

April 2020

Tsei Zhelle' Ani Kadagáaxi Té Conrad Historic Site

...is a place for sharing, protecting and reconnecting with our heritage and culture.

Conrad Tram Terminal and Sugarloaf Hill

Tsei Zhelle' Ani/Kadagáaxi Té/Conrad Historic Site has a rich heritage that reflects the culture and history of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) and the historic mining community of Conrad.

The site is valued for its:

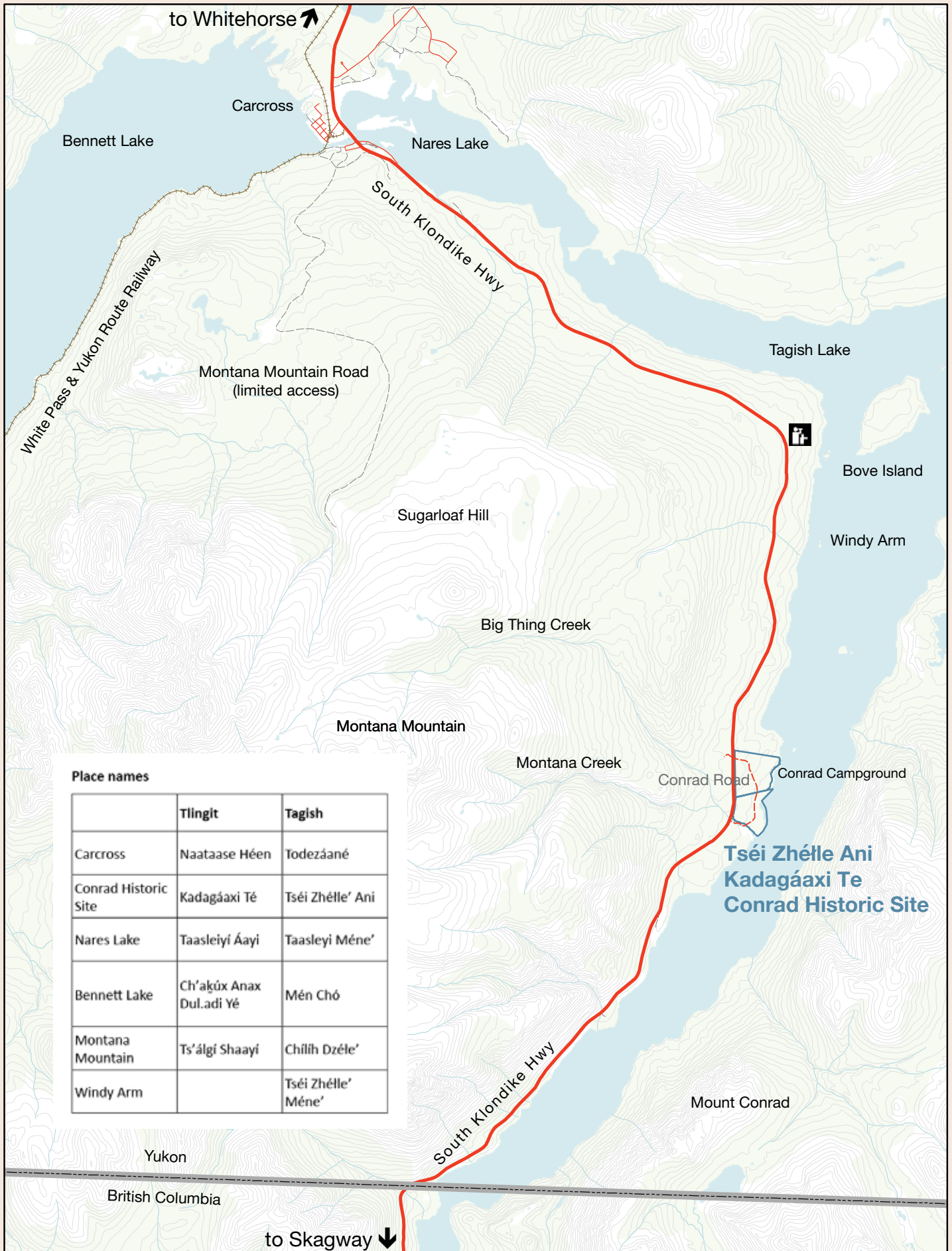
- cultural associations with C/TFN
- pre-contact and post-contact heritage resources
- role in Yukon's history
- mining history
- breath taking views and environment



YA. E.J. Hamacher fonds. At Conrad City [Six men, two women and three children on front porch of A. Chisholm Hardware]. 2002/118 #347

Tsei Zhelle' Ani

Kadagáaxi Té



"We used to come here all the time, we would camp down closer by the water, it's special, there were a lot of things that happened here, traditionally there were things that have happened here..."

