of site development and management options for Fort Selkirk emerge. Prior to taking any actions, a number of *core requirements* should be met. *Core requirements are the activities essential to meet the basic goals of the plan*. If the core requirements are in place, many of the plan options could be implemented. The core requirements include:

*Protection of the cultural aspirations and way of life of the Selkirk First Nation
Heritage resource protection and treatment
Organization and administration*

The suggested planning steps are to:

USE WHAT'S THERE NOW
BUILD ON WHAT'S THERE NOW
CHOOSE FUTURE OPTIONS

These planning steps will evolve over time, although any elements could be implemented if the core requirements are in place. At some point in the future, a choice could be made on whether components from the third (most complex) option are appropriate. A summary of these steps is shown in Table #3. A full description and rationale for the planning steps and options is provided in the plan.

Table #3 FORT SELKIRK PLANNING STEPS

USE WHAT'S THERE NOW

Selkirk First Nation cultural focus combined with protecting heritage resources

This first management phase could be implemented now with existing resources, supplemented by funding from a variety of sources. This phase could be a step to the next stage or it may be used as the basis for management for many years to come. This initial phase builds on the existing strengths of Fort Selkirk to ensure that cultural development and heritage protection objectives are met.

BUILD ON WHAT'S THERE NOW

Selkirk First Nation cultural focus and heritage protection combined with encouraging more tourist use

This second phase of management means a choice will be made to increase visitor and Selkirk First Nation use. A higher level of development and services will be needed, with increased management, maintenance and financial commitments.

CHOOSE FUTURE OPTIONS

Increase tourism and economic development focus once Selkirk First Nation community development interests are met

The third phase of management means a decision will be made to increase visitor use to a higher level. More employment and commercial opportunities could result and increased facilities, services and maintenance would be required. More controlled site management will be needed to protect heritage resources.

The goal and objectives for Fort Selkirk, combined with the development approach outlined above are the basis for the management plan. The plan reflects all of the objectives and describes the tasks necessary to carry them out.

Management areas are a way to help guide the use of Fort Selkirk. Compatible activities and development in each area will help ensure the protection of heritage resources. Flexibility is important, since site development and heritage protection needs may change in the future. Each management area has an objective defined by activities and land use. Within each of these areas there may be a variety of historic structures or sites.

Guidelines for protecting or using each of these structures are identified in Section 14.1.2. Table #4 shows the overall management areas, and the more detailed categories for heritage structures.

Table #4 Management Areas and Heritage Structure Categories

<p>MANAGEMENT AREAS AND GUIDELINES (Overall site use and development)</p> <p>Natural Area Preservation Areas Boat Landings and Trails Visitor Services and Maintenance</p> <p>HERITAGE STRUCTURE CATEGORIES (Specific guidelines for structures)</p> <p>Landmark Interior Restoration Supporting Structure Reconstruction of Documented Building New Construction</p>

The proposed management areas are shown on Map #6 with recommended uses as follows:

NATURAL AREA:

Objective:

- **Preserve views and encourage compatible land uses within the Fort Selkirk setting.**

The intent would be to manage and direct any proposed development so that the views to surrounding natural features, and heritage sites would be unaffected. The natural area is a buffer around the core heritage site consisting of the built-up Fort Selkirk townsite area.

PRESERVATION AREA "A":

Objective:

- **Preserve the context of, and provide a buffer for, major archaeological sites and buildings.**

Within these areas, no temporary or permanent structures would be constructed. Existing buildings could be utilized according to their category, as explained below.

PRESERVATION AREA "B":

Objective:

- **Preserve view corridors, and the context of major archaeological sites and buildings, while allowing infill construction within the design guidelines, and the use of existing structures.**

Selkirk First Nation cabins could be built here after archaeological work on proposed building sites. Tent frames and temporary camps would be acceptable. Future servicing requirements for this area need to be assessed prior to development.

BOAT LANDINGS AND TRAILS:

Objective:

- **Develop and or maintain boat landings and trails as required for Selkirk First Nation members, visitors, and interpretive use.**

These management areas are intended to recognize the need for continued visitor access to the site and along trails around the site and leading to features such as the cemeteries or Victoria Rock. Trails and landings are part of the heritage and should be managed accordingly.

VISITOR SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE AREAS:

Objective:

- **Provide the visitor campground, work camp, related accommodation and service facilities such as power and water, as necessary for site development**

This management area will be used to provide visitor and work camp services. The plan allows for future relocation of the work camp to Preservation Area "B" should such a move be desired. Concentrating visitor services in one area will help control impacts on heritage resources. It is also more economical to concentrate visitor facilities and services in one area.



Fort Selkirk, looking south along the banks of the Yukon River. The campground and Drying Cabin is visible in the foreground, with the Stone House just to the right. This part of the site will be used mainly for visitor services and facilities. (J. Peepre, Dec. 1989)

RE: FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN CLARIFICATION

TO: Steering Committee Members

As agreed, the study team presented the Fort Selkirk Management Plan to the Selkirk First Nation Council on May 1, 1990. Questions were asked regarding "Preservation Area A" described on page 31 of the main report. This letter clarifies the intent of Preservation Area A, without changing the content or context of the plan.

The text for Preservation Area A in the plan suggests a more restrictive management approach than was intended. Note that the use of specific buildings would always be decided by the management group. The clarification for this area reads:

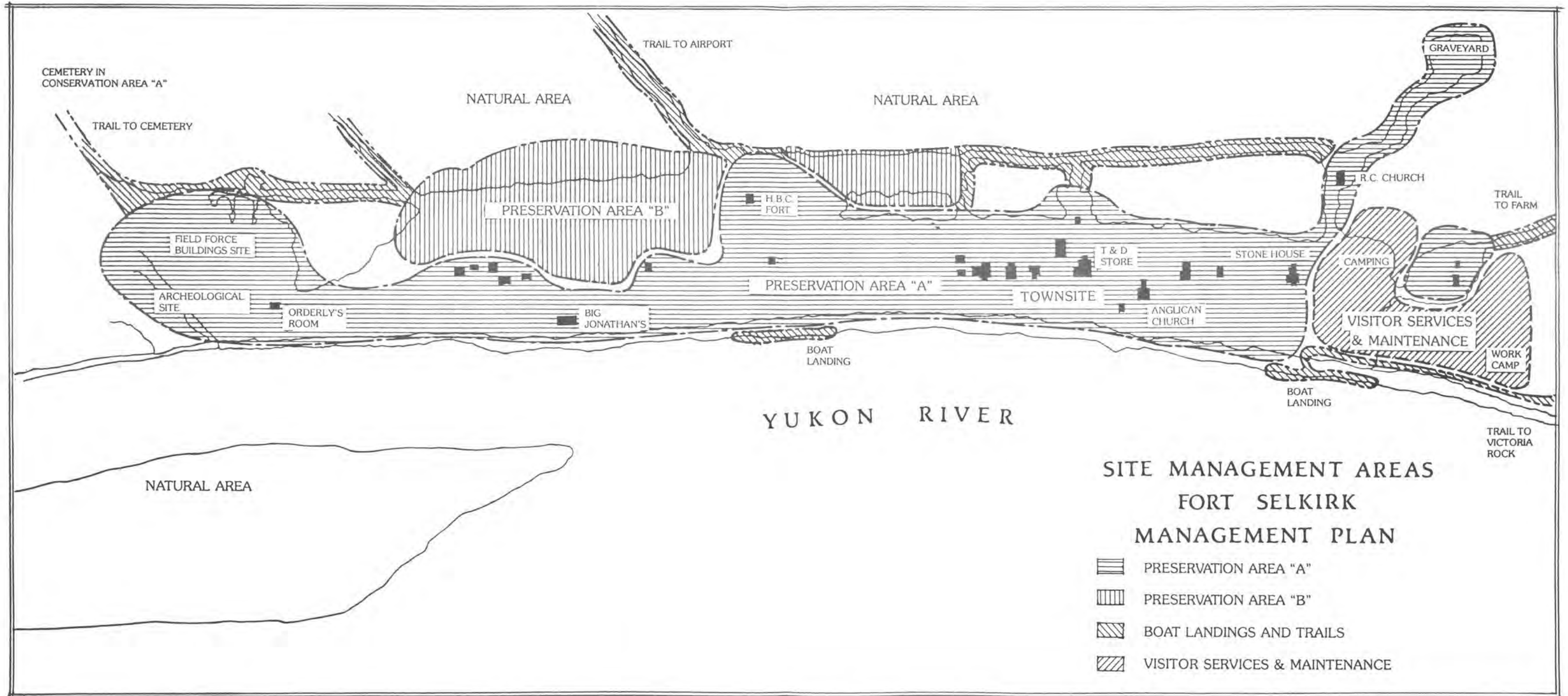
Preservation Area "A":

Objective:

Preserve the context of, and provide a buffer for, major archaeological sites and buildings.

Within these areas, permanent or temporary buildings would not be constructed. Tent frames and temporary camps would be acceptable for special events or purposes. These would be best located in the vicinity of Big Jonathan's House.

Many different uses such as gatherings, special events, games, interpretation, sale of goods or services could occur in this area. Existing buildings could be used according to their category, as explained in Section 14.1 Heritage Structures and Sites (p. 33-35). Use of buildings would be set by the management group, in consultation with families who may still have connections with these structures. For example, Big Jonathan's House and the Stone House have been called 'Supporting Structures'. Commercial use or special events might be held in these buildings. In contrast, the rectory, school, churches, and Luke or Jonathan Cabins have been called "Landmarks". Use of these buildings would be decided by the management group, but would be carefully controlled. Interpretation would be appropriate. Consultation with families would be needed.



CEMETERY IN
CONSERVATION AREA "A"

NATURAL AREA

NATURAL AREA

GRAVEYARD

TRAIL TO CEMETERY

TRAIL TO AIRPORT

PRESERVATION AREA "B"

H.B.C.
FORT

R.C. CHURCH

TRAIL
TO FARM

FIELD FORCE
BUILDINGS SITE

ARCHEOLOGICAL
SITE

ORDERLY'S
ROOM

BIG
JONATHAN'S

PRESERVATION AREA "A"

TOWNSITE

T & D
STORE

STONE HOUSE

CAMPING

VISITOR SERVICES
& MAINTENANCE

WORK
CAMP

BOAT
LANDING





BOAT
LANDING

YUKON RIVER

NATURAL AREA

TRAIL TO
VICTORIA
ROCK

**SITE MANAGEMENT AREAS
FORT SELKIRK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

-  PRESERVATION AREA "A"
-  PRESERVATION AREA "B"
-  BOAT LANDINGS AND TRAILS
-  VISITOR SERVICES & MAINTENANCE

This section considers the requirements for the various types of heritage resources related to Fort Selkirk. Where applicable, each section is based on the three planning and development steps. In many cases, the recommendations refer to on-going tasks needed now and in the future.

The first phase recommendations ("*Use What's There Now*") contain options which can be achieved in the short term, that is, the next few years. The second level of recommendations ("*Build On What's There Now*") detail options which could be implemented using resources now available or that may be appropriate in the near future. The third step, ("*Choose Future Options*") identifies options which might be implemented depending on the outcome of the first two phases of options. These options may well change in response to changing conditions at the site.

While every type of heritage resource has certain unique characteristics that require special protection and treatment methods, there are some common strategies that apply to all. The basic processes for all resources can be categorized generally as:

- *identification/inventory,*
- *selection/priorization,*
- *acquisition, if appropriate*
- *protection/preservation,*
- *organization/conservation,*
- *access/display.*

14.1

HERITAGE STRUCTURES AND SITES

14.1.1 General Guidelines

Background

The primary goal in dealing with historic structures is to maintain the integrity of the site. It is only by preserving the site as a cohesive whole, a stable environment which allows for use, that the unique importance of Fort Selkirk to both native and non-native cultures can be realized and enhanced.

The heritage structures on site should be evaluated using a set of criteria as outlined below. The purpose of this is not to rate the buildings for heritage significance or preservation, for they are all important, and should be preserved. The intent is to develop a framework allowing decisions on possible use, as community facilities, interpretive displays, or commercial activities. These decisions need to be made with full consideration of the variety of emotional, symbolic, and physical elements which are a part of any building.

The management plan identifies the appropriate categories, but the actual review of each building and its placement into a particular category is beyond the scope of this report. The site managers will need to provide and collaborate on an in-depth evaluation. Inevitably, in

this process, some of the buildings will readily fit the categories, others will not. As well, values for a particular structure may change over time, as additional information becomes available. Where there is any doubt, it is always best to select a category for a building which involves a lower level of intervention or use. At the same time, if a use is programmed which proves inappropriate, it should be possible to remove this activity with no damage to the fabric of the structure.

Methods

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Continue stabilization and restoration of the heritage structures.**

The program should ensure that each structure's cultural potential is maximized, and that proper maintenance is carried out. This proposed program would be based on the Heritage Canada Guidelines, summarized as:

- *The greater the significance of a structure, the less alteration should be done to it. Work on a building will always involve changes to the fabric of the structure, thus lessening its value as an architectural archive. Increased use will also result in more wear and tear on a building and its components.*
- *Original materials and techniques should be used to the maximum extent possible during restoration or stabilization work.*
- *Changes to an historic building, if unavoidable, should be reversible.*
- *Historic buildings should not be moved.*

- **Use stages in the conservation program including:**

Documentation:

- *Develop a file for each structure on site, including archival information, stabilization reports and photographs, maintenance reports, Yukon Waterways Sites Survey drawings and information.*
- *Produce measured drawings, using accurate photogrammetric survey procedures. The structures are of such significance that they should be properly recorded, and such drawings would allow for reconstruction in case of fire.*
- *Establish benchmark elevations for each building, to determine deflection or settlement over time.*



"Fort Selkirk, looking upstream at Indian cabins, 1897." (William Ogilvie Coll. Metropolitan Toronto Library).
Heart and Soul, Shared Community, and Generations Return themes could be interpreted from photos like this.



Similar downstream view in the fall of 1989. Two partially restored family cabins on the left. Open meadow would be retained in **Preservation Area**.

Evaluation:

To determine whether a proposed use or course of action is appropriate for a particular building, it should be evaluated using set criteria. This should be carried out by a qualified independent architectural historian.

