



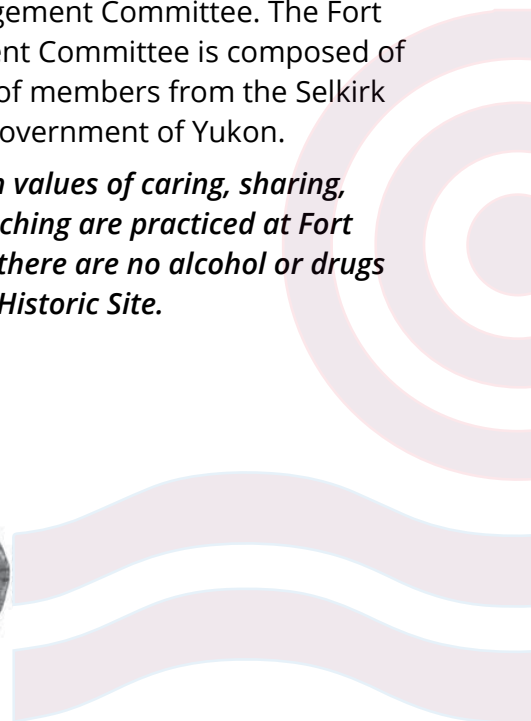
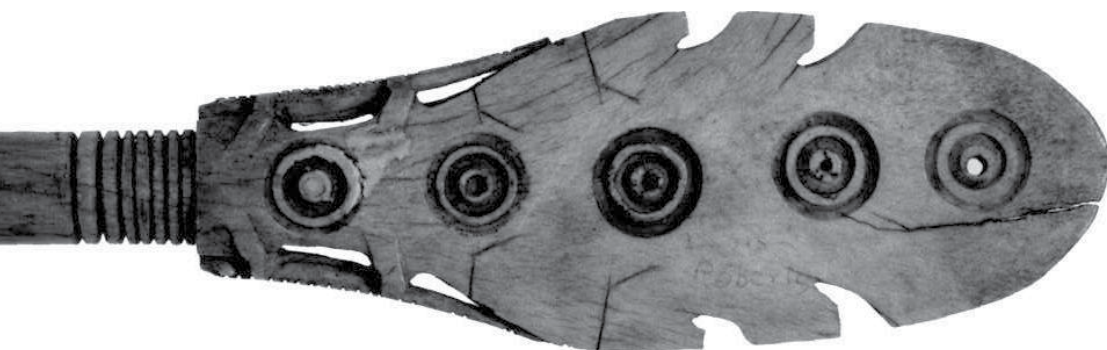
What's New for Fort Selkirk?

BEHIND THE SCENES

2019 marked the 32nd year of a joint project by the Selkirk First Nation (SFN) 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 are protecting its heritage values as outlined in the SFN Final

Agreement and the *Historic Resources Act*. 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 Government of Yukon.

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

For the past number of years, Yukon government (YG), in partnership with Selkirk First Nation, have held a week-long log building conservation course at Fort Selkirk. Courses took place in 2006, 2015, 2017 and 2018. In summer 2019 the training was offered again, but unfortunately the timing didn't fit with Fort Selkirk staff schedules and no one was able to attend. The training may be offered again during the 2020 season.

Log building conservation training has also occurred at Forty Mile, Robinson Roadhouse and in Old Crow.

The course focuses on developing log restoration skills through the hands-on training. It is taught by restoration expert Peter Caron, with additional course support from YG and First Nations staff.



Shaping the log, 2017.

WORK CAMP MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

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 flexible and can be adapted to allow for new priorities. It may be revised during the season to accommodate changes in restoration priorities, as determined by the Management Committee and the site supervisor, or when interrupted by a forest fire, or other natural events. Seasonal work planning is completed using the Fort Selkirk Management and Interpretive Plans as guiding documents.

Summary of work that took place in 2019:

Larsen/Lankins Cabin

Cleared poplars and spruce trees on the river side of the cabin. Removed debris and cleaned the cabin's interior. Repairs were made to the main door, porch door, foundation, and eavestrough.

Devore Cabin

Fixed roofing detail around the chimney. Built and installed wooden foundation vents with pest-proof mesh. Checked the grade around building to ensure the slope is adequate to shed runoff rainwater away from the building. Repairs made to the cabin include removal of damaged awning, window re-glazing, repair and replacement of a broken sash.

New Stairway

A new stairway was installed on the riverbank for river travelers and visitors to access the site.



New stairs up from the river to the site.

