



# What's New for Fort Selkirk?

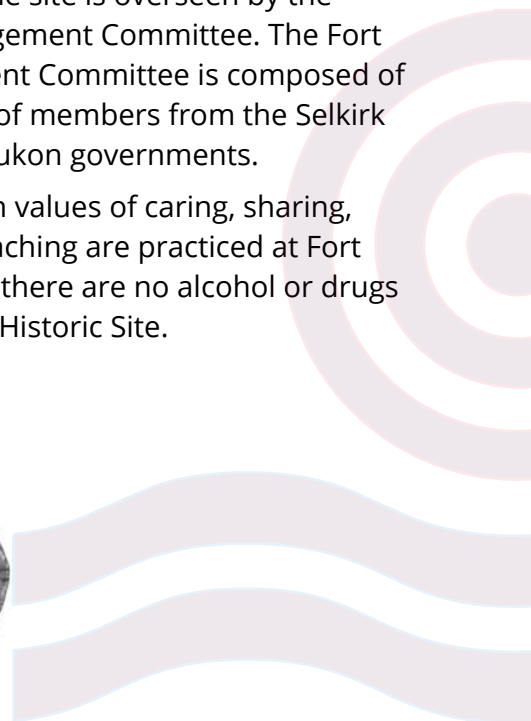
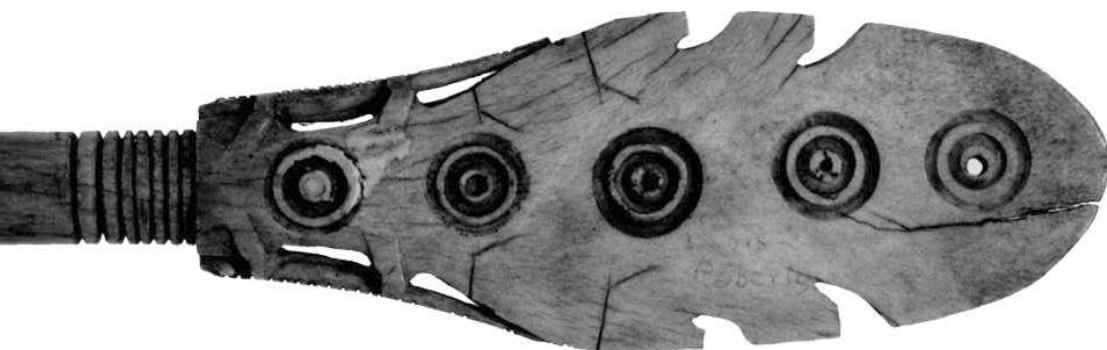
## BEHIND THE SCENES

### Managing the Site

2018 marked the 31<sup>st</sup> year of a joint project by the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon governments to preserve, protect and interpret the co-owned and co-managed Fort Selkirk Historic Site. All of the planning and activities undertaken at Fort Selkirk are guided by the Fort Selkirk Management Plan, Preservation Plan and Interpretation Plan. These plans have been developed co-operatively by both governments to ensure the mandate for site conservation and management is protecting its heritage

values as outlined in the SFN Final Agreement. The implementation of these plans and overall management of the site is overseen by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee. The Fort Selkirk Management Committee is composed of an equal number of members from the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon governments.

Selkirk First Nation values of caring, sharing, respecting and teaching are practiced at Fort Selkirk; therefore, there are no alcohol or drugs at the Fort Selkirk Historic Site.





## FORT SELKIRK STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Log Building Conservation Training

The Government of Yukon (YG), in partnership with Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, held log conservation courses at both the Fort Selkirk and Forty Mile Historic Sites. The purpose of the course was to develop log building conservation and restoration skills. The Fort Selkirk session took place from June 10 to June 20 and included the Fort Selkirk work crew and Historic Sites staff.

The course focused on developing log restoration skills through the hands-on training. It was taught by restoration expert Peter Caron, with additional course support from YG staff. The course was very successful, culminating in the completion of repairs to the Devore Cabin. An additional log building conservation course is being planned for Fort Selkirk in 2019.



Devore cabin lifted, new sill logs being added.



Sill log being notched for door.



Sill log ready for installation.



SFN and YG staff in front of completed Devore cabin.



## Fall Arrest Training

As the 2018 Fort Selkirk work plan included repairs to several roofs, SFN and YG contracted the Northern Safety Network to provide fall arrest training for all Fort Selkirk restoration staff. Training took place July 11, in Pelly Crossing. The restoration staff received their fall arrest certification, which is valid for 3 years.