- *Cultural significance: consideration of the building's importance to the Selkirk First Nation, the non-native community, and within the context of the Yukon generally,*
- *Architectural significance: consideration of factors such as design, construction techniques, condition, use of materials, age, changes and alterations,*
- *Townscape: location, the building's siting within the town and its physical relationship to other surrounding buildings, and where the building was located originally.*
- *History: original and subsequent uses, owners and occupants, including relating these to the cultural, economic and social life of the community,*
- *Contemporary use possibilities: examination of the building in terms of requirements for site facilities, and whether the building can accommodate these requirements with a minimum of alteration and intervention.*

14.1.2 Types of Structures and Priorities

The **Management Areas** described above in Section 13.0 will guide overall site use and development. These include the Preservation Areas "A" and "B". Within each of these Management Areas there are a variety of heritage structures. Further guidelines on the use and treatment of each structure are needed.

Each structure or group of structures at Fort Selkirk has historic, cultural and architectural significance. Many different uses could occur in each of these buildings, provided heritage protection objectives are met. The primary use for most will be interpretation, yet some are well suited for gatherings or visitor services.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **No work beyond structural stabilization should be done without documentation, research and evaluation of the structure.**
- **Assess heritage structures and place in categories as follows:**

1. LANDMARK:

The most important structures should have work done only after thorough on site and archival research. Stabilization should re-use existing materials to the maximum extent possible, and should always use original materials and construction techniques. Restoration should only be contemplated if adequate documentation is available. No alterations or live-in occupancy should be considered, although events such as services in churches would be appropriate. Interpretation could be by free standing display. Examples of this category

would be the rectory, school, both churches, and perhaps the Luke or Jonathan cabins although these latter buildings may still be seasonally occupied. These two buildings are culturally important, and an exception to the occupancy guideline may be needed for the time being.

2. INTERIOR RESTORATION:

This category would allow stabilization and exterior restoration, and interior reconstruction for interpretive use. No commercial use or occupancy would be considered, however, temporary occupancy to assist in interpretation would be acceptable. For example, period displays could be appropriate in the future. The RCMP house, and some residential buildings would be examples of this category.

3. SUPPORTING STRUCTURE:

Exterior rehabilitation as far as practical, with interior reconstruction or sympathetic adaptation would be allowed. Commercial use, gatherings and special events would be acceptable. Various types of interpretive programming would be suitable, for example talks or displays. Examples of this would be the Stone House, and Big Jonathan's house.

Structural stabilization of features such as outhouses, caches, some sheds, the greenhouse, or unusable cabins is also appropriate to preserve and conserve site character.

4. RECONSTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTED BUILDINGS:

Where adequate information is available, and there is some demand for space, or interpretive uses, reconstruction of a demolished building could be considered. The HBC store is an example. Some family cabins now in disrepair lack documentation, but reconstruction of those where photographic records exist could be considered.

5. NEW CONSTRUCTION:

Design guidelines should be used to control building size, material, roof pitch, windows/door sizes and materials. Buildings under this category would be those required for the work camp, tourist accommodation, and Selkirk First Nation accommodation.

Servicing requirements for new construction should be planned before any building takes place. See Section 14.1.3, below.

14.1.3 Planning and Design Guidelines For New Construction

The plan objectives allow for new construction at Fort Selkirk, provided it is limited to Preservation Area "B", the community building area. New construction must be planned carefully to:

- ensure that the heritage site character is retained,
- ensure water and waste requirements are adequate and environmentally safe,
- ensure that the level of servicing (for example power and water) is appropriate for the heritage site setting, and does not adversely affect heritage objectives,
- ensure that new building projects are in keeping with the overall pace of site development, and that servicing requirements are coordinated with overall site programs.

Guidelines for new construction should include the use of appropriate materials. In considering new construction, the example of a summer cabin, of very simple design and with minimum servicing requirements, should be kept in mind. As well, the option of temporary structures, such as tent frames, should be considered.

The recommendations below permit the construction of structures which are sympathetic to those already on site, and are durable. They encourage use of the expertise and technology already developed by the Selkirk First Nation in its on-site restoration work.

Build On What's There Now/Choose Future Options

- **Build only in suitable areas indicated by the management area plan and only after archaeological review.**
- **Complete a servicing and development plan before construction.**
- **Ensure servicing is consistent with heritage site objectives, and in keeping with the overall pace of site development.**

A low key, but environmentally sound approach to servicing will help ensure that heritage site objectives are respected. A high level of servicing for new construction could encourage more rapid development than is recommended in the plan.

- **Buildings should be grouped together to minimize disruption to the site and to consolidate any servicing requirements.**

- **Design the buildings:**
 - to incorporate roof slopes to match existing buildings
 - to keep the buildings generally small in scale, using single story structures of one or two rooms. Extra space can be built by means of rear additions, as was done traditionally
 - using window sizes and proportions which appear elsewhere on site
- **Construct new buildings using sympathetic materials as follows:**
 - logs, with notch types as used on site,
 - wood framed windows, with wood framed storm windows or shutters if required,
 - metal chimneys,
 - roof materials: cedar shingles, galvanized corrugated metal roofing, roll roofing, sod, board and batten,

14.1.4 Heritage Structures Maintenance Program

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Maintain heritage structures and sites.**

Maintenance procedures are part of the management plan. Increased site use will affect building components for example, door and window hardware, flooring, some corners and wall surfaces. Protective measures - mats, reproduction carpet runners and so on - should be used in certain areas. Increased use of doormats and other protective devices should be considered to reduce wear from traffic. It should be noted that modern wall to wall carpet is not acceptable as a permanent protective measure.

An acceptable rate of wear on structures will influence the optimal number of people that a site should accommodate. maintenance depends on two factors: ongoing visual examination of the resource by those that are working in it, and periodic reviews by people trained in building conservation techniques. In the former instance, guides and caretakers should be trained to observe the site and to report any signs of change or deterioration; this could be based on a checklist. Periodic reviews of particular components, on an annual or biannual basis, should indicate problem areas to allow normal budgeting procedures and a program of cyclical maintenance.

Particular areas of concern are

- moisture, ensuring that water is controlled and directed away from the building
- stability: ensuring that the building is not "on the move" Elevations should be established from a fixed point and checked on a regular basis.
- finishes: the durability of paint systems can vary widely, depending on the condition of the surface, exposure, moisture content of the walls within the building, preparation, previous finishes, etc.

The remaining structures which are still to be worked on should be stabilized, using standards and techniques that have proven appropriate to the remainder of the site. From this time, an on-going program of review and maintenance will provide for preserving the buildings in stable condition. The review program should be thorough enough that crisis situations are avoided and realistic maintenance budgets established. This in turn will require visual examination of exterior surfaces, regular sampling of foundations and sod roofs, and a review of traffic and wear areas. Further information on manpower requirements will be found in the Appendix, under Heritage Protection and Treatment.

14.2 CEMETERIES AND GRAVE SITES

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Continue to restore and maintain grave sites and the cemeteries.**

Grave sites and cemeteries are an important part of the site's heritage, with strong family connections to the present. Restoration work on the Selkirk Indian cemetery has been successful and should continue. A simple site map or sign should be prepared listing people's Indian and English names. A similar treatment for the other cemetery would be of interest to tourists too.

14.3 HERITAGE TRAILS

Use What's There Now

- **Survey and map heritage trails.**
- **Maintain, mark, and interpret existing heritage trails.**
- **Brush out and maintain existing trail to Victoria Rock as first priority**

Build On What's There Now

- **Locate and brush out additional local trails connecting with the Dalton or other trails, as a second priority.**
- **Develop looped trails connecting with heritage trails that could be used for walking or riding.**

Trails are a part of the *Meeting Place* theme. They should be revitalized to become an integral part of the site for both visitors and Selkirk First Nation people. Walking and horseback riding routes would be popular with visitors. A variety of 1/2 hour to 2 hour looped trails using old routes wherever possible are suggested.

14.4 HERITAGE LANDSCAPE FEATURES

The landscape in the vicinity of Fort Selkirk is an essential part of the site's heritage. All development plans and use at Fort Selkirk and in the natural area around it should be managed to protect this heritage. Resource harvesting practices should be allowed to continue in harmony with overall site management.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Monitor the brush growth at the edge of the townsite and clear back as required to maintain the present openness of the site.**
- **Allow mature trees on townsite to remain; remove trees only if they are a fire hazard or threat to historic structures or parts thereof (roofs, foundations, windows, siding, and signage).**
- **Use horses for portion of grass removal, if possible; reduce use of lawn mowers, use as needed to ensure full site coverage. Ensure excessive horse use does not result in site degradation.**
- **If a lawn mower is occasionally used, cut only after wildflowers have gone to seed, eg. late August.**
- **Retain the open views down the length of the townsite by not locating any structures in the area within 25m of the river bank. (Fire pump enclosures may be an exception).**
- **Retain large areas of public open space on the site for gatherings and outdoor events.**
- **Big Jonathan's House, the Yukon Field Force Orderly's Cabin and the Anglican Church should remain as the main architectural focal points at each end of the site.**
- **Ensure that all new development is in keeping with the existing site character and scale, and following new construction guidelines.**
- **Retain the visual quality of existing buildings and their location as a part of the overall landscape character.**
- **Monitor land use applications to ensure that roads or other disturbances do not alter the view from Fort Selkirk.**



"Group of Pelly Indians at Fort Selkirk, 1894." They exchanged furs and dried fish for goods such as tobacco, guns and ammunition. (Veazie Wilson, from *Glimpse of Alaska, Klondike Goldfields* by V. Wilson. Yukon Archives). Traditional shelters could be constructed at the site for interpretive and educational purpose.



"Van Bibber family at Fort Selkirk" (Van Bibber Coll.) The theme of *Generations Return* is linked to many families in Pelly Crossing today.

14.5 ORAL TRADITIONS

Use What's There Now

- **Continue oral traditions.**

The best means of preserving oral traditions about Fort Selkirk is to encourage people to continue telling their stories. The tradition of story telling as a way of passing on information is in itself an important heritage. The cultural, educational, archaeological and site restoration projects provide new encouragement for elders to extend the traditional teaching and entertainment roles of story telling. The use of Northern Tutchone place names, kinship terms and other information in interpretive programs will help strengthen the use and preservation of the language. In reinforcing the value of these oral traditions, program organizers also need to be aware of appropriate settings, pacing of events, and preparation of students/visitors so that elders receive respectful attention and are not subjected to an onerous schedule. These experiences should be pleasurable for elders, rather than a series of overwhelming tasks.

Other former residents should also be encouraged to visit the site and participate in special events. Their memories would enrich students' and visitors' understanding of Fort Selkirk as a place where many cultures have met in the past. The *Meeting Place* theme for Fort Selkirk can be enhanced through oral traditions.

Build On What's There Now

- **Review and assess all existing taped material to identify gaps in the record.**

The continuation of oral history recording programs, including some video recording, should receive high priority because of the advancing age of the people who have lived at Fort Selkirk. Key people should be identified for any further required phases of oral history work, as specified during the assessment of existing tapes. A video record of these people would be a valuable resource for future interpretation programs. Traditional technologies should also be video recorded as a record for the future.

- **Assess storage conditions for existing audio and video tapes.**

Security copies of all material should be made and located in a fire proof, environmentally controlled facility such as the Yukon Archives. Working copies at the Selkirk First Nation office and Heritage Branch should also be stored in appropriate conditions to promote their long term preservation (in acid free containers), with finding aids to permit access as required. The Yukon Council of Archives and other agencies may be able to assist with funding and expertise required for curation of these collections.

14.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Use What's There Now

- **Conduct archaeological investigations prior to any site development or land disturbance**

Since parts of the Fort Selkirk townsite may have been used for thousands of years, it is imperative that archaeological investigation precede any activity that will disturb the land surface in the planning area. The archaeological analysis of the site is at an early stage. All the artefacts found there need to be assessed with respect to their significance to Fort Selkirk.

Build On What's There Now

- **Allow for cultural research studies and programs.**

The Fort Selkirk Cultural History Project based at the site for the past three summers has provided some very dynamic opportunities for Selkirk First Nation. Youth and elders have shared in discovering connections between the prehistoric archaeology of the area and their community's oral traditions. For some youth these experiences could provide the inspiration to pursue studies in archaeology or other heritage preservation work.

The archaeological sites at Fort Selkirk are non-renewable resources requiring careful management. When research is undertaken it offers a valuable community development opportunity. Although it may not be feasible to conduct an archaeological field school every summer for students, some plan for continuing cultural or natural heritage studies at the site is a high priority for the Selkirk First Nation. Archaeology might be the focus of that plan every two to three years, with oral history, artefact replication, and language or other programs operating in other years.

- **Use community resources in future archaeological work.**

Any proposed project for the site should be encouraged to use community resources as much as possible, including suitable student trainees from the Selkirk First Nation and elders or other knowledgeable Selkirk First Nation members. Results of research should be displayed or communicated as appropriate.

Choose Future Options

- **Consider future cooperative project to study Robert Campbell post.**

The second Robert Campbell post represents a major historic period archaeological research project that could be developed on a cooperative basis with a university or other agencies such as the Archaeological Survey of Canada providing expertise and direction. The Selkirk First Nation might contribute support for fundraising and logistical requirements. Such a project could operate over several summers giving

Selkirk First Nation youth a sustained opportunity to develop skills and interests in archaeological and historical research. Once the post or portions of it had been excavated, further work would be required to protect the exposed areas and develop interpretive programs.

14.7 ARTEFACTS

Use What's There Now

- **Use existing casts of artefacts and prepare new ones as required for interpretation and education.**

Existing legislation pertaining to archaeological resources requires that all artefacts collected in the course of investigations in the Yukon be sent to the Archaeological Survey of Canada (ASC) in Hull for preservation. Artefacts can be retained on loan in the Yukon at an accepted research facility such as the Yukon Heritage Branch or Yukon College for analysis and study. Artefacts recovered from Fort Selkirk and region during early archaeological investigations (eg. by MacNeish) are at the ASC.

Prehistoric archaeological collections made during cooperative projects in recent years are now on loan, on an interim basis, for research purposes at Yukon College (1988 work) or at the Heritage Branch (1989 work). Some casts of these artefacts have been made and sent to the Selkirk First Nation office for display purposes. These casts could also be used at Fort Selkirk for display and teaching purposes as they are not fragile and can be replaced if necessary. Archaeological collections at various institutions should be analyzed to determine what would be most useful for programs at the site and arrangements made to have more casts made as appropriate, along with information kits for those who will use them.