Stone House Repairs

Cleaned and re-glazed windows, removed and repaired broken window panes on the east side. Repaired the extension ladder. Some progress was made on roof repairs with the continued removal of the old shingles and installation of temporary tarps to protect the roof over the winter. Replacement of roof shingles is a priority for the 2020 season.



Interior of Stone House

Catholic Church

Removed and repaired numerous broken window panes.



Catholic Church

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fort Selkirk Days hosted by Selkirk First Nation August 22 – 25, 2019

Selkirk First Nation celebrated their culture at Fort Selkirk Days by having fun, dancing, singing, playing games, and making beautiful crafts at the site.



Fort Selkirk Days, August 2019. Photo Credit: Selkirk First Nation

Culture Days hosted by Selkirk First Nation September 12 – 16, 2019

The Selkirk First Nation Culture Camp at Fort Selkirk was a success. Thirty people from a total of 13 different families' participated. SFN was successful in hunting one moose and one sheep.



Culture Days, September 2019. Photo Credit: Selkirk First Nation



Welcome sign at Fort Selkirk Historic Site



Visitors enjoy a guided tour at Fort Selkirk



Volunteers chat with site interpreter



Visitors arrive by boat at Fort Selkirk

SPECIAL EVENTS CONTINUED

Parks Day 2019

A tradition at the Fort Selkirk Historic Site is to host an open house on Parks Day. Canada's Parks Day is an annual event promoting the importance of Parks and Historic Sites. Hundreds of sites across the country host special events and activities on this day.

On July 20th, 2019, 80 visitors arrived at Pelly Farm to catch a boat ride to Fort Selkirk. At Fort Selkirk, some visitors took tours, guided by Selkirk First Nation interpreter Freda Alfred, while others explored the site on their own. Expert boat captains navigated through the low-water levels and volunteers for the day made sure all the visitors were welcomed. This popular event is jointly organized by Selkirk First Nation and Government of Yukon, Historic Sites Unit. Many Yukoners sign up months in advance to be able to experience a visit to Fort Selkirk.

Many thanks to the staff from Selkirk First Nation and the Historic Sites Unit and the many volunteers who helped with this event.



Photo Credit: David Johnny

2019 FORT SELKIRK VISITATION

This season, 350 visitors signed the Guestbook at Fort Selkirk.

Visitor numbers to Fort Selkirk are determined by the number of people that have signed the Guestbook which is located in the warming shelter. For the 2020 season, we will be taking steps to ensure that all visitors to Fort Selkirk are encouraged to and can sign the Guestbook.

Comments from visitors:

"Incredible place, I will never forget it!"
- Longview, TX, USA

"Amazing!"
- Taiwan

"Trip of a life!"
- Vancouver Island

2019 WRAP-UP

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

Staff at Fort Selkirk Historic Site for the 2019 field season:

- Teri-Lee Isaac (SFN Heritage Manager)
- Don Trudeau (Project Manager)
- Franklin Roberts (Foreman)
- Mark Staub (Expediter)
- Ricky Joe (Carpenter)
- David Roberts (Carpenter)
- Dion Edwards (Carpenter's Helper)
- Leslie Johnson (Carpenter's Helper)
- Freda Alfred (Interpreter)
- Miranda Blanchard (Cook)
- Kiesha Baker (Cook's Helper)
- Barbara Hogan (Historic Sites Manager, YG)
- Joel Le Baron (Historic Sites Project Officer, YG)
- Stephan Biedermann (Conservation Carpenter, YG)
- Garth Stoughton, contract carpenter instructor

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
- 1994** Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan
- 1997** Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement Signed
- 2000** Updated Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan
- 2004** Updated Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan
- 2010** Fort Selkirk Historic Site Designation
- 2020** Updated Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan

WHAT IS COMING UP IN SUMMER 2020?

The site opens with full staff in the beginning of June 2020.

2020 Work Plan

Building Restoration and Repairs (Main projects)

- Completion of Stone House Roof repairs
- Assess other buildings and make repairs as necessary
- Construction of septic field and wash house

Training Opportunities

Log building conservation course: SFN and YG may have Peter Caron back to Fort Selkirk for the Log



Conservation Course in 2020. This workshop provides training in the accepted standards for the conservation of historic log buildings. Each participant will leave with a good understanding of acceptable policy and practices related to the repair and maintenance of log structures, recognize the important historic features in log structures as well as, a good introduction to technical aspects of log structure conservation.

