

June 2022

# Tséi Zhéte/Sinwaa Éex'i Yé Conrad Historic Site



*Conrad Historic Site. Remnants of the Conrad Tram Terminal. 2021*

“ **The natural setting of the heritage site on the shores of the lake provides both scenic beauty that supports recreational activities, but also creates and enhances a sense of well-being for visitors.** ”

*Conrad Historic Site Management Plan*

The historic site of Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad lies within the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN). The site is located on the west-side of Windy Arm “Tsei Zhele Mene” (Howling Rock Lake) approximately 16 km south of Carcross.

It is valued for its abundance of natural features, pre-contact and post-contact heritage resources, its association with C/TFN people and culture, and its mining history.

*Tsei Zhete*

*Sinwaa Éex'i Yé*

A place for sharing, protecting, and reconnecting with our heritage and culture

# Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i / Conrad Historic Site Management Plan - Signing Ceremony

July 20, 2022

The Conrad historic site is co-owned and co-managed by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) and the Government of Yukon (YG). It shall be designated an official Yukon Historic Site under the *Historic Resources Act*, R.S.Y. 2002, c. 109 in the future.

The site's activities are managed by the Conrad Historic Site Steering Committee; which has equal representatives from C/TFN and YG. As with other historic sites in the Yukon, the committee's work is guided by a management plan. The very first **Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Management Plan** was approved by C/TFN and YG last summer. A signing ceremony is planned for July 20, 2022, at the Conrad Historic site.

The *Conrad Heritage Management Plan* will ensure the protection, conservation, and interpretation of the heritage values of the Conrad historic site. It recognizes and protects the traditional and current use of the area by C/TFN citizens and the past and current use by other Yukon residents.



## The Conrad Historic Site Steering Committee would like to thank:

- ▶ Brent Riley, Historic Sites Restoration Planner, Government of Yukon, for his work on the descriptions for the heritage resources at Conrad;
- ▶ the Yukon Heritage Resources Board for their review and recommendations to the Management Plan; and
- ▶ the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Citizens, the community of Carcross and the many people of the Yukon who have provided their comments and input on the history and vision for the Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad historic site.



## Recipient of the 2021 Annual Heritage Award (Posthumous), Yukon Historical & Museums Association

# Art Johns

Art called the mountains of the Carcross/Tagish Traditional Territory his home and was extremely generous with his knowledge of its geography and resources. He provided immeasurable assistance to the Yukon Archaeology and Historic Sites programs, leading them to outstanding discoveries that will endure as monuments to Yukon First Nation land use and culture.

Art believed in maintaining the integrity of this territory and he understood that this required being responsible not only at camp, but in the decisions made in the board room as well.

He was an enthusiastic contributor to many management initiatives on behalf of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. Art helped Yukon's archaeologists and historic sites staff understand and interpret the places and artifacts they study. He was proud of his people's history and shared his sense of place with all Yukoners.

Art's family attended the award ceremony at the Beringia Centre on March 29, 2021, to accept the annual heritage award that recognized Art for his outstanding services to the protection, conservation, promotion, and development of Yukon's heritage.



*Art Johns at home in the mountains.*



*Greg Hare, retired Archaeologist presents award to Art Johns' family.*



*L-R: Darlene Johns (Art's daughter) and Rita Johns (Art's granddaughter) accepting award.*



*L-R: Rita Johns and Darlene Johns*





## New footbridge at Big Thing Creek



The creek that runs down Montana Mountain, south of the Conrad historic site into Windy Arm, is officially called Big Thing Creek. Also referred to as Montana Creek.

This past winter, with the help and support of local engineers and contractors, and under the watchful eyes of the Conrad Historic Site Steering Committee, a new pedestrian bridge was installed across Big Thing Creek.