## WORK CAMP MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

### Crew Cabin Windows

The seven small crew cabins each have two screened window openings; however, none had actual windows. Garth Stoughton, an experienced carpentry instructor, provided training on the fabrication of wood frame windows. Together, Garth and the work crew built new windows for all seven of the crew cabins, and one additional window for the YG cabin. All the window openings were slightly different sizes which meant that each sash had to be custom made for each opening. The windows were built hopper-style to allow them to be opened and closed.

### New Work Camp Outhouses & Lighting

YG supplied two new outhouses to the work camp to replace the two existing ones. The new outhouses were installed in the same areas as the previous ones. New solar lights were also installed near the outhouses to improve visibility when accessing the outhouses at night.

### Stabilization & Restoration

The stabilization and restoration projects carried out each year follow the general guidelines, specified in Fort Selkirk Preservation Plan (1992). The 2018 work season involved repairs and restoration to a number of Fort Selkirk's historic buildings. Below are just some of the projects accomplished in 2018.

### Stone House Roof Repairs

Work got underway to repair the Stone House roof. Damaged shingles were removed and roof decking boards were repaired or replaced as necessary.

Plywood was installed over the historic plank decking to create an even surface for the installation of peel and stick roofing membrane. Peel and stick roofing was then installed on the plywood. The building was then tarped for winter. Work on the roof will continue in 2019, with new shingles with the same shape and colour being installed on top of the peel and stick roofing.



Damaged shingles on Stone House roof.



Stone House tarped at the end of the 2018 work season.

### R.C.M.P. Building

The roof on the shed addition of the R.C.M.P. building had a number of leaks. Some of the leaks were attributed to a failure in the flashing between the main roof and the addition roof. Other leaks were likely due to inadequate overlap between the sheets of rolled roofing. Water stains were visible on the floor, walls and ceilings, with some roof boards showing signs of rot.

The old rolled roofing was removed and rotten boards were replaced. Overlaps between the layers of rolled roofing were increased and roofing cement was applied between the joints. The metal flashing

between the two sections of roof were reattached. Following the repair there has been no further evidence of leaks in the shed addition.

The main roof, which is covered with cedar shakes, will need to be re-shingled in the next year or two, as the existing shingles are extensively cracked and cupped.



R.C.M.P. Building with new shed addition roofing.

## Joe Roberts Cabin

The Joe Roberts Cabin has a shed addition located on the west side of the cabin. The shed roof is dirt covered, with a waterproof membrane (EPDM) underneath the dirt to prevent moisture from damaging the underlying roof poles. A two to three-inch gap was present between the shed roof and the main cabin. Although this gap was located beneath the eaves of the main cabin roof, rain and dirt were still coming in through the gap. To fix this, a length of waterproof membrane was installed down the outside of the cabin wall, beneath the eaves, and underneath the main sheet of waterproof membrane on the shed roof. The waterproof membrane cannot be seen from the ground and has no visual impact on the roof. This repair will keep the Joe Roberts cabin dry for many years to come.



Water stains on the shed addition floor.

## Big Jonathan House

Installation of flooring for the Big Jonathan House was completed, along with the installation of baseboard trim. The Douglas Fir flooring is a great addition to this amazing building. Once the floor is varathaned, Big Jonathan House will once again be ready for even the most energetic of dances.

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The Fort Selkirk work season started on May 28 and ended on September 12, 2018.

Staff at Fort Selkirk Historic Site – 2018 field season:

- Teri-Lee Isaac (SFN Heritage Manager)
- William Sidney (Site Manager)
- Carl Blanchard (Operations Technician)
- Mark Staub (Operations Technician)
- Ricky Joe (Carpenter)
- Jimmy Simon (Carpenters Helper)
- Charles Joe (Carpenters Helper)
- Daniel Luke (Carpenter)
- Leslie Johnson (Carpenter)



- Freda Alfred (Interpreter)
- Rena Simon (Interpreter Trainee)
- Marilyn Edwards (Cook)
- Nancy Alfred (Cook)
- Barbara Hogan (Historic Sites Unit Manager, YG)
- Joel Le Baron (Historic Sites Project Officer, YG)
- Stephan Biedermann (Conservation Carpenter, YG)



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Memorial for Derek Edwards

In summer 2018, the SFN Heritage Department had a barbecue for the late Derek Edwards, honoring his hard work and dedication to Fort Selkirk.