- C/TFN Elder Annie Auston

About the site

Located on the west-side of Windy Arm on Tagish Lake - *Tsei Zhelle' Mene *Howling Rock Lake, the area is a traditional fishing, hunting and camping site used by the Carcross/Tagish people.

The community of Conrad was a short-lived mining town established in 1905 by Colonel J.H. Conrad, the president of the Conrad Consolidated Mining Company. At its peak, the community had upwards of 300 residents but with declining silver prices, Colonel Conrad filed for bankruptcy and the community was abandoned by 1914.

* Unofficial Name

Site Management

All activities for the historic site are managed by the Conrad Historic Site Steering Committee.

Conrad Historic Site Steering Committee

A Steering Committee consisting of three members from C/TFN and three members from Government of Yukon (YG) was established in December 2014. The Committee manages the site and is guiding the planning process and development of the Management Plan.

Current Steering Committee Members:

- Art Johns, C/TFN
- Colleen James, C/TFN
- Derek Grose, C/TFN
- Deborah Baerg, C/TFN (alternate)
- Barbara Hogan, YG
- Rebecca Jansen, YG
- Ty Heffner, YG

Shannon Van Bibber, YG, provides support to the Steering Committee and associated external consultants.

Previous Steering Committee members:

- Heather Jones, C/TFN
- Jen Herkes, C/TFN
- Greg Hare, YG



L-R: Art Johns and Derek Grose



L-R: Barbara Hogan, Ty Heffner, Shannon Van Bibber, Colleen James

Management Plan

Within the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement; Chapter 13, Schedule B, provisions were made for the Conrad Historic Site to be co-owned and co-managed by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Government of Yukon. It will eventually be designated a Yukon Historic Site under the Historic Resources Act, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 109. The designation process will get underway once the Management Plan is approved.

The Conrad Management Plan will provide long-range goals and objectives that will guide the protection, conservation and interpretation of the heritage and history of the historic site.

The plan will ensure that the significant, multi-layered history of the Conrad Historic Site is preserved and that the site's heritage values and historic resources will be available to visitors and residents today and in the future.

The goals for the management of the site are:

- To ensure the protection, conservation and interpretation of the historical use of the heritage site;
- To ensure the recognition and protection of the traditional and current use of the area by Carcross/Tagish people and the past and current use by other Yukon residents;
- To ensure the encouragement of public awareness and appreciation for the natural, historical and cultural resources of the heritage site; and
- To allow recreation and enjoyment of the historic site while respecting and conserving its cultural and natural heritage value.



Conrad Tram Terminal



Conrad Wharf

"We used to come down here to pick berries all the time..."

- C/TFN Elder Ida Calmagne



Preserving the Conrad Historic Site

To preserve the heritage resources at the site, a locked gate was installed in July 2016 making the site closed to vehicle access, except for service vehicles. The site remains open to the public via walk-in access from May to October. The gate is unlocked from September to May.



Conrad Historic Site, North access gate



Conrad parking area



Site maintenance and stabilization

Since 2016, a number of maintenance and stabilization activities have occurred at Conrad. Stabilization activities are temporary measures performed to protect and support the heritage resources. Work at the site has been performed by the C/TFN summer staff as well as by YG Historic Sites Unit staff.

Activities of note include:

- Bracing of Cabin 1 and Cabin 2 to stabilize the buildings until further work can be done
- The cold-storage area has been fenced off to prevent entry
- Installation of two portable toilets, picnic tables, firepits, woodbins and firewood
- Parking area improvements including installation of a bear proof garbage container and signage
- Weekly maintenance of the historic site



Cabin 2



Cabin 1



Cold storage



Picnic area and fire pit

Tsei Zhelle' Ani

Kadagáaxi Tē

Carcross/Tagish people on a berrying picnic, September 1950. Back row: Doris Johns on left, Clara Johns next to her, Annie Austin on far right. Bottom row: Leslie Johns with can on his head. Canadian Museum of History, Leechman/McClellan photo collection, #J856



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This newsletter is provided by the Conrad Historic Site Steering Committee.

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