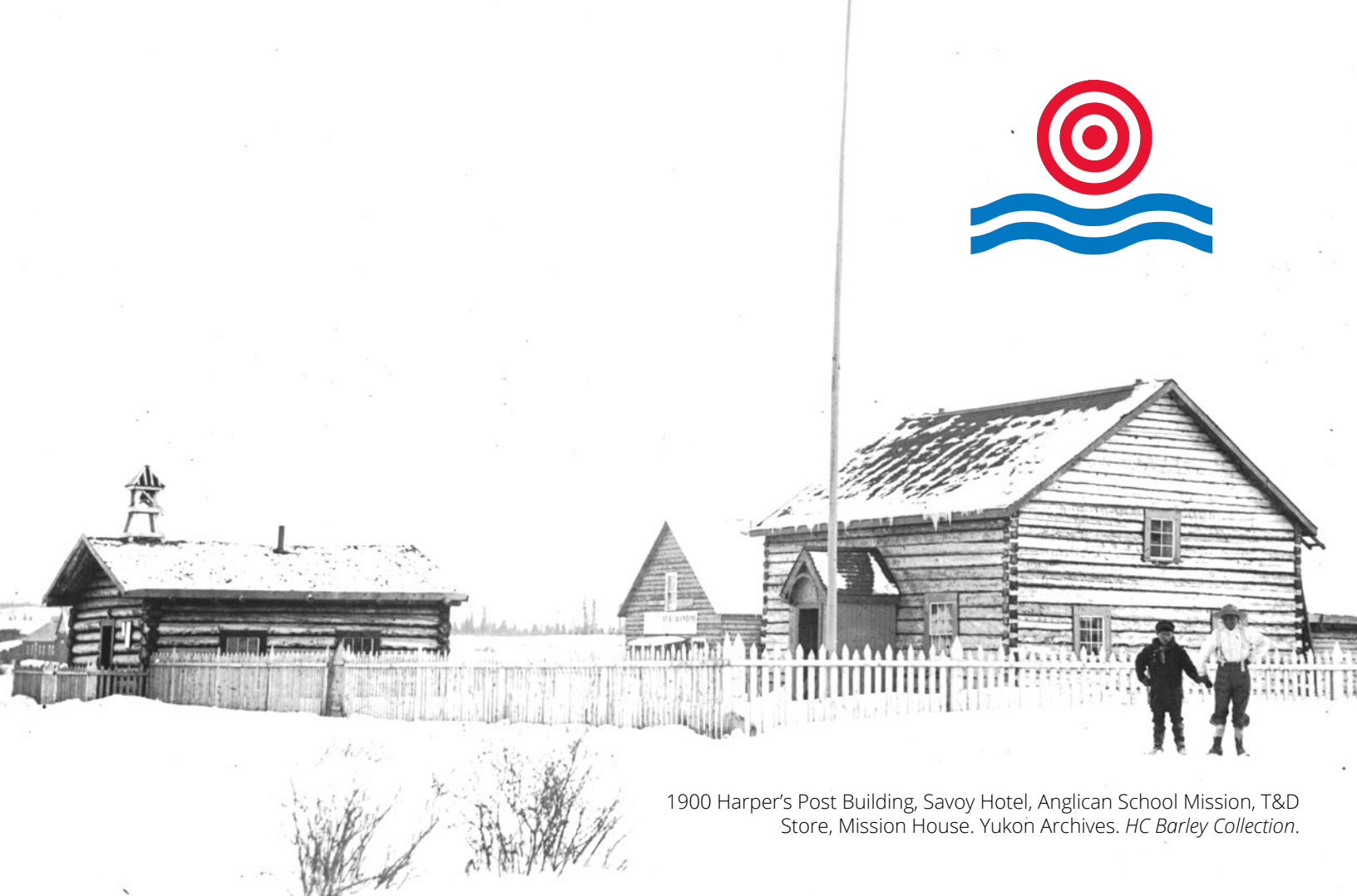
Parks Day 2020

Parks Day in 2020 will be held on July 18th. For more information on this event and to register, please contact the Historic Sites Interpretive Planner at clare.daitch@gov.yk.ca or phone 867-667-5386.

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee manages the site on behalf of the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon governments, and encourages all to contact them regarding on-site events and other activities.

Contact information is provided on the back page of this newsletter.





1900 Harper's Post Building, Savoy Hotel, Anglican School Mission, T&D Store, Mission House. Yukon Archives. *HC Barley Collection.*

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This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.
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