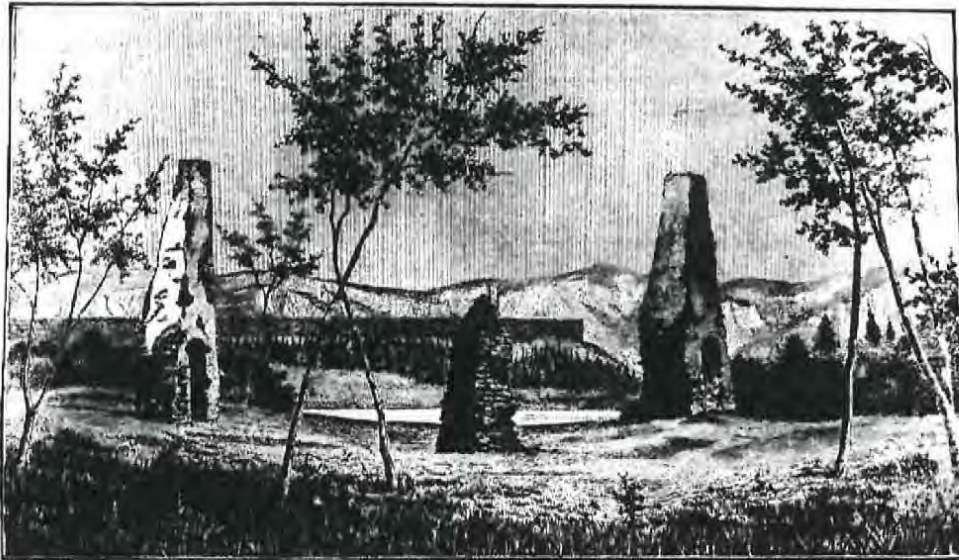
Build On What's There Now

- **Locate and copy or acquire Northern Tutchone ethnological materials related to Fort Selkirk.**

A wide variety of ethnological materials related to the Yukon exists at numerous museums in the Yukon and elsewhere in Canada, the United States and abroad. Although it may be difficult to identify items specifically from Fort Selkirk, an attempt should be made to locate Northern Tutchone items and to assemble photographs, plus descriptions of these materials. *"Searching For Our Heritage: A Review of Artefact Collections Outside of the Yukon"* (Heritage Branch, 1989), has an inventory of ethnographic items pertaining to Yukon's First Peoples which reside in museums outside of the Yukon. The catalogue for the National Museums of Canada exhibit *Strangers of the North* offers a good perspective on the types of things to be found in museums - everything from sewing kits, fishnets, snowshoes, to skin clothing, etc. The Canadian Museum of Civilization also has a computer generated list of artefacts in their collections which identifies those which originated in the Yukon.



"Indians with birch bark canoes at Fort Selkirk, 1883." Photoengraving made from Schwatka expedition photograph, from *A Summer in Alaska* by Frederick Schwatka. (Yukon Archives)



RUINS OF OLD FORT SELKIRK.

"Chimneys of Campbell's post, Fort Selkirk in 1883." Photoengraving made from Schwatka expedition photograph, from *A Summer in Alaska* by Frederick Schwatka. (Yukon Archives). Archaeological investigation of this site could be done in the future.

- **Consider replication projects.**

Selkirk First Nation members could view and study (with funding from different sources) particular items for the purpose of making replicas to display in Pelly Crossing, Fort Selkirk or possibly in a temporary exhibition at the MacBride or other existing museum. Other equipment such as birch bark containers, skin canoes, fish baskets, clothing etc. could be made by Selkirk First Nation members based on their own knowledge. Such replicas would themselves be valuable items and appropriate storage and display conditions would be necessary to preserve them for coming generations. The Selkirk First Nation office at Pelly Crossing could be equipped to provide adequate security conditions for most items. Some small displays of suitable, easily transported items could also be developed for Fort Selkirk. The replication process itself should be recorded for potential interpretive or educational purposes.

- **Arrange for display and storage of Fort Selkirk and Northern Tutchone artefacts**

Most of the artefacts located now at the site have been adequately inventoried and require only minimum additional treatment. Consideration should be given to developing criteria to identify which artefacts are most valuable and/or at risk. For them procedures should be established to provide secure storage during times when no caretaker or other staff will be at the site to prevent theft and vandalism. Some items may warrant being stored in the off-season at Pelly Crossing. Again the Selkirk First Nation office or other facility could provide secure storage for these few items.

- **Determine ways to prolong the life of selected remaining site artefacts.**

Some larger artefacts such as the buzz saw and other equipment around Alex Coward's garage should be assessed by a conservator so that appropriate treatments can be established to prolong their life at the site. Many small artefacts such as saw blades, small tools etc. could be secured in a simple but appropriate fashion (from a conservation and aesthetic perspective) within or to the buildings where they are now located, to prevent casual damage or removal by visitors. A number of items have already been treated in this fashion to good effect.

Consideration of problems associated with seasonal operation and maintenance of artefacts should be part of an artefact treatment policy for the site.

Choose Future Options

- **Consider future options for artefact protection and interpretation**

In future if some homes are furnished to provide enhanced interpretive opportunities for visitors, a more comprehensive protection and conservation treatment policy and program would be required. However the basic nature of the lifestyle of Fort Selkirk residents will limit the complexity of care required for the type of items likely to be on display. The Baum, Cameron, and Anglican Mission Houses, as well as the Taylor and Drury Store may be developed in future. The more varied and numerous the items on display, the more complex the preservation

requirements will be. Each addition to the display component of the site should be carefully considered in advance to determine if the requirements can be met effectively at this remote location within an acceptable budget for staff and equipment.

Big Jonathan's House is one potential location for a display of Northern Tutchone cultural items. The major consideration for displays will be to locate them in secure cases out of direct sunlight and to minimize exposure to dust. Big Jonathan's House presents quite acceptable conditions in this regard. Another potential location for displays is the Stone House and again, provided appropriate cases are built and suitable artefacts/replicas are selected, this building could serve that purpose well too.

14.8 DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

Build On What's There Now

- **Expand the existing Fort Selkirk Bibliography.**

For the most part documentary resources related to Fort Selkirk are already located in archival facilities where they are being preserved in acceptable conditions. For the purposes of ongoing research and development at the site it would be useful to expand the existing Fort Selkirk Bibliography. Additional sources should be identified and arrangements made for copying this documentation at the HBC Library and Archives, the National Archives of Canada, and other institutions. This information should be made available to researchers in Yukon (either at the Heritage Branch or Yukon Archives and at the Band Office in Pelly Crossing as appropriate).

Build On What's There Now

- **Develop a site resource collection in Pelly Crossing.**

The Selkirk First Nation has a room identified in the band office building for archival storage. It could be equipped to provide appropriate space for Selkirk First Nation copies of Fort Selkirk research reports and other documentation. The band's inactive administrative records could also be stored there, forming the basis for an ongoing archives program. Small quantities of archival storage containers and other supplies would be required for this project. A basic reference and retrieval system should also be developed. The Yukon Council of Archives or other agencies may be able to contribute funding to this type of project.

14.9 ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Use What's There Now/Build On Future Options

- **Use current permit procedures.**

A variety of researchers including anthropologists, archaeologists, geologists, historians and linguists have visited Fort Selkirk and will want to work at the site in future. For those whose work requires land disturbance (i.e. digging test pits etc.) a site use permit system (such as the current Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulations) should be in place to ensure that only qualified researchers using appropriate techniques are allowed to carry out activities at the site. The existing regulations will be superseded by new regulations issued pursuant to a new Yukon Historic Resources Act.

Other scientific research is regulated under the Scientists and Explorers Act. These in turn, may be replaced in the future by a new Yukon Science Act.

- **Assess research proposals.**

Proposed research should be assessed in light of the probability of success and usefulness of contributions to understanding Fort Selkirk. Archaeological resources in particular are non-renewable and a conservationist approach to them will help maximize the long term possibilities for researching Fort Selkirk's past. Other researchers who propose to use the site for an extended length of time should also contact the Fort Selkirk management group in advance so that their activities do not adversely affect other programs or visitors. By notifying the committee in advance, researchers can identify any special needs they may have, and the Selkirk First Nation may be able to offer assistance in contacting elders, guides, etc. Copies of all research findings and reports should be made available to the committee for the site reference collection.



"View of Fort Selkirk in 1960, facing west." Left to right, RCMP detachment, Devore cabin, Taylor and Drury store, Anglican Church, Mission House and School" (Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa) This view is largely intact today. The photo falls in the **Preservation Area "A" Management Area**, which means no new buildings would be permitted here.



L-R: Freddy Alfred, Peter Silverfox, Stanley Johnson, Rita Johnson, Lizzy Hagar, Richard Silas, Rachel Tom Tom, Rena Salmon, Mary Alfred (Blanchard), May Joe (Isaac) at Fort Selkirk. (Father Bobillier Coll.)
Generations Return and *Heart and Soul* themes are brought to life by such photos.

15.0 VISITOR USE, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

15.1 VISITOR USE LEVELS

Use What's There Now

- **Avoid promotion of Fort Selkirk in order to maintain the present number of visitors in the near term. Ensure that heritage resources are not adversely affected by rapid increases in use.**

The existing levels of use at Fort Selkirk are discussed in Section 5.0. The type of activities and services will depend on the number and needs of visitors as well as the aspirations of the Selkirk people. These will evolve over time, in cooperation with the Yukon Government, and in keeping with the stepped approach to development. Further promotion to increase site use should not be done until the management plan is in place. Increasing use to more than the 600-700 present visitors would affect wear and tear on heritage buildings, waste disposal, and management capacity.

Build On What's There Now

- **Encourage moderate increases in use.**

If the Fort Selkirk Management Group agrees to increase visitation to the site, there are two market groups which offer good potential to selectively increase use of the site: Special use groups and tour boat travellers. By attracting these groups, visitation could increase slowly, with the Selkirk First Nation influencing use levels. Greater promotion of the Yukon River as a destination could also result in a moderate increase in site use.

If moderate increases in use are encouraged, then the water supply, waste disposal, camping and toilet facilities would need to be assessed again. Increased use should only be allowed after appropriate facilities and maintenance procedures are in place. (See Sections 15.6, 15.7, 15.9 on servicing and operations concerns).

- **Encourage visits by special use groups.**

By planning more gatherings and special events at Fort Selkirk, visitor numbers can be increased but the circumstances of visitor use of the site can be controlled. Stimulating more gatherings and special events at the site is in keeping with the site's past use as a meeting place for different peoples.

The types of events chosen will naturally influence the type of visitor, the types of benefits, and degree and form of involvement by the Selkirk First Nation.

Types of groups which members of the Selkirk First Nation have indicated they would like to attract are:

- *school children on field trips;*
- *special purpose events and celebrations, focusing on such things as culture and history; and*
- *specialized uses such as alcohol treatment and archaeology instruction.*

Examples of ideas from the community include:

Selkirk First Nation members and the Pelly Crossing school principal are very interested in seeing programs developed that would be offered to students at the site. The CYI Cultural Enrichment kits for kindergarten through grade 3, Department of Education Explorations Program (grade 3), *Early Yukon Cultures* (grade 4), plus *Part of the Land Part of the Water*, and a number of other resources offer good potential for developing special programs for Pelly Crossing students, and for other Yukon students in future. These programs would then form a good basis for offering other groups a special experience at the site.

Elders and other Selkirk First Nation members along with the school committee and staff should be involved in planning the study program and logistics. Elders and other Selkirk First Nation members could provide the instruction for studies related to traditional culture, language, place names and their knowledge of the history of Fort Selkirk. Archaeologists, historians, geologists, and biologists might be used as resource people as well. Once the logistics of accommodation, supervision, and programming have been refined, students from other Yukon communities could participate in programs at the site. Funding from the Yukon Department of Education could be sought.

Although school use would be primarily in the early summer and fall, with better year round facilities some school groups could be attracted in the winter. Length of stay could range from a few hours to a number of days, depending on the program and on the facilities available.

In addition to school based programs there could also be alternative projects for youth similar to Project Rediscovery in the Queen Charlotte Islands. This cultural/spiritual renewal program has operated for more than a decade. Haida elders and coordinator Tom Hanley provide a mix of traditional training and Outward Bound activities to give youth dynamic experiences for learning skills, gaining confidence and building self esteem. One possible project for a Fort Selkirk Rediscovery Program would be the construction of a brush shelter encampment, fish drying racks, and other traditional equipment. Perhaps it could be part of an interpretive site along the trail to Victoria Rock or at another suitable location.

Several Selkirk First Nation members also expressed the hope that alcohol/drug addiction treatment and recovery programs could be organized in association with Fort Selkirk because of its tranquil and restorative atmosphere. In future some employment opportunities (like brush clearing or other work) might be combined with a rehabilitation program. This would need to be compatible with the Management Plan.

Other special purpose events and celebrations can be used to increase visitation. Suggestions made by Selkirk First Nation members include:

- *bringing in visitors for the Yukon Quest;*
- *holding community events and gatherings such as the General Assembly and Christmas celebrations at the site;*
- *winter recreational activities such as skiing, snow-shoeing and dog mushing;*
- *trapper training programs;*
- *celebration of a return to Fort Selkirk by descendants or previous residents.*

These are but a few of the special events that are possible.

● **Encourage tour boat travellers.**

Increased use of the site can be stimulated through providing boat excursions and boat tours from Pelly Crossing or other locations such as Minto.

There is a large potential market to draw upon nearby. Each summer 55,000 to 65,000 tourists travel the Klondike Highway between Carmacks and Dawson City. A small portion of these tourists could be attracted to Fort Selkirk. About three quarters of these travellers are American, the next largest group is Canadian and a small proportion are from other countries. Most are travelling for pleasure. Over one half of these tourists are aged 50 years and older, and the proportion of male and female visitors are about equal. Older markets are not as likely to get off the beaten path, for example the Keno Mining Museum attracts primarily younger, often European markets.

Some of the major factors motivating these tourists to visit the Yukon can be better expressed at Fort Selkirk than in many other places in the Yukon. The Visitor Exit Survey notes that major reasons for visiting the Yukon include: going places my friends or I haven't been; experiencing the wilderness and seeing wildlife in their natural habitat; and seeking adventure and challenge. The Visitor Exit Survey notes that the participation rate in boating is higher for this group of road travelling tourists than participation in canoeing, kayaking or rafting, although the rate is low compared to other activities.

Canadian studies of American and Overseas visitors indicate a growing demand for the cultural aspects and wilderness aspects of tourism. Visitors want to be educated and see authentic representations of other cultures, especially different Indian cultures. They want to visit historic sites, experience the beauty of nature and see wildlife in its natural habitat. This group wants a participatory experience, not simply to observe culture and nature. They also want quality and comfort to be part of their travel experience.

Choose Future Options

- **Encourage higher levels of use in the future**

By increasing the number of boat excursions and better promoting these to the tourists travelling the Klondike Highway, visitation can be increased substantially. The level of visitation may be controlled by the type of promotion and the number of tours or special events. Road access, for example to the Pelly River confluence, would result in significant further increases in use. The desirability and planning of a future road would be determined by the Fort Selkirk management group.