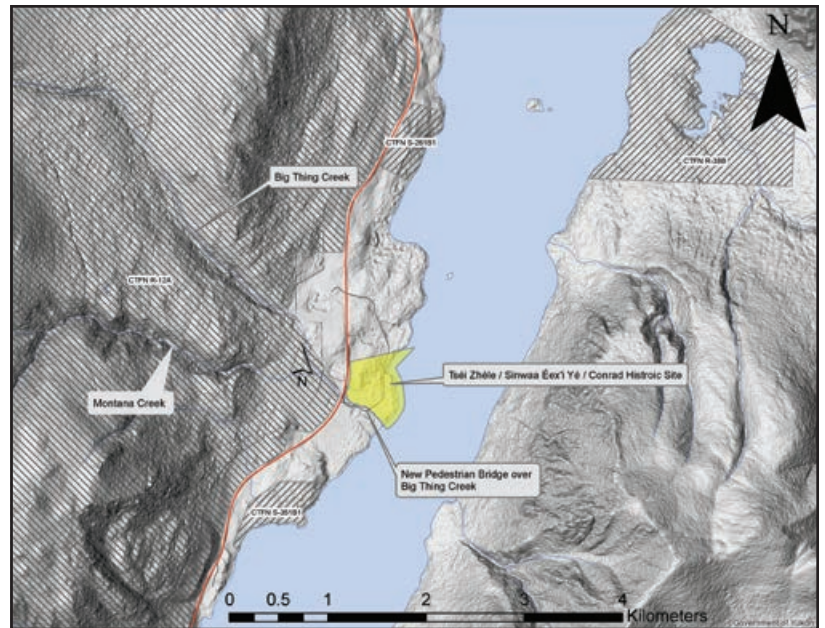
The existing log bridge had collapsed at some point before 2014. It had become a hazard for visitors and wildlife alike and was removed in the winter of 2020 by KC Contracting.

Tyler Heal from ISL Engineering designed the new bridge and abutments to ensure that it is structurally sound. Myles Plaunt and Chad Cowan from Tetra Tech made sure that all the geotechnical challenges were addressed. Toos Omtzigt from Yucan Planning was on site to ensure all environmental conditions were met. The Transportation Engineering Branch, Highways and Public Works, provided huge support with their expertise and site inspections. Klondike Welding built the steel structure in their shop in Whitehorse and Tytus Hardy from YT2 Construction installed the beautiful yellow cedar decking and rails. Don Russell's Takhini Valley Contracting and Kyle Cresswell installed the bridge under the harshest winter conditions.



Due to the weather conditions during installation, a few days of work will be needed in June 2022 to finish the landscaping and install bollards to ensure the use of the bridge is limited to pedestrians and cyclists.

The material for the Big Thing foot bridge is designed to weather in place and gradually blend into its natural surroundings. The steel is special weathering steel that develops a rusty patina in the first few years, but whose core stays intact and is not structurally impacted by the rust. The wood is Alaskan Yellow Cedar, which will eventually turn into a beautiful silver-grey, and just like the steel, doesn't require (or like) any kind of preservative or paint.



*Archbould Photography. Conrad Historic Site footbridge. 2022*

## Robinson Roadhouse

### Historic Places

Days 2022:

### Every Place, a Story

Saturday, July 9, 2022

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



A tradition at Robinson Roadhouse

is to co-host, with the Historic Sites Unit (HSU) and the Yukon Heritage Resources Board (YHRB), an open house during Historic Places Days. Canada Historic Places Days is an annual event promoting the importance of historic sites. Hundreds of sites across the country host special events and activities on this day.

Please join HSU and YHRB in celebrating Canada's Historic Places Days at the Robinson Roadhouse Historic Site.

There will be site tours, snacks, and games for the whole family to enjoy.

All are welcome. Learn more at [www.historicplacesdays.ca](http://www.historicplacesdays.ca).

The site will stay open during all activities and events, but certain areas may be closed to ensure the safety of the public.

Robinson Roadhouse is located in the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation at km 139 of the South Klondike Highway, near the Annie Lake Road turn-off. Established as a flag station for the White Pass & Yukon Route, Robinson Roadhouse was constructed in 1906 and also served as a staging point for miners in the Watson and Wheaton River mining districts.

The site includes a rest area with a large parking lot, outhouses, picnic tables, interpretive panels, and historic buildings. Visitors are free to roam the unmanned site while the interpretive panels provide historical context and information.





The Conrad townsite was originally laid out in an orderly street grid pattern in 1905. This layout would accommodate the large population that was expected to move there. The environmental influences of the topography resulted in a more vernacular configuration for the collection of residential, institutional, commercial, and service buildings that were quickly built to service the anticipated economic boom.

*Conrad Historic Site Management Plan*



Yukon Archives. Canada Lands Survey System. HG Dickson, Dominion Land Surveyor. 1905

**This newsletter is provided by the Conrad Historic Site Steering Committee. You can view this newsletter online at [yukonheritage.com](http://yukonheritage.com) or please contact:**

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