### Parks Day

Selkirk First Nation and Historic Sites, YG have hosted a Canada Parks Day event at Fort Selkirk for many years. This popular event offers an opportunity for visitors from Selkirk First Nation, Yukon and beyond to access and explore the site. Boat transportation is provided from Pelly Farm to Fort Selkirk. For the 2018 Fort Selkirk Parks Day Event we had over 100 visitors to the site. Volunteers and staff ensured the event ran smoothly and that all visitors to the site had a positive experience, whether they took a guided tour or chose to explore on their own.



The 2018 Parks Day was especially busy, Minister of Tourism and Culture Jeanie Dendys and Selkirk First Nation Deputy Chief Millie Johnson joined the events.

Later that evening, the Youth of Today Society canoe arrived at Fort Selkirk on their journey to Dawson City. This river voyage was an educational canoe journey with youth to celebrate 25 years since the signing of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

Representatives from Selkirk First Nation and the Selkirk Spirit Dancers were on site to welcome them and celebrate with a meal together.

Parks Day for 2019 is planned for July 20. For more information and to register for a boat trip to Fort Selkirk, contact Historic Sites at 867-667-5386.



## 2018 Fort Selkirk Visitation

	Canada	USA	Europe	Asia	Parks Day	Monthly Total
<b>May</b>	1	3	1	0		5
<b>June</b>	120	27	88	1		236
<b>July</b>	161	23	72	2	104	362
<b>August</b>	169	24	81	6		280
<b>September</b>	29	8	23	0		60
<b>Region Totals</b>	480	85	265	9	104	
<b>Grand total</b>						943

### HISTORY OF FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT

- 1982** Preservation work started in partnership with SFN and Yukon governments
- 1990** Fort Selkirk Management Plan
- 1992** Fort Selkirk Preservation Plan
- 1997** Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement Signed
- 2000** Updated Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan
- 2004** Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan
- 2010** Fort Selkirk Historic Site Designation (ceremony in 2011)
- 2019** Updated Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan



June 2018 L-R Freda Alfred, Carl Blanchard, George McGinty, Franklin Roberts, Millie Johnson, Jessica Alfred

Photo: Wendy Shearer

### COMMENTS FROM VISITORS TO FORT SELKIRK IN 2018

**“What an incredible site! Incredibly clean and buildings so well taken care of, you can tell how much pride the crew takes in this place and in their work.”**

**- Dawson City, Yukon**

**“Wonderful welcome, fantastic history lesson. Thank you.”**

**- Dorset, United Kingdom**

**“Beautiful place here. Never seen anything like this.”**

**- Naujaat, Nunavut**



## WHAT IS COMING UP IN SUMMER 2019?

Site opens with full staff June 1, 2019

### 2019 Work Plan

Each year, the Management Committee develops a work plan for the site that guides the care and maintenance of Fort Selkirk. The work plan is adapted to allow for new priorities.

Items on the work plan for 2019 include:

### Building Restoration & Repairs

- Completion of Stone House Roof repairs
- Repair foundation of Coward's Garage
- Assess buildings and make repairs as necessary

### Training Opportunities

- 2019 Log Building Conservation Training planned for June

**Fort Selkirk Days, hosted by Selkirk First Nation, July 5-7, 2019**

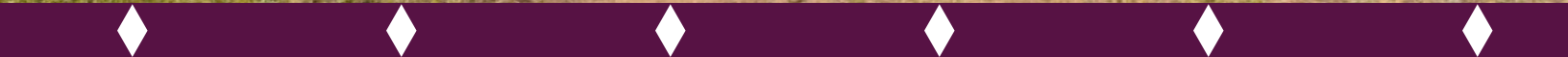


**This year SFN wants to work on reconnecting with our ancestral grounds. All hiring, behavior and work will respect the values of the site and each other.**

**It's our responsibility to make sure we cherish our history and maintain our values of caring, sharing, respecting and teaching. This is the basis of our understanding of the spirit and intent of the commitment SFN signed as co-owners and co-managers of this site.**

Selkirk First Nation recognizes the sharing accord with both Na-Cho Nyak Dun and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, and will therefore be opening up the job opportunities at Fort Selkirk to them as well. The Fort Selkirk Management Committee will provide input to the hiring for Fort Selkirk.





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This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.

For more information, please contact:

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