A road would result in maximum site use, perhaps in the order of a few thousand visitors per year as well as increased Selkirk First Nation use. Strategies for maintaining the heritage resources would have to be in place before such use was acceptable. The requirement for higher capacity waste disposal and toilet systems would need to be assessed. A higher standard of other visitor facilities would also be required. (See also Access, below).

15.2 ACCESS

The type of access to the site helps control visitor use. Each of the options below should be considered in the context of what level of use is desired. Refer to above related recommendations on Visitor Use, .

Use What's There Now

- **Improve second boat landing at campground to provide easier access for canoeists and tourists using river boats.**
- **Continue having two signed boat landings, one for tourists and the other for local residents. Make landings obvious with signs and/or floating docks.**

Two boat landings are needed to accommodate Selkirk First Nation use and the tourist campground. The tourist landing area should be improved with a removable dock to make it a more attractive alternative to the upstream landing.

- **Communicate with boat tour companies to help coordinate and schedule site use, as well as plan for expected numbers. (See also Commercial Services Section 15.3).**
- **Maintain airstrip in operable condition for emergency use.**

Build On What's There Now

- **Encourage boat tours from either Pelly Crossing, Minto, or Pelly Farm. (see above)**

Minto already has boat launching facilities, and launching at Pelly Farm has been from private property. A day use facility including a boat launch could be considered in the Pelly Farm area. Consultation with farm owners would be needed.

Choose Future Options

- **Consider road access to Pelly River confluence area as long term option; consider using existing road to Pelly Farm, then building extension to Pelly confluence.**
- **Consider developing road only after evaluation of all route options, and after thorough archaeological, environmental, and visual impact investigations in Pelly Confluence area.**
- **Consider developing small scale campground at road terminus to serve tourists from Klondike Highway wishing to visit Fort Selkirk.**

The campground at Pelly Crossing could be used as a staging area for boat tours to Fort Selkirk. If a road to the Pelly River confluence is built, then a second and smaller campground could be developed for those wishing a more remote wilderness experience. The Pelly Crossing campground could be promoted for highway traveller use.

- **Use Selkirk First Nation owned ferry boats to control access to Fort Selkirk.**

15.3 COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Use What's There Now

- **Obtain agreements from commercial operators on use of the site.**

Commercial tours use the Fort Selkirk site. Management tasks such as waste clean-up, provision of firewood and toilet paper may be increased with these large groups. Arrangements to offset these costs and to help provide positive visitor experiences may be required in the future.

Build On What's There Now

- **Assess the feasibility of commercial ventures to provide employment and training opportunities at Fort Selkirk.**

See list of possible operations below, Table #5.

- **Consider the possibility of including commercial space on a limited basis in an existing building.**

A limited range of items (pop, candy, cigarettes, tea, bannock etc...) could be sold initially, with expansion to staples and handcrafts.

- **Establish regular season of operation.**

The normal operating season needs to be set so visitors, for example tours groups, can be assured of when the site and activities are open.

Table #5 Summary of Commercial Opportunities at Fort Selkirk

Commercial opportunities at Fort Selkirk are mentioned throughout the plan. Many of these ideas were suggested by Selkirk First Nation members. Some of them could be implemented at various stages once conditions are suitable, while others may not be economically feasible for some time. These opportunities are summarized here:

Private Campground with Fees for Use**Store****Tea and Bannock Service****Post Cards and (possibly 'Post Office')****Tapes of oral history for sale****Book or Booklet****Guided Interpretive Walks****Horseback Rides****Boat Tours From Pelly Crossing/Minto to Fort Selkirk****Boat tours from Fort Selkirk to nearby points of interest such as Pelly Farm or Steamboat Slough.****Tourist and Special Groups Accommodation****Retreat Centre****Winter Use****Charter aircraft tours from Pelly Crossing to Fort Selkirk****15.4 CAMPGROUND AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION**

In the near term, the campground is sufficient to service visitor needs. As noted in the background information, the campground is not used to capacity throughout the summer. If river use increases and the type of visitor changes, basic overnight accommodation could be provided in the form of a tent camp or cabins. Such a facility could eventually grow to be a retreat in the off-season. This expansion of services should be done in steps, using the existing campground as a starting point. These options could provide revenue and employment and be used to help support other commercial ventures such as a small Fort Selkirk store.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There

- **Ensure the campground is clean, well stocked with firewood and other supplies. Consider a camping fee.**

The campground could be operated on a fee basis, provided the level of services was of a high standard and visitors were aware of the fees before arriving. The camping fee could be viewed as a package price that includes basic camping services as well

as the interpretive and educational opportunities on the site. Most people would support a fee, if it contributed to the upkeep and restoration of the site.

- **Move the fence located along the eastern side of the campground to a point 20-25m to the west.**
- **Expand campground area by selectively brushing out new campsites in wooded area; retain large trees and shrubs for privacy and weather protection, and to support enhancement of the site heritage character.**
- **Relocate the campground pit toilets into the wooded area; relocate toilets in future as they are filled.**
- **Follow design guidelines for new toilets and complete archaeological impact assessment prior to relocation.**

The green area in front of the Stone House would be better left as open space, as part of the Heritage Preservation area. Games, gatherings, or other events could take place here. Overflow camping on busy nights could also be permitted. Most people prefer to camp near the water, but privacy in a wooded glade is also sought after. The campground could be expanded by limited brushing out of the adjacent wooded area to provide new tent pad 'pockets'.

The pit toilets should be out of sight for aesthetic reasons, but not so far as to discourage use. Two pit toilets are adequate to service existing campground use levels at Fort Selkirk. The plan recommends additional pit or other type of toilet system for the south end of the site and the community development area. These will help improve the life span of the campground pit toilets.

- **Collect campground waste in 4 covered bear-resistant drums, painted dark brown.**
Waste from the campground will be collected regularly and burned at a pit site outside the **Heritage Preservation Area**.
- **Retain the maintenance contract now let by the Department of Renewable Resources.**

Until future campground ownership and operation strategies are clarified, the existing site maintenance program and financing should be continued. If camping fees are collected in the future, they could be used to offset salary costs, regardless of who is running the campground. Many campground and site maintenance arrangements have been tried in the Yukon and elsewhere; a suitable one for Fort Selkirk should be determined.

Choose Future Options

- **Construct a log kitchen shelter, once the existing drying cabin requires replacement, and if higher site use is promoted.**

The existing drying cabin does not reflect the site heritage character. As visitor use increases, the existing shelter could be replaced. A design which reflects the heritage character of Fort Selkirk should be used.

- **Consider developing a floored tent camp or redeveloping the existing work camp cabins for visitor use.**

If use increases, there will be a demand for tent or cabin overnight accommodation. The logical place for such a facility would be at or near the existing work camp. The facility would not interfere with heritage resources and it would be more economical to operate in conjunction with other facilities. Showers could be considered in this future phase. Water, waste and power requirements would need to be assessed prior to development.

If this option is adopted, then the work camp activity could be relocated to the proposed community use area. In the future, one cabin would likely be sufficient for the seasonal staff. Special groups or work crews could use the tourist facilities.

- **Consider using higher capacity toilets if use exceeds capacity of the two existing pit toilets.**

Pit toilets are efficient provided they are located away from water supplies, and are sufficiently removed from tenting areas. They must be relocated every several years once the pits are full. If the volume of use increases significantly then chemical or pump out tank toilets could be considered. Chemical toilets are more expensive to operate, and pump-out tanks would require a disposal site capable of handling human waste, as well as a means of transporting waste.

- **If visitation to Fort Selkirk increases and the existing campground is consistently used beyond capacity, then consider developing a second new site downstream.**

A second campground may need to be considered in the future. The existing site does not have the capacity for a large expansion. A site downstream of the existing work camp upstream could be feasible. The second site could be developed initially as a basic no-service wilderness campsite.

15.5 TRAILS (See also Heritage Resources Protection)

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Hiking and horse riding trails should be located, brushed out, marked, and maintained.**



Indian cemetery at Fort Selkirk. Note totems and area cleared of trees at turn of century. Family histories and spiritual meaning are part of the cemetery today. Selkirk First Nation members have suggested a sign to show where individuals are buried. They believe that guided walks to the cemetery are the best approach to interpretation..



Lava bluffs across from Fort Selkirk. Landscape is an integral part of the site heritage. The science of geology and its link with oral traditions could be combined here.

15.6 WATER

Use What's There/Build On What's There Now

- **If funding is limited, develop one new well initially.**

In 1989, none of the wells produced water. The recently dug 38ft. well was dry, as were the older ones of 25-30ft.in depth. The water from the Yukon River and Wolverine Creek is not reliable for drinking.

One new well is required immediately. It should be located within 100m of the campground, preferably closer. Well location should be assessed in the field and be compatible with protection of Heritage Resources. One well will not be sufficient to service future use of the site, nor would it be convenient for existing users. The length of the site and the location of activities warrants two wells.

- **As an alternative to the above, if funding permits, provide one well near the campground, and one between Big Jonathan House and Danny Robert's cabin**

Two wells are the optimum given existing use levels but also because of the length of the townsite. One should be located near the campground, the other nearer the community use area and Danny Robert's cabin. Two wells should be sufficient for the foreseeable future.

Choose Future Options

- **Assess future water requirements if seasonal use increases**

If increased use is encouraged, for example beyond 2,000 visitors per year as well as more seasonal or special events use by Selkirk First Nation members, then the water supply should be reassessed. For comparison, note that a typical 50 unit vehicle campground servicing about 9,000 visitors per summer would normally have two wells. The number and depth of wells would depend on water table characteristics.

15.7 WASTE AND SITE DEVELOPMENT (See also Section 14.1.3)

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Move the waste pit away from the townsite, to a site along the airstrip road, outside the Heritage Preservation Area.**
- **Continue using existing method of burning waste.**

Bears are not a chronic problem at this time, although they are known to visit the site. If Selkirk First Nation members wish to live on the site, and if special events take place, the existing waste pit should be relocated. Increased waste will attract bears, and the increased volume of waste may be too much for the present pit location. A safer and more suitable location would be at least 150-200 metres towards the airstrip, outside the **Heritage Preservation Area**.

A basic incineration facility (such as a steel drum) would be superior to a pit alone, and should be considered in the future. The volume of waste generated in the near future could be accommodated by burning in a pit, provided fire safety precautions were taken.

- **Provide at least one and preferably two toilets in the Big Jonathan House-Yukon Field Force area; locate in trees, out of site.**

Special events, visitor interpretation programs and the length of the site suggest that additional pit toilets are needed at the south end of the site. Alternatives to pit toilets could be considered, but the added cost and operating expenses would need to be considered. These additional toilets would be sufficient to meet visitor needs for several years assuming modest increases in use.

See also Campground and Overnight Accommodation, above.

Choose Future Options

- **Assess future waste requirements if seasonal or year round use increases; prepare waste management plan.**

If Selkirk First Nation use, special events, or seasonal occupation of Fort Selkirk increase well beyond existing levels, then a new waste management plan will be needed. Special events such as assemblies or large gatherings could be accommodated by using 'port-a-potties' (small containerized versions are available). If Selkirk First Nation members erect more than two or three cabins, then septic tile waste fields or tanks may be necessary along with a complete environmental and maintenance assessment.

Detailed site development plans should be prepared prior to occupation of Fort Selkirk. Controlled growth is essential to maintain the integrity of environmental and heritage resources.

15.8 PLAY AREA

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Designate an area near Big Jonathan's House or in the community development area for children's play; develop play area to complement heritage character of the site.**

Many people visit Fort Selkirk in family groups. Unregulated play in a number of the buildings during the past has taken its toll through accidental damage sustained while children played within them. Children need a play area in the vicinity of Big Jonathan's to be in view of adults during gatherings. It could, for example, be located in the community re-settlement area. Children are a fine way to help adults interact,

for example at the play area or at the tourist campground. Cultural barriers are usually most quickly dissolved if children are present. Their curiosity is infectious.

Play structures could include a double tiered cache, low log structures emulating a 'ghost house', sand pits, tire swing, or other compatible facilities.

- **Retain the existing horseshoe pits.**

Workers also need a place for some evening games. The community re-settlement area would be the best location for games in the future.

15.9 OPERATIONAL FACILITIES

Use What's There Now

- **Provide power on a limited basis to the site.**

The use of generators should be minimized with restricted hours and the use of storage batteries. Generators should be located within tightly built log structures, located to minimize noise. Solar panels to charge batteries should be investigated.

Build On What's There Now

- **Provide showers for the work camp and visitors.**

Hot water could be via propane water heaters. See also Campground and Overnight Accommodation, above.

- **Retain a house for a caretaker and in future for regular site workers.**

Danny Robert's cabin serves as a caretakers residence now. In the long term, such a residence could be located near the community building area. As the number of workers declines once major site work is done, the existing work camp may not be needed at full capacity. It may then be converted to other types of accommodation, such as tourist cabins. See also Campground and Overnight Accommodation, above.

- **Review the requirements for the work camp.**

Since the major stabilization work is already done on site, the work camp could be reduced in size, but upgraded in quality by replacing the plywood buildings with log structures. These log structures could be available for work crews, archaeological teams, Selkirk First Nation use, or visitors, depending on demand, season and work that was in progress.

In the longer term, as a stable seasonal staff of 3-5 (for example) is maintained on site, the work camp function could be relocated to a single house nearer the caretakers present residence. The existing work camp location could then evolve into a revenue producing facility on a full time basis. See also campground and Overnight Accommodation, above.

15.10 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Protection of water quality, and natural features such as vegetation, wildlife, or scenery are an important part of the plan. Environmentally friendly use by visitors, for example by taking out unburnable garbage, can contribute to the protection of the site.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Test water quality of wells annually.**
- **Locate pit toilets a minimum of 50 metres from the Yukon River or any seasonal creeks at Fort Selkirk.**
- **Locate the waste/burning pit at least 50 metres from any new water well sites, with no runoff draining towards the well site.**
- **Undertake clearing or brushing only to protect heritage resources; fuel wood cutting, selective log removal, or trail clearing should only be permitted if the integrity of the heritage site is not affected.**

- **Encourage the use of environmentally friendly products at Fort Selkirk.**

For example, community members have already discussed avoiding the use of disposable pampers at Fort Selkirk. Other measures could also help.

- **Encourage Selkirk First Nation members to remove their noncombustible waste by carrying it in boats travelling back to Pelly Crossing.**
- **Encourage tourists to take their non-combustible waste with them to deposit at Dawson city.**
- **Design and construct all visitor facilities, such as signs, new toilets, or accommodation to complement the heritage site character**

Design guidelines for buildings are necessary to protect the heritage character of Fort Selkirk. Similarly, any new visitor facilities should be designed to fit into the Fort Selkirk setting.

Interpretive Themes for Fort Selkirk are described in Part 1, Background. The Information and Interpretation plan, described below is based on the overall theme and sub-themes for Fort Selkirk. Detailed stories related to the sub-themes would be developed at a later stage and would become the source of information for signs, displays, or other interpretive programs. The interpretive thematic organization for Fort Selkirk is:

<p>Interpretive Theme</p> <p><i>Meeting Place</i></p> <p>Sub-themes</p> <p><i>Heart and Soul</i> <i>Trade and Travel</i> <i>Power and Sovereignty</i> <i>A Shared Community</i> <i>Generations Return</i></p>

Improving interpretation and information at Fort Selkirk will enhance the visitor's experience be they tourists or Selkirk First Nation people. A balanced approach to interpretation will also create a positive message for the Selkirk Indian people. It will achieve several of the education and interpretation goals and objectives for this management plan. Northern Tutchone names should be used as much as possible on signs describing people, places and their traditional culture. The options are organized in two ways: they are categorized by phases and as on-site and off-site.(See Table #6).

On-site options are those which occur at Fort Selkirk. **Off-site** options are those which occur elsewhere, for example, in schools or in Visitor Reception Centres.

16.1 ON-SITE

Use What's There Now:

Signs:

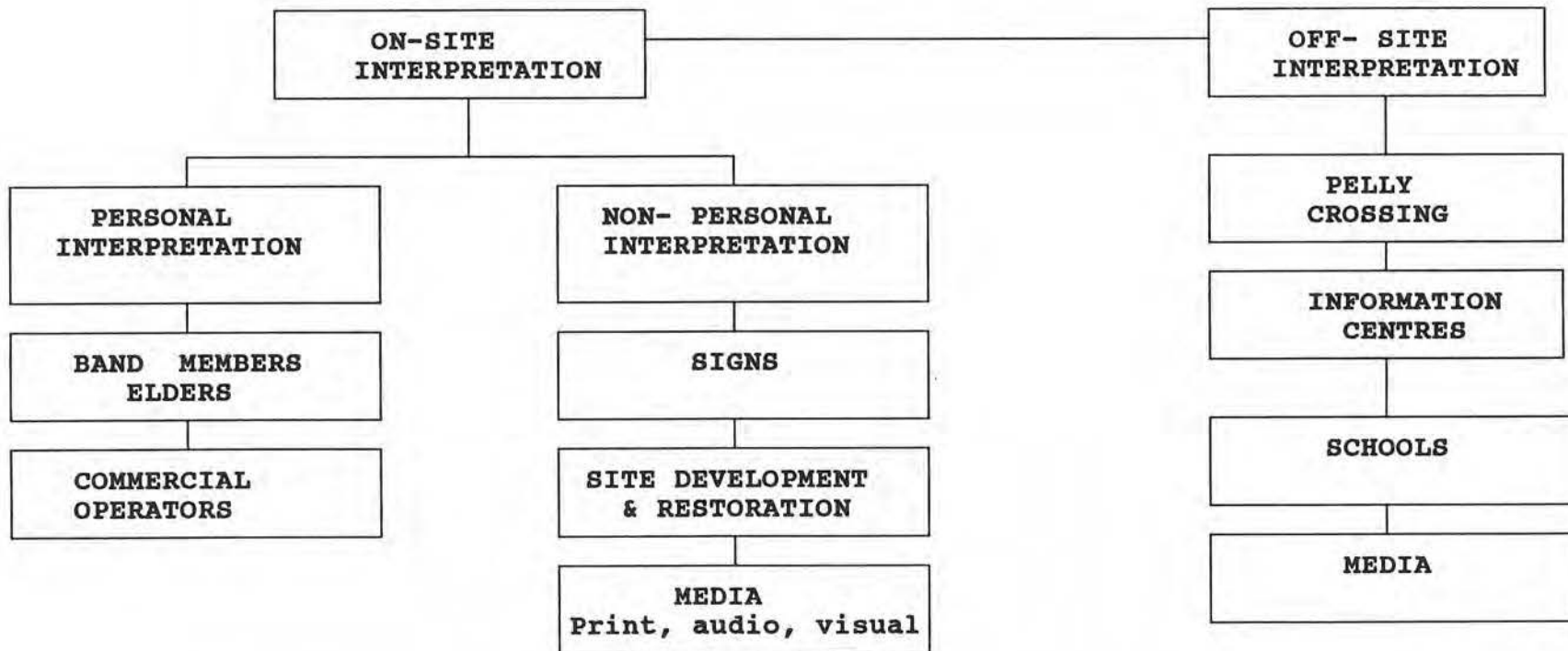
- **Produce new interpretive signs to replace the existing three panels at the main entry point to the site.**

The new signs could be from 3 - 5 in number depending on size. Four signs are suggested, approximately 30" wide by 20" high, mounted horizontally on posts or on

Table #6

ORGANIZATION OF FORT SELKIRK INTERPRETIVE OPTIONS

(See text for details of each category)



a railing and post arrangement. They would be angled and low-aspect, i.e. highest point of the sign would be no more than 44" off the ground so as not to interfere with the view of the site. The signs will be arranged in a semi-circle so as not to obstruct the panorama of Fort Selkirk. Format should incorporate simple and concise text and graphics. Text should address the interpretive theme and subthemes for Fort Selkirk and should provide an overall site orientation (including a map). Consideration should be given to producing signs in Northern Tutchone and English languages.

The existing signs provide virtually no information about the native community. This must be corrected immediately. The proposed signs will provide visitors with an interpretive overview of Fort Selkirk as well as site orientation neither of which is currently provided.

- **Produce interpretive signs for native cabins.**

Interpretive signs should be produced for a minimum of two of the native cabins and all six if possible. These signs would be low-aspect and free-standing on posts at sufficient distance from the cabins so as not to interfere with the view but close enough that they are clearly associated with a specific cabin. A distance of from 10 - 20 feet is suggested depending upon individual circumstances. Signs could range in size from 18" x 12" to 24" x 18". Text should be simple and brief and should introduce the family and their relationship to Fort Selkirk. The Indian names of family members could be included if acceptable to the family. Where possible, a photo or drawing of a family elder should be included in the sign. Ideally, a quote from this elder would also appear on the sign.

Current signs do not identify the native cabins nor do they provide any history of the people or families who occupied structures anywhere on the site.

- **Assess which additional residential buildings warrant interpretive signs throughout the site.**

Quotes and photos from former non-native occupants and native occupants would enhance everyone's appreciation of the site history.

- **Produce a trailhead sign for Victoria Rock trail which interprets the special significance of this site.**

- **Provide improved signs to identify private docking area and public docking.**

- **Produce a new site brochure for Fort Selkirk; include site map on brochure.**

A new site brochure would be available free of charge to visitors. The brochure would have two folds and would be 9" x 4" when folded. Four-colour processing would feature colour photos or artwork of the native community, in contrast with the black and white archival photos. Copy would address the theme and subthemes for Fort Selkirk and include site orientation and a message encouraging wise stewardship of cultural and heritage resources. It should incorporate Northern Tutchone place and person names as well as English and perhaps German.

The existing Selkirk First Nation brochure provides excellent information on the Selkirk First Nation and should be used in conjunction with the proposed new brochure, that will provide more detailed site information.

- **Produce an interpretive sign for the Anglican Church.**

The new sign would provide an interpretive history of the Anglican Church and would include at least one archival photograph from the community's busiest period. The sign would be low-aspect and free-standing on a post and would be approximately 24" x 18" in size. This would permit easy viewing of the church while reading the sign.

When the three large orientation panels are replaced, the Anglican Church sign will look out of place. Achieving a consistency in sign style, and replacing simple identification signs with interpretive material, will enhance the visitor experience.

Displays

- **Continue to use existing displays, expand as resources permit.**

Medicinal plant displays have been developed by Selkirk First Nation members, and are already used at Fort Selkirk for education. These should be continued or expanded.

Personal Interpretation:

- **As young Selkirk First Nation members are often on site in different capacities, encourage individuals to assist Danny Roberts in providing site orientation for tourists.**

This role of assisting Danny should be rotated amongst a number of individuals. Assignment of this role - in consultation with Mr. Roberts and the individual Selkirk First Nation members - could be the responsibility of a Site Manager.

It is important that Selkirk First Nation members are given the opportunity to interact with visitors in an informal setting so that this responsibility does not rest on Mr. Roberts' shoulders alone. It would be valuable for as many Selkirk First Nation members as possible - who feel comfortable with the role - to have the chance to interpret their heritage to the tourists.

- **Initiate a few evenings when elders can share some of their oral traditions with visitors.**

While this may happen informally, it is recommended that a few (2 - 3) evenings or afternoons be set aside to which tourists are specifically invited. The following steps are necessary: (next page)

cont'd from previous page...

-
- Discuss idea with elders to determine who would be comfortable providing this service,
 - Select an appropriate afternoon or evening - the best time would be when a large number of tourists are likely to be in camp e.g. weekends in July,
 - Arrange to provide refreshments, for example, bannock and tea,
 - Designate one individual to visit the campground the day before the event and on the day of the event. This individual should visit each campsite and personally invite people to the gathering. Be sure to specify the time and location,
 - One individual should host the evening. He or she should give a short introduction (5 - 10 minutes) which welcomes visitors to Fort Selkirk and makes them aware of the importance of the site and of the vital role that elders play in the community. He or she should also explain the oral tradition of the Tutchone people,
 - The host should invite the elders to share with the visitors their memories of Fort Selkirk,
 - At the end of the evening, the host should thank the elders for sharing their memories, thank the visitors for coming, and wish them well on their journeys,
-

The cultural traditions of the Selkirk First Nation make the site a living place. Sharing some of this tradition with river travellers will make these visitors more aware of the special nature and importance of Fort Selkirk.

- **If the Selkirk First Nation should host functions at the site - such as a General Assembly - incorporate a cultural event or events into the proceedings.**

Examples of such events are stick-gambling or a display of medicinal plants. Tourists could be invited to participate. An invitation to share or even simply to watch a cultural event would generate good will amongst visitors and give them a greater appreciation of the importance of Fort Selkirk. Such events should be approved by the Fort Selkirk Management Group.

- **If the Selkirk First Nation should host functions at the site - such as a General Assembly - develop a "Kids' Camp" which would both entertain children while the adults are busy, and would provide cultural learning for kids as well.**

Children are a part of the return to Fort Selkirk, both physically and culturally. To design and operate a "Kid's Camp" is challenging. Children must be given plenty of opportunity to use their abundant supplies of energy. As much as possible this should be done using traditional games and learning techniques. (See also Play Area, Section 15.8)



Danny Roberts greeting a tourist, and asking her to sign the guest book. Interpretive programming and site maintenance are an important part of the plan.



The restored Yukon Field Force orderlie's quarters with interpretive signs. Refer to interpretive framework for details on proposed sign plan.

Build On What's There Now:

- **Develop map and sign for the Indian cemetery.**
- **Develop map and sign for non-native cemetery.**

Both cemeteries provide a vivid reflection of the history of Fort Selkirk. A map of the graves, identifying who is buried where, would benefit both native and non-native communities and a simple sign would interpret the sites for visitors. Use Indian names as well.

- **Develop trailhead signs for some of the numerous trails which centre on Fort Selkirk.**

This should be done after brushing out these trails. Visitors should be made aware of the numerous routes which meet at Fort Selkirk. Brushing out the first few hundred metres and signing a few of the more prominent trails would provide interpretation and recreation. Where possible these trails could be modified so that they loop back to the campground.

- **Develop an interpretive display.**

Such a display could consist of artefacts, crafts, medicinal plants, etc.. The display would be located in a multi-purpose building such as the Stone House or Big Jonathan's. The Northern Tutchone language should be used here also. A typical brush shelter or fish drying rack could be located at the slough near the Yukon Field Force, or on the trail towards Victoria Rock.

The development of this display could result in the production of art or crafts for sale to visitors at the site or in other locations.

- **Stage a special event for both natives and non-natives.**

Such an event should have a cultural basis and format and should include traditional games and activities such as stick-gambling. The event should be scheduled for one of the busiest weekends of the year (mid to late July). Event should include services such as refreshments and crafts for sale. Planning should commence not less than six months prior to the summer season in which the event is to be held.

Based upon the experience and success of events such as informal evenings with the elders or general assemblies, the Selkirk First Nation would benefit from undertaking a single major special event each season which would promote the cultural heritage of the site, provide economic and cultural benefits to the Selkirk First Nation, and would enhance the visitors' experience at Fort Selkirk.

- **Integrate interpretation into all research, training and apprenticeship programs on-site.**

Fort Selkirk has great potential to function as a training ground for native peoples. It would have major side benefits if those people involved in learning new skills should also receive training and experience in communicating their knowledge and skills to visitors and to other Selkirk First Nation members.

Choose Future Options

- **Restore Taylor and Drury Store with authentic or period artefacts.**
- **Provide full-time seasonal interpreters (if visitation increases)**
- **Develop tours to Campbell's original post (should archaeological investigation take place).**
- **Develop wilderness or traditional skills programs based at Selkirk for both natives and non-native people.**
- **Produce a full-colour book or booklet on Fort Selkirk both to document the cultural history of the site and to provide, through sales both on and off-site, economic benefits to the community.**

16.2 OFF-SITE

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now:

- **Promote - using posters - any special events being held at Fort Selkirk in Pelly Crossing so that highway travellers are at least aware that these are taking place.**
- **Provide an interpretive/informational sign at Pelly Crossing which describes Fort Selkirk and current activities taking place, and, introduces the themes and subthemes.**
- **If increased use is desired, develop and distribute a new brochure at Visitor Reception Centres and other prominent tourist locations.**
- **Investigate coordinating interpretive training in interpretive methods with other bands in similar situations.**
- **Contact other bands to discuss special events at Fort Selkirk.**

Choose Future Options:

- **Develop an interpretive/promotional audio-visual show (perhaps using historic film footage) for use at Visitor Reception Centres and at trade shows.**

Permission for use of archival film footage would be required.

- **Develop Pelly Crossing/Pelly Farm as bases for tours of Fort Selkirk and area.**
Pelly Farm is private. Consultation must precede any development.

- Use trained interpreters from the Selkirk First Nation to provide school programs, museum presentations, and other public displays, throughout the Yukon and in other areas where interest warrants.
- Distribute book and/or video of Fort Selkirk throughout the Yukon to provide interpretation of the site and economic benefits to the community.



Restored grave site at Fort Selkirk. This work has been proceeding for a number of years, and is expected to continue until the required work is completed. The native graveyard requires careful management and sensitivity with respect to visitor access.

The marketing of Fort Selkirk needs to be viewed as a comprehensive set of activities geared toward the visitor. This means providing a quality experience that meets visitor needs and wants, attracting visitors to come to the site, and generating income from operations at the site.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Promote Fort Selkirk at a level geared to desired visitation and the level of operations.**

At this stage of its operation, a low key approach to promotion is desirable. This could include developing a color brochure of Fort Selkirk and distributing this in Pelly Crossing, Minto, and Visitor Information Centers in Whitehorse, and Carmacks. Those businesses renting canoes and boats to tourists should be provided with copies of the brochure. Yukoners as potential visitors to the site should not be forgotten, and brochures should be placed with sporting goods stores.

Press coverage of special events, and word-of-mouth promotion by past visitors also are valuable promotion methods at this stage of operations.

As Fort Selkirk develops and higher levels of visitation are desired, promotional efforts should be increased. Magazine advertising targeted toward adventure travellers and those interested in cultural aspects of tourism should be explored.

Collaboration with Yukon Department of Tourism, the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon and local tourism associations such as Silver Trails to develop a cooperative approach to promotion is desirable. This often provides a better value for the dollar, and can work to enhance the appeal of a number of complementary attractions.

- **Strive continually to provide a high degree of visitor satisfaction by meeting visitor wants and needs.**

Those aspects of Fort Selkirk which will be marketed to and experienced by visitors should focus on the site's strengths: culture, history and the natural environment. If Fort Selkirk tries to be everything to everyone, it will not be successful.

Recent Canadian studies of the American and Overseas travel markets show both these groups are extremely interested in experiences centering around culture and the natural environment. These tourists are looking for diversion and pleasure, but they want a high quality experience and authentic representations of culture.

- **Place more emphasis on programming at Fort Selkirk.**

The visitor's experience and satisfaction with Fort Selkirk can be increased by more activities and special events. Programming generates new business, encourages repeat business and increases the length of visitor stay. Through programming, new "products" can be created which appeal to new markets (for example, winter

celebrations). A special events strategy allows for focussed promotions and a large number of visitors at one time. Attendance objectives can be achieved in a few days without tiring Selkirk First Nation members.

Research on cultural tourism shows the areas of activities and programming that appeal to these visitor and could be provided at Fort Selkirk include handicrafts, language, traditions, local foods, arts and music. Participatory experiences are valued, and these could be provided in such areas as archeology, and demonstrations of traditional technology, handicrafts, and games.

Given the importance of high quality events to these visitors, programming needs to be introduced and marketed at a scale based on achievable targets and increase as the experience of Selkirk First Nation members in this area grows and as Fort Selkirk develops.

18.0 SITE ADMINISTRATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

18.1 ADMINISTRATION

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Continue cooperative management with participation by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government to guide heritage resource protection, site and visitor services development, and interpretive and cultural programming.**

Fort Selkirk is now managed cooperatively by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government. Successful administration and site management will result from a clear program of implementing the management plan in the context of site requirements, available funding, and appropriate staffing levels.

- **Establish long-term, diversified sources of financial assistance for Fort Selkirk.**

As part of the future site development and marketing effort, secure funding sources need to be established. Few historic sites generate sufficient revenue to cover capital and operating costs, and government tends to be a major source of funding. But given government cutbacks and its ability to fund only certain types of activities, other funding sources need to be explored.

Private foundations need to be approached. A "Friends of Fort Selkirk" foundation or society to raise funds could be set up and sponsors for special events can be sought. Government funding sources should be diversified: consider the Community Development Fund, Northern Studies Fund, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Yukon Department of Education in addition to Yukon Tourism and Renewable Resources. Cooperative programs with universities and other agencies should be explored.

As time goes on, revenues generated by economic ventures at the site will increase. The Selkirk First Nation can also consider leasing economic opportunities, such as the operation of a store or food services, to generate revenue for the site.

18.2 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Successful site operation and maintenance will require specific facilities, consideration of staffing requirements, and management. Increased use of the site by the Selkirk First Nation will need co-ordination of facilities and provision of services. Tourists, either in present numbers or as a result of promotion, will require services. The site will need ongoing maintenance, and protection. Archaeological investigation and mitigation will be needed prior to site development.

18.2.1 Site Supervision and Management

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Consolidate site operations by appointing a Site Manager on an annual seasonal basis.**

Various site operations and maintenance tasks have been performed effectively by Selkirk First Nation members in the past. With the implementation of this plan it would be appropriate to formalize a site manager position to train and build for the future. Such a job could entail pre-season organization, planning for special events, site development and maintenance supervision and any other related coordination. Specific tasks and job training could be carried out under the direction of the Site Manager.

In the future, this job could extend on a full or part-time basis from early spring to late fall, or even throughout the year, if visitor use and site development increases.

18.2.2 Safety And Security

Safety and security issues are related to buildings, artefacts, visitor activities, medical emergencies, handicapped access, and work crews.

Access to Fort Selkirk will be mainly by river for the foreseeable future, whether from points upstream on the Yukon River or from the Pelly River. If site use grows, problems of security will get more difficult and may require staff involvement.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Review all buildings from the points of view of structural and safety requirements.**

This requires analysis of each building in order to weigh the impacts of protective measures on the heritage resource against life safety considerations. Access should be restricted from some areas, such as the upper floor of the Catholic Church.

- **Cover over the basements of the HBC buildings.**

The open concrete foundations are a serious hazard to children and adults alike. They should be covered over with timbers or logs able to withstand snow loads, or filled in. The HBC should be notified of this hazard on their property which is surrounded by public use, to determine if the company wishes to protect itself against possible liability concerns.

- **Review main structures to determine which can realistically be made accessible to the handicapped, and on what basis.**

The effect on the resource must be considered, although temporary solutions can be planned, such as portable ramps. A reliable means of informing the public of any access problems, and whether staff will be provided to assist would be a part of this review. Alternatively, if handicapped access is not practical, then printed information should indicate this.

- **Provide and maintain a radiotelephone for site emergencies.**

- **Ensure there are First Aid supplies at the work camp, and staff trained in First Aid.**

- **Review all artefacts on site and those proposed for repatriation from the point of view of security.**

There are, at this time, few major significant artefacts of a portable nature. If more artefacts are repatriated to the site, consideration of their security, in terms of their storage and display, will be necessary.

- **Train on site staff to observe visitors and assist in security.**

Observation is the best security at a remote site. Consideration should be given to extending the season for site staff if use increases in the off-season.

18.2.3 Fire Protection

Fire is a primary threat to the site. Fort Selkirk has been vulnerable before, and it is fair to say that if site use grows, the risk of fire will also increase.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Supply 2 gas powered fire pumps, with associated back-up pumps, hoses, water barrels and buckets and other related equipment, to the site.**

These should be located in strategic areas along the shoreline where they do not intrude into the setting but can be quickly reached and activated. Enclose in a low log structure for weather protection. Use a small trailer to tow pumps to fire site.

- **Supply other necessary tools: shovels, buckets, axes in secure locations.**

- **Develop a regular training program with staff updates and drills for fire suppression, including the use of the pumps, as a part of all on site training for workers.**

Training took place in 1989/90. An update will be needed in the future.

- **Maintain and test the fire pumps on a regular basis.**
- **Maintain the trail to the airport as a fire break.**



Archaeologist working at Fort Selkirk. The plan recommends that archaeological assessment be done before any new building or disturbance takes place. Training opportunities from archaeological and other research are also identified in the plan.(Heritage Branch slide collection.)

Education, training, and apprenticeship are essential parts of all activities and development at Fort Selkirk. These are best described in one place for ease of reference. Note that education for school age children is described in the Visitor Activities section (15.0). Education and training is a focus of the community development approach. Specific opportunities are organized by category.

19.1 HERITAGE AND SITE MANAGEMENT

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- **Use all aspects of site operation and maintenance as opportunities for training and employment.**
- **Use required new construction as a training opportunity for the Selkirk First Nation.**

Such work may be a good opportunity to consult with elders and other former residents about the site.

- **Develop a restoration/stabilization training program to enable workers to maintain and upgrade their knowledge.**

A number of Selkirk First Nation members have worked as carpenters at the site and have become familiar with basic approaches and techniques for building restoration and maintenance. This information could be offered at a workshop in Pelly Crossing in spring and include a review of the management guidelines for the site. The Heritage Branch could provide technical expertise with a Restoration Craftsperson for instruction as required. The aim of the workshop should be to continue developing the technical skills of Selkirk First Nation members so that they can undertake both restoration and maintenance work required on heritage structures at the site.

- **Train a Selkirk First Nation member to develop the Fort Selkirk reference collection and archives program at the band office.**

Some basic systems need to be designed with the assistance of a specialist for the organization and storage of these materials. A Selkirk First Nation member could be trained to expand and maintain the collection and to prepare small displays/reading materials for summer use at the site.

Artefact collections stored at Pelly Crossing likewise need organization and care. A Selkirk First Nation member could participate in workshops organized by the Yukon Historical and Museums Association Museums Committee, the Heritage Branch, or other seminars to receive introductory training. A specialist should be

used to establish basic systems and to train the Selkirk First Nation worker in the procedures for curating the collection.

- **Develop programs for heritage management skills, including site planning, management and implementation.**

Archaeological and cultural projects at the site could provide Selkirk First Nation youth with introductory skills in several heritage management fields (archaeology, archival research, oral history, replications, conservation techniques). Older Selkirk First Nation members could be involved in developing curriculum and planning the logistics for expanded student programs and Rediscovery programs. Some facilities (small playground) and programs for young children are required for special events such as general assemblies held at the site. Specialists in heritage management, curriculum development , and children's programming could offer introductory workshops on various topics, then work with Selkirk First Nation members to develop the framework and logistical details for the programs.

19.2 INTERPRETATION

Use What's There Now

- **Training for interpretation should be a component of all training or apprenticeship programs undertaken at Fort Selkirk.**

There are a number of reasons for this recommendation:

- *Interpretation is specialized communications aimed at a variety of audiences. Such communications skills are valuable in whatever field an individual enters.*
- *At Fort Selkirk, communication of the cultural aspirations of the Selkirk First Nation to both the Selkirk First Nation and the general public visiting the site, is vital to promoting support for these aspirations.*
- *To interpret effectively, the interpreter must understand both the messages to be interpreted and the audience who will receive these messages. There is no better way to find out how well you or your audience understand a subject than to let them ask you questions about it.*
- *Training will provide the community with a pool of communicators who will be available for interpretation so that this role does not fall entirely on a few peoples' shoulders.*
- *Training opportunities in the production of signs and exhibits are also part of interpretation planning.*
- *In the Yukon, where tourism is a major economic provider, individuals with related skills - such as interpretation - have better employment possibilities than those without.*
- *Interpretation, which depends upon a good understanding of an audience's interests and knowledge, actively promotes understanding between groups - an*

essential component of a shared community like Fort Selkirk and the objective that it continue to be a meeting place.

- *Evaluation of interpretation to help keep the quality of communication high is important.*

Build On What's There Now

- **Decide on appropriate ways and means for developing Fort Selkirk programs under guidance of Fort Selkirk Management Group, and by looking at examples of programs from elsewhere.**
- **Conduct an interpretive workshop for interested Selkirk First Nation members which would include information on audience interests and knowledge.**
- **Incorporate interpretive roles - e.g. staffing the store, collecting campground fees, etc. - into all training programs. For example, archaeology students should spend one day a week or one every two weeks working with the Site Manager and or with Danny Roberts.**

20.0 IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT

20.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The Selkirk First Nation's aspirations and goals for Fort Selkirk along with the band's organizational capacity should strongly influence the direction and pace of development at the site. Cultural enrichment and heritage preservation are key objectives in the development of Fort Selkirk, with tourism development as secondary. Selkirk First Nation members have stated that high levels of visitation are not necessarily better. Fort Selkirk is important to the cultural and social well-being of the Selkirk First Nation.

Recommendations:

- **Complete planning work and community consultations before any major development proceeds at the site; use Fort Selkirk Management Group for this task.**
- **Consult private landowners adjacent to the planning area before major developments or improved access are initiated.**

Because Fort Selkirk is close to the hearts of most Selkirk First Nation members, they should feel they have a say in what and how things happen at the site. The Fort Selkirk Management Group should consult with Selkirk First Nation members before any major development occurs. For example, the consultation session organized by Roger Alfred for this study was very helpful. Involve all levels of the community such as elders, students, schools staff, and council members.

Planning will help to ensure that developments are well thought out and are staged to provide the maximum economic benefits to Selkirk First Nation members. Loading too much work into one season may mean that jobs that could be provided to Selkirk First Nation members go to others. Training for jobs at the site requires lead time and needs to be built into the plans if benefits of development are to go to Selkirk First Nation members.

- **Build on the cultural pride of Fort Selkirk.**

Sharing is a basic part of the Selkirk culture. Elders now share their knowledge of the site, the land, and the traditions with youth. The Selkirk First Nation members can share this knowledge with visitors.

Community events, such as building a dock, or constructing a traditional boat to carry elders to the site, can build on cultural pride. Special events which attract visitors should provide opportunities to demonstrate the Selkirk First Nation's pride in its culture.

Fort Selkirk can serve as a catalyst to educate and instill an appreciation of the Indian culture, Yukon's history, and our natural environment in all visitors.

- **Use Fort Selkirk for social as well as economic purposes.**

Members of the Selkirk First Nation have stressed that the site is a place for spiritual healing and community well-being. They would like to see the site used for social purposes such as retreats or as part of a drug and alcohol treatment program. These activities may be best suited for the fall, winter and spring months to be compatible with summer Selkirk First Nation and visitor use.

The potential economic benefits of the site should not be ignored. Economic opportunities for Selkirk First Nation members in Pelly Crossing are scarce and the site can provide much need jobs and opportunities for businesses.

Economic developments should reinforce the culture of Selkirk First Nation, traditional pursuits, the heritage aspects of the site, and the scenic environment of Fort Selkirk.

20.2 IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

Recommendations:

- **Use a sustainable development approach to all activities and services at Fort Selkirk.**

Site development should not exceed the capacity of the environment or heritage resources to sustain use. Any increase in visitor or Selkirk First Nation use should be in harmony with the site.

- **Ensure that potential environmental effects of any proposed development are assessed by the Fort Selkirk Management Group prior to final decisions and implementation.**

Effects on water quality, fish or wildlife, waste disposal methods, changes in vegetation, and impacts on views should be considered.

- **Ensure that the effects of use on heritage resources is determined by the Fort Selkirk Management Group prior to any new developments.**

Potential deterioration of heritage resources should be assessed. The ability of structures to sustain higher use levels or changes in use should be determined prior to any decisions.

Monitoring and Review

Recommendations:

- **The Fort Selkirk Management Group should monitor the effects of new developments or use levels on the environment and on heritage resources.**
- **Review the Management Plan in 5 years.**

This plan is a framework for the development and use of Fort Selkirk. As with all plans, it should be flexible enough to accommodate changing priorities as well as be adaptable to unforeseen circumstances. In five years, a measure of the plan's use and success should be taken. If necessary, revisions should be made at that time.



"G.I. & Martha Cameron with daughter Ione, 1939." (Ward Collection, Yukon Archives).

PART 3: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

21.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The implementation framework for the Fort Selkirk Management Plan does not emphasize fixed dates or tasks by year. This program of *"Use What's There Now, Build on What's There Now, and Choose Future Options"* is part of all recommendations in the plan and is consistent with the community development approach. For every planning or management task there are core requirements that are basic to all activities at Fort Selkirk. Many of these are ongoing tasks, such as maintenance or heritage resource protection, that must be part of all phases of development. Optional recommendations are those that may be chosen after core requirements are in place. A summary of the proposed steps in implementation are outlined below.

The implementation framework for the Fort Selkirk plan is based on the planning approach outlined in Part 2 of the Management Plan, Section 12.0 and in the recommendations on Community Development, Section 11.0. The steps for development and heritage protection are summarized in this section. Full recommendations and a rationale for each task is found in Part 2 of the report.

This section concludes with a summary of the key recommendations and an Action Plan for those that should be implemented in the first phase.

USE WHAT'S THERE NOW

Selkirk First Nation cultural focus combined with protecting heritage resources

This first management phase could be implemented now with existing resources, supplemented by funding from a variety of sources. This phase could be a step to the next stage or it may be used as the basis for management for many years to come. This initial phase builds on the existing strengths of Fort Selkirk to ensure that cultural development and heritage protection objectives are met.

CORE REQUIREMENTS:

Cultural aspirations and way of life

- continue and/or increase Selkirk First Nation use of site for cultural and social development, for example teaching or traditional pursuits,
- continue oral traditions at Fort Selkirk; assess need for further oral history recordings,
- replace and provide new, more complete interpretive signs,

Heritage resource protection and treatment

- finish stabilization and restoration projects underway,
- monitor and regularly maintain heritage resources such as stabilized and restored buildings and sites,
- protect archaeological resources ,
- continue archaeological investigations in advance of any land disturbance,
- conduct any necessary documentation of historic structures,

Organization and administration

- develop organizational structure to operate Fort Selkirk,
- maintain existing services and facilities,
- implement fire suppression, safety and security plans,

SUGGESTED OPTIONS:

- organize cultural events and other gatherings at the site,
- allow for existing tourist use levels to continue,
- consider alternate ways to manage campground and related facilities, for example to charge a fee for services,
- investigate training needs,

- develop new, more complete focus for promotional, interpretive and educational literature,
- consider using Fort Selkirk in association with an alcohol treatment program,
- consider using Fort Selkirk in association with seasonal archaeology education,
- consider school tours to Fort Selkirk,

BUILD ON WHAT'S THERE NOW

Selkirk First Nation cultural focus and heritage protection combined with encouraging more tourist use

This second phase of management means a choice will be made to increase visitor and Selkirk First Nation use. A higher level of development and services will be needed, with increased management, maintenance and financial commitments.

CORE REQUIREMENTS:

Cultural aspirations and way of life

- continue cultural development programs,
- continue oral traditions at the site and develop oral history programs,

Core requirements cont'd.

- develop further educational programs for youth,

Heritage resource protection and treatment

- conduct new restoration work as identified in plan,
- maintain heritage resources,
- continue archaeological investigations prior to any development,
- continue research into heritage buildings, occupants and history,

Organization and administration

- continue to develop organizational structure,
- develop employment and training opportunities,
- maintain and improve existing services and facilities,

SUGGESTED OPTIONS:

- stimulate more gatherings and events at Fort Selkirk,
- stimulate Yukon River use, and day or overnight boat excursions; provide boat tours to site from Pelly Crossing or other locations,
- consider providing demonstrations of native ways of life, traditional shelters and subsistence methods from early times; eg.: fish camps, drumming, singing, dancing, storytelling,
- plan for new dwellings on the site, to be occupied by Selkirk First Nation people,
- consider developing one or more historic structures (eg., one native and one non-native) for interpretive purposes,
- consider potential summer store or other facility to serve existing users, and help attract day boat excursions,
- develop improved interpretive program, including signs,
- provide more guided interpretive activities,
- develop interpretive trails and routes,
- provide side trips from Fort Selkirk, eg. by horse, foot, or boat,
- consider modest promotion to specific markets,
- consider rustic overnight accommodation for visitors, for example tent frames, or sleeping cabins,

CHOOSE FUTURE OPTIONS

Increase tourism and economic development focus once Selkirk First Nation community development interests are met

The third phase of management means a decision will be made to increase visitor use to a higher level. More employment and commercial opportunities could result and increased facilities, services and maintenance would be required. More controlled site management will be needed to protect heritage resources.

CORE REQUIREMENTS:

Cultural aspirations and way of life

- continue developing cultural activities and educational programs,

Heritage resource protection and treatment

- continue stabilization and restoration work,
- maintain heritage resources,
- conduct archaeological investigations prior to any development,

Organization and administration

- continue to develop organizational structure,
- develop employment and training opportunities,
- maintain and improve existing services and facilities,

SUGGESTED OPTIONS:

- consider potential road access to Pelly River confluence area, combined with controlled-site access by boat; if road access not desired, increase boat excursions to Fort Selkirk,
- consider vehicle campground at potential road terminus,
- consider developing additional historic or traditional structures for interpretive purposes,
- consider expanded site services for visitors,
- following documentation, consider reconstruction of heritage structures, for example culturally important family cabins,
- consider improved tourist accommodation either on or off the site, combine with educational uses in off-season,
- consider developing a 'retreat' facility at Fort Selkirk,
- promote Fort Selkirk as a side trip from Klondike Highway,
- consider starting limited late winter or spring tourist use, focussing on skiing, sledding, or snowshoeing, along with interpretation of ways of life,

Table #7 ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

The overall Management Plan has a comprehensive range of recommendations based on the phases of *Use What's There Now*, *Build On What's There Now* and *Choose Future Options*. This implementation framework shows how each of these phases could fit into the overall management and development of Fort Selkirk. A short term Action Plan is needed to summarize what should be done next. The Action Plan shows which high priority management tasks are suggested for the next two years, fitting into the *Use What's There Now* and *Build On What's There Now* phases.

RECOMMENDATION BY CATEGORY	EXISTING TO CONTINUE	NEW INITIATIVE	GUIDELINE	CAPITAL COSTS	OPERATING OR RESEARCH COSTS
HERITAGE RESOURCES PROTECTION AND TREATMENT					
● Document the existing heritage structures as outlined in the plan.		●			●
● Continue to stabilize heritage structures.	●			●	
● Maintain heritage structures and sites.	●				●
● Continue to restore and maintain grave sites and the cemeteries.	●			●	●
● Ensure that all new development is in keeping with the existing site character and scale.		●	●		
● Build only in suitable areas indicated by the management areas plan and only after archaeological review.		●	●		
● Follow Design Guidelines for new construction as identified in the plan.		●	●		

RECOMMENDATION BY CATEGORY	EXISTING TO CONTINUE	NEW INITIATIVE	GUIDELINE	CAPITAL COSTS	OPERATING OR RESEARCH COSTS
SOCIOECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS					
● Complete planning work and community consultations before any major development proceeds at the site.	●	●			●
● Build on the cultural pride of Fort Selkirk.	●		●		
● Use Fort Selkirk for social as well as economic purposes.	●		●		
● Use a sustainable development approach to all activities and services at Fort Selkirk.		●	●		
● Ensure that potential environmental effects of any proposed development are assessed by the Fort Selkirk Management Group prior to final decisions and implementation.		●	●		●
● Ensure that the effects of use on heritage resources is determined by the Fort Selkirk Management Group prior to any new developments.		●	●		
● Review the Management Plan in 5 years.		●			●

RECOMMENDATION BY CATEGORY	EXISTING TO CONTINUE	NEW INITIATIVE	GUIDELINE	CAPITAL COSTS	OPERATING OR RESEARCH COSTS
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ORAL TRADITIONS, ARTEFACTS AND DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

● Continue oral traditions at Fort Selkirk.	●		●		
● Review and assess all existing taped material to identify gaps in the record.		●			●
● Conduct archaeological investigations prior to any site development or land disturbance		●		●	●
● Allow for cultural research studies and programs.	●	●	●		●
● Record, copy or replicate, acquire and arrange for display and storage, artefacts and documentary materials from Fort Selkirk.		●			●

RECOMMENDATION BY CATEGORY	EXISTING TO CONTINUE	NEW INITIATIVE	GUIDELINE	CAPITAL COSTS	OPERATING OR RESEARCH COSTS
VISITOR USE, ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES					
● Maintain the present number of visitors for the near term.	●		●		
● Ensure that heritage resources are not adversely affected by increases in site use. Assess impacts prior to encouraging more use.		●	●		
● As a second phase, encourage moderate increases in use by attracting special use groups and tour boat travellers.		●	●	●	
● Continue having two signed boat landings, one for tourists and the other for local residents.	●			●	
● Ensure the campground continues to be clean, well stocked with firewood and other supplies.	●				●
● Consider developing a floored tent camp or redeveloping the existing work camp cabins for visitor use.		●		●	●
● Provide one well near the campground, and one between Big Jonathan House and Danny Robert's cabin		●		●	
● Move the waste pit away from the townsite, to a site along the airstrip road.		●		●	●
● Provide at least one and preferably two toilets in the Big Jonathan House-Yukon Field Force area; locate in trees, out of sight.		●		●	●

RECOMMENDATION BY CATEGORY	EXISTING TO CONTINUE	NEW INITIATIVE	GUIDELINE	CAPITAL COSTS	OPERATING OR RESEARCH COSTS
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INTERPRETATION

● Produce new interpretive signs to replace the existing three panels at the main entry point to the site.		●		●	●
● Produce interpretive signs for native cabins.		●		●	
● Produce a new site brochure/map for Fort Selkirk.	●			●	
● Produce a new interpretive sign for the Anglican Church.		●		●	
● As young Selkirk First Nation members are often on site in different capacities, encourage individuals to assist Danny Roberts in providing site orientation for tourists.	●		●		●
● Initiate a few evenings when elders can share some of their oral traditions with visitors.	●	●			●
● If the Selkirk First Nation should host functions at the site - such as a General Assembly - incorporate a cultural event or events into the proceedings.		●		●	

RECOMMENDATION BY CATEGORY	EXISTING TO CONTINUE	NEW INITIATIVE	GUIDELINE	CAPITAL COSTS	OPERATING OR RESEARCH COSTS
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MARKETING

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote Fort Selkirk at a level geared to desired visitation and the level of operations. 		●	●		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strive continually to provide a high degree of visitor satisfaction by meeting visitor wants and needs. 	●				●
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Place more emphasis on programming special events at Fort Selkirk. 		●			●

RECOMMENDATION BY CATEGORY	EXISTING TO CONTINUE	NEW INITIATIVE	GUIDELINE	CAPITAL COSTS	OPERATING OR RESEARCH COSTS
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ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

- Continue a cooperative management group with participation by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government to guide heritage resource protection, site and visitor services development, and interpretive and cultural programming.
- Establish long-term, diversified sources of financial assistance for Fort Selkirk.
- Consolidate site operations by appointing a Site Manager on an annual seasonal basis.

●					●
		●	●		
		●			●

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Use all aspects of site operation and maintenance as opportunities for training and employment.
- Use required new construction as a training opportunity for the Selkirk First Nation.
- Develop a restoration/stabilization training program to enable workers to maintain and upgrade their knowledge.
- Develop programs for heritage management skills.
- Training for interpretation should be a component of all training or apprenticeship programs undertaken at Fort Selkirk.

		●	●		●
●		●	●		
●		●			●
●				●	
		●	●		●



Stick gambling at Fort Selkirk. Left to right: Darren Johnnie, Eugene Alfred, Tommy McGinty, Bernice Johnny, George Magrum, Kevin McGinty. (Ruth Gotthardt, 1989).



Checking Danny Robert's fishnet at Victoria Rock, just downstream from Fort Selkirk. Left to right: Darren Johnnie, Eugene Alfred, David Grennan. (Ruth Gotthardt, 1989).

APPENDIX

Appendix 1: CAPITAL COSTS, OPERATING TASKS AND STAFFING:

This plan is a management framework for Fort Selkirk. Once the site administrative and management structures are in place, many of the recommended tasks could be carried out over a period of several years. Funding will be obtained from several different sources as outlined in the plan and many projects could be completed on a cooperative basis.

Detailed cost estimates are not practical or useful at this stage. Order-of-magnitude costs and staffing requirements are provided to show typical costs associated with the plan recommendations. Since many recommendations are long term options that may not be implemented for many years, if ever, not all costs are included. Further detailed cost estimates will be needed prior to any site development, heritage conservation projects or visitor programs.

The Contribution Agreements signed in 1988 and 1989 between the Selkirk First Nation and the Department of Tourism, giving responsibility for running Fort Selkirk Project to the Selkirk First Nation, should be continued. The campground maintenance contract should also be continued. These funding arrangements will help achieve the *Use What's There Now* objectives and continue the cooperative approach to management encouraged in the plan. Volunteer activities and programming should also be considered where appropriate.

Appendix 1: HERITAGE PROTECTION AND TREATMENT

Structures and Cemeteries

Protection of the heritage resource depends not only on systematic skilled reviews, but also on using people, such as guides, work crews, and Selkirk First Nation members to report on any signs of wear or deterioration. With so much work recently completed at the site, and with life-cycle costing figures not established, it is not practical to predict the costs of on-going maintenance. Other variables are the availability and cost of laborers and skilled carpenters, the extent of new building construction and demands placed on the buildings by the Selkirk First Nation and visitors. A basic program of protection of the heritage resource (listed as Operating and Maintenance costs) would include:

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

- Annually review buildings, including test excavations for foundations, examination of roofing systems, review wear and tear, review of inside and outside surfaces,
- Review staff reports; 1 person, trained in building conservation; 2 weeks.

- Develop annual maintenance program for following year, establish budget, financing, staffing requirements, review previous work and new information,
1 building conservator; 6 weeks.
- Conduct annual maintenance program, assume work on one to two buildings per year,
1 site foreman, trained in conservation; 12 weeks,
3-5 laborers in training; 12 weeks each,
- Record work- drafting, photography, etc,
1 person, conservator; 4 weeks total.
- Hold annual training seminar/instruction in site history, restoration philosophy, construction techniques, safety, etc.,
Various people; 2 weeks total.

The work remaining on the unrestored buildings should be done at a rate that allows a consistent level of employment. It will be better to do one building a year for the next several years, by which time it is likely that on-going maintenance will have to begin. The use of smaller crew will allow for continuity in training. This approach will allow predictable budgeting, and more direct management control.

Oral History, Archaeology, Artefacts, Documentary Work

These components of heritage management require staffing and some capital funding. No costs are provided, since the scope of work for each task would vary greatly. Tasks and staffing needs are outlined below. Many of these tasks are in the Operating and Maintenance category, but some, such as archaeological mitigation work would be part of Capital costs. A variety of funding sources could be used.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

Oral History/Video Recording

- Establish gaps in existing oral history record first, followed by assessment of priorities for further work.
- Specialist needed to assist in developing framework, coordinating project and filming of video productions; student and elder honoraria also needed.

- Equipment and storage needs are:
 - quality audiotapes, videotapes needed,
 - tape recorders, video recorders; costs vary,
 - storage/curation in appropriate containers; shelving and organization of access systems will require some specialist help and ongoing maintenance by a Selkirk First Nation worker on a part time basis,

(Much of this material may be available through existing sources such as Yukon College or the native broadcasting corporation).

Archaeological Sites

- Use archaeologist to supervise mitigation work whenever site disturbance will occur as part of any development of trails, restoration or construction projects, campground facilities etc.
- Use archaeologist to develop framework and training for Selkirk First Nation members whenever archaeology field schools are operated.
- Heritage Branch must assess any proposed research, and review permits as required

Artefacts

- Use specialist to review and assess collections to determine storage and security requirements, develop on-going maintenance routines, and train Selkirk First Nation members. Heritage Branch staff could be used.
- Use specialist help to develop framework for identifying and locating items in other collections for purchase, loan, replication, and/or documentation as part of the Fort Selkirk collection; training Selkirk First Nation members. Heritage Branch to provide assistance.
- Use specialist help to identify and develop appropriate conservation and curation techniques, identify necessary equipment and supplies, assess storage possibilities on site and at Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse; train Selkirk First Nation members. Heritage Branch could be used.

Documentary Collections

- Use specialist help to review and assess current documentary collections, to determine storage and security needs, develop maintenance routines, train Selkirk First Nation member; might be able to use Yukon Archives staff as advisors.
- Use specialist help to identify sources in other institutions and collections for purchase, loan and copying as part of the Fort Selkirk reference collection; train Selkirk First Nation members.
- Use specialist help to identify and develop appropriate conservation and curation techniques, equipment and supplies, assess storage possibilities, and develop access system for collections; train Selkirk First Nation member

Appendix 1.2 SITE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Site development is required to maintain the existing level of use and services, as well as provide modest improvements that will increase opportunities for activities. These projects and tasks as outlined in the plan may be completed in conjunction with general heritage maintenance work. The costs are approximate and include both labour and materials. A variety of funding sources could be used. These costs do not include many of the future options for site development.

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now

Capital Costs (by rough order of priority)

● Provide one new well.	\$15,000
● Install fire and emergency equipment	\$12,000
● Relocate campground pit toilets.	\$750
● Develop new waste burning pit.	\$2,500
● Improve public boat landing.	\$4,500
● Make minor modifications to campground as recommended	\$2,500
● Brush out and mark heritage trails, brush out parts of townsite as required. (2 person crew, one summer) Initial work should be followed by periodic maintenance	\$6-12,000
● Provide 2 new pit toilets near Yukon Field Force.	\$3,500
● Provide children's play area.	\$3,000
● Develop second well as required.	\$15,000

Operating and Maintenance Costs

- Continue campground maintenance contract. \$4,000
- Cut grass annually after early wildflower are finished blooming, eg. August. Annual
- Conduct general site clean-up annually. Annual
- Maintain trails as required. Annual

Appendix 1.3 INTERPRETATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING

On-site

Use What's There Now:

Signs (Capital Costs):

- Produce new interpretive signs to replace the existing three panels at the main entry point to the site. Use English, Northern Tutchone; consider German as appropriate. \$ 12 - 20,000
- Produce interpretive signs for native cabins. Use English and Northern Tutchone. \$ 3 - 8,000
- Produce a trailhead sign for Victoria Rock trail which interprets the special significance of this site. \$ 1,500
- Produce a new site map/brochure for Fort Selkirk. Use English and Northern Tutchone; consider German. \$ 5,000
- Produce an interpretive sign for the Anglican Church. \$ 3,000

Build On What's There Now

- Produce new interpretive signs to replace existing signs at each building, and which conform to signs at native cabins proposed above.

\$25,000

Personal Interpretation (Operating Costs):

- As young Selkirk First Nation members are often on site in different capacities, encourage individuals to assist Danny Roberts in providing site orientation for tourists. This role of assisting Danny should be rotated amongst a number of individuals. Assignment of this role - in consultation with Mr. Roberts and the individual Selkirk First Nation members - could be the responsibility of a Site Manager.

Salaries

- Investigate a few evenings when elders providing oral histories can share some of their traditions with visitors.

Salaries
+ approx
\$ 500 costs

- If the Selkirk First Nation should host functions at the site - such as a General Assembly - develop a "Kids' Camp" which would both entertain children while the adults are busy, and would provide cultural learning for kids as well.

Salaries
+ approx
\$ 1,000 costs

- Provide improved signs to identify private docking area and public docking.

\$ 3,000

Build On What's There Now:

Capital Costs:

- Develop map and sign for the native cemetery.
Use English and Northern Tutchone.

\$ 5 - 10,000

- Develop map and sign for non-native cemetery.
Use English and Northern Tutchone.

\$ 3 - 7,000

- Develop trailhead signs for some of the numerous trails which centre on Fort Selkirk. Should take place in conjunction with brushing out some of these trails.

\$ 2 - 10,000

- Develop a simple interpretive display. Such a display could consist of artifacts, crafts, medicinal plants, etc.. The display would be located in a multi-purpose building such as the Stone House or Big Jonathan's.

\$ 2,500

Operating Costs:

- Stage a special event for both natives and non-natives. Such an event should have a cultural basis and format and should include traditional games and activities such as stick-gambling. The event should be scheduled for the busiest weekend of the year (mid to late July). Event should include services such as refreshments and crafts for sale. Planning should commence not less than six months prior to the summer season in which the event is to be held.

\$ 2 - 5,000

- Integrate interpretation into all research, training and apprenticeship programs on-site.

Off-site

Use What's There Now/Build On What's There Now:

Capital Cost:

- Provide an interpretive/informational sign at Pelly which describes Fort Selkirk and current activities taking place, and, introduces the themes and subthemes.

\$ 3,000

Operating Cost:

- Promote - using posters - any special events being held at Selkirk in Pelly Crossing so that highway travellers are at least aware that these are taking place.

\$ 500

- Distribute new site brochure at Visitor Reception Centres and other prominent tourist locations. Use English and German.

- Investigate coordinating interpretive training with other Selkirk First Nations in similar situations.

Contact other bands to discuss special events at Fort Selkirk.

Choose Future Options:

Capital Cost:

- Develop an interpretive/promotional a-v show (perhaps using historic film footage) for use at VRCs and at trade shows.

\$ 10 - 20,000

Appendix 2: CULTURAL/HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The Fort Selkirk site is of great significance as a cultural/historical repository including many different forms of information -- native and non-native oral traditions, pre-contact and post-contact archaeological sites/remains, documentary sources, buildings, and a wide variety of artefacts such as household objects, building materials, trapping equipment, etc. The chronology of events and developments at the site is incomplete, especially for the pre-contact and early contact periods. The outline below is intended to give only a brief and preliminary sense of this chronology as a background for the development of potential themes for the site.

1200-5000 B.P.

One biface point found during archaeological work prior to the reconstruction of Big Jonathan house requires more analysis, but similar tools found elsewhere in southern Yukon have been dated approximately to this period. The Selkirk site itself has only modest potential for further archaeological research related to Northern Archaic tradition technology. Microblade sites at several locations in area offer further potential for interpreting prehistory. There is also the possibility to interpret Na-Dene languages, movements of early Athapaskan peoples, White River volcanic eruptions and possible effects on people and animal populations.

150-300 B.P.

This period is especially significant at the Fort Selkirk site. Both oral accounts and artefacts recovered at fishing site at upriver end of townsite confirm the use and occupation by Selkirk First Nation ancestors for several centuries at minimum. Copper, obsidian and stone artefacts from many unknown sources indicate that the region was an important trade rendezvous. Trade, travel and cultural exchange by native groups prior to contact could form interesting interpretive themes. Several important traditional sites in area need interpretation as part of Selkirk First Nation "homeland" and resource base for seasonal round of subsistence activities. Burial sites are also very significant.

1848-1852

This was the period of first direct contacts with Hudson's Bay Company traders. The building of the first HBC post across the river by Robert Campbell, and his second post in 1852 at the present site are of great interest. This is one of the important locations in which to interpret this era within southern Yukon. The remains of the second post, if excavated to show the outline of structures, together with artefacts, documentary sources plus oral traditions would provide tremendous potential for research and interpretation, as well as educational opportunities for Pelly Crossing and other Yukon students. The aspect of Tlingit trade monopoly is well documented and could be illustrated by the Kohklux Map and interpretation of events at the site including the Tlingit destruction of the post. Campbell's reports put the Pelly-Yukon River "on the map" (Arrowsmith Map 1854) for the first time filling in part of the geography of the mid-Yukon for non-natives interested in exploring/exploiting the region.

1852-1867

The initial decades after the demise of Robert Campbell's post was an interlude when Tlingit monopoly probably resumed. More oral research is needed to flesh out changes and events in this period, but there are some HBC accounts of Selkirk Indian people travelling to Ft. Yukon to trade. The site was visited by Collins Overland Telegraph explorers Ketchum and Laberge in 1867, who reported meeting friendly Indians and gathered pieces of charred wood from Campbell's post. They also met Indians from further south who reported a great lake upriver (named L.Laberge by their expedition chief, Dall).

1867-1880

The Tlingit Indians maintained control over the coast mountain passes until 1880, preventing exploration into the southern Yukon by non-native people. Probably there were some contacts between Selkirk area Tutchone people and HBC traders plus missionaries down river. Throughout this period and after there continued to be extensive use of the area by Northern Tutchone people, as evidenced by fishcamps (like Three Way Channel) and numerous other locations documented in oral traditions.

1881-1889

After the Chilkoot Pass was opened to non-native people, numerous prospectors and explorers travelled past Fort Selkirk, including American Army Reconnaissance mission led by Frederick Schwatka who published illustrations and descriptions of Tutchone people he met in the area. William Ogilvie and George Dawson of the Canadian Yukon Expedition met briefly at the site in 1867, illustrating its reputation as a "meeting place" known to outsiders who could depend on finding it and each other at the junction of the two rivers even though they were travelling "in the wilderness".

1889-1897

The establishment of a new trading post by Arthur Harper and an Anglican mission by Canham and Totty ended the period of Tutchone people being the primary occupants/users of the site. This was the beginning of "permanent" occupation by non-native people. Fort Selkirk, the place of meetings and exchanges, now became a place of living side by side, with ongoing interaction between native and non-native peoples. There is extensive documentation and oral traditions to draw upon for interpretation. Some early photos such as those in V.Wilson's report of 1894 give visual sense of site at this time.

1898-circa 1902

With the Klondike gold rush boom numerous new buildings were constructed at Fort Selkirk - a sawmill, farm, hotels, stores, post office, R.N.W.M.P. post. There was a rapid influx of non-native people, resulting in the survey of the townsite and movement of Tutchone people away from their previous location near Harper's post. The Yukon Field Force "occupied" the upriver end of the townsite for one winter, then departed as the boom subsided. Fort Selkirk was considered briefly as a potential capital city for the new territory, being at the "centre of the Yukon", but the town was quickly passed by both by boats and people enroute to the goldfields. Jack Dalton's Trail (using old Tlingit/Tutchone travel routes) terminated nearby and was used briefly for transporting cattle to the

Klondike. The telegraph line established a communication link to the outside world, but the overland road built on the opposite side of the Yukon River prevented the town from growing into a year round mid-point/commercial centre between Dawson and Whitehorse. Tutchone people adapted/adopted many new technologies and ideas, travelling on steamboats, using the telegraph, learning about a new language, religion, store goods, wage employment and entrepreneurial opportunities (supplying meat, fish, taking large wood rafts to Dawson). They also suffered from new diseases introduced by non-native people.

1903-1950s

During this period there was a rapid decline in the non-native population. The local economy stabilized as Fort Selkirk developed into a small trade center with Anglican and sometimes Roman Catholic missions, school, woodcamp, telegraph office, R.C.M.P. post. The telegraph continued to be an important news link to other communities and the world. Steamboats continued as an important summer link to Whitehorse and Dawson bringing some tourists as well as freight and Yukoners travelling in or out of Dawson/Mayo. Air travel after the late 1920s offered new possibilities for year round access to mail/visitors and travel to the outside world. Tutchone people used Fort Selkirk as a "home base". Oral traditions tell about good times, potlatches, dancing, Christmas ("bells of 17 dog teams coming over the hills for party at Christmas"). It was an exciting place for people coming in from traplines and continued to be a meeting place for Indian people from all over Yukon, drawn by marriage/kinship ties and possibly through contacts with missionaries (Canham/Totty in particular). There are many oral traditions about non-native and mixed families as well - the Horsfalls, Van Bibbers, Martins, Cowards, Camerons, Wilkinsons, and others who made their homes there.

1950s-1970s

Fort Selkirk was an isolated site on the Yukon River after the end of steamboat traffic and the telegraph line. Danny Roberts and his family maintained their home at Fort Selkirk, greeting visitors and helping to protect the site. There was minimal tourism at this time but government was beginning to take interest in the historic significance of the site. Subsistence use of the area continued by Selkirk First Nation members who remembered Fort Selkirk as "home" during the difficult period of resettlement at Minto and Pelly Crossing.

1980s

Fort Selkirk was used by government, researchers, and the public as an important heritage site. The Selkirk First Nation became involved in preservation planning and research. There was an expanding vision of the past history, as well as the present and future potential of the site.

