



▲ Midnight Arts. August 2021. Aerial view of Fort Selkirk signing ceremony, August 20, 2021.

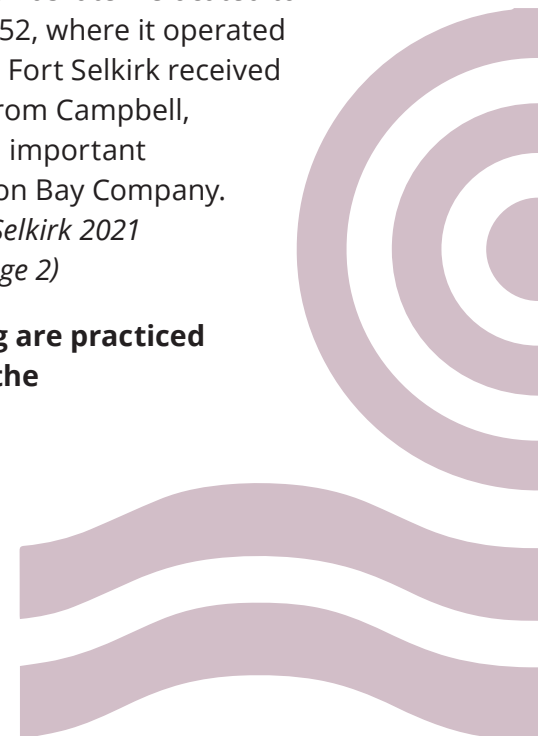
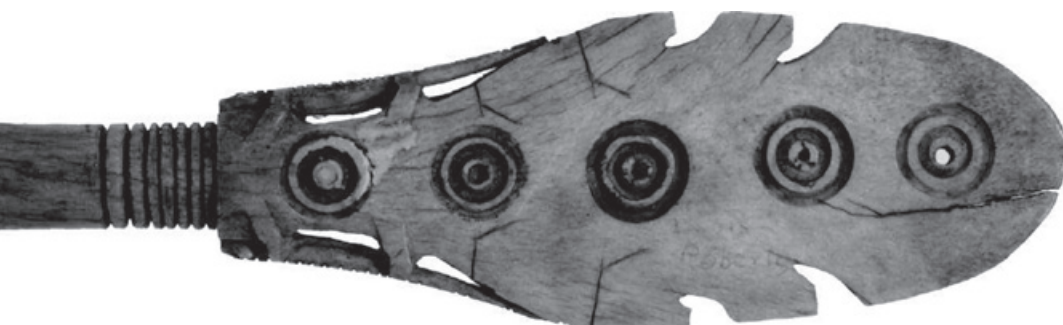
Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

As a living cultural heritage site, Fort Selkirk is a place to share, respect and preserve for future generations.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site has an exceptional history connected to the Selkirk First Nation (SFN) as well as the later non-Indigenous settlement of the area. Long ago, the people of the Selkirk First Nation were known as the Huchá Hudän, meaning Flatland People. The name Flatland comes from the landscape in Fort Selkirk, where it is flat on both sides of the river. A network of traditional routes that pass through this region connected people to this meeting place. The ancient connections to the area are known from its earliest use by Northern Tutchone people and other First Nations as a gathering place for trade, potlaches, and cultural activities.

Ancestors of the Selkirk people first encountered Robert Campbell, the Hudson's Bay Company explorer and fur trader, when he journeyed down the Pelly River to its confluence with the Yukon River in the summer of 1843. Campbell originally established a trading post, near the confluence of the rivers from 1848 to 1852. It was later relocated to the current site in 1852, where it operated for less than 5 years. Fort Selkirk received its European name from Campbell, after Lord Selkirk, an important investor in the Hudson Bay Company. (*Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk 2021 Management Plan. Page 2*)

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





▲ *Danny with visitor book (1992)*

▼ *A young visitor to Fort Selkirk signs the register while Danny looks on (year unknown)*



In Memoriam - Danny Roberts:

Fort Selkirk's first and longest serving Northern Tutchone caretaker.

Danny Roberts, long known as the caretaker of Fort Selkirk, and his wife Abby, were the sole remaining occupants of this once thriving community. Danny was Northern Tutchone and had lived in the region all his life.

Danny worked on the Yukon River paddlewheelers. During the winter he cut wood to help supply those paddlewheelers with fuel. He came to know the navigable channels of the Yukon and Pelly rivers very well.

After the paddlewheelers stopped running in the early 1950s, Danny became a pilot on a river barge servicing the downriver placer miners. Danny knew the river so well he could drive his own home-made boat at full speed during the summer nights, relying only on a faint skyline to reference his location.

Danny and his wife, Abby, stayed after others abandoned Fort Selkirk and they looked after the houses and belongings left behind. Danny worked at the Pelly River Ranch in the fall, trading his labour for fresh vegetables which he and Abby preserved for the winter. They also fished, trapped and hunted for traditional foods.

Danny was generous in passing along his skills in piloting boats and harvesting fish and wildlife. Danny and Abby were capable dog mushers and used a sled and dog team to visit friends along the Yukon River during the lonely winters. Danny travelled by dog team to run his trapline and go to town for supplies.

In 1980, Danny was employed by Yukon Historic Sites as a caretaker and interpreter, and he remained in this employ until his death in August 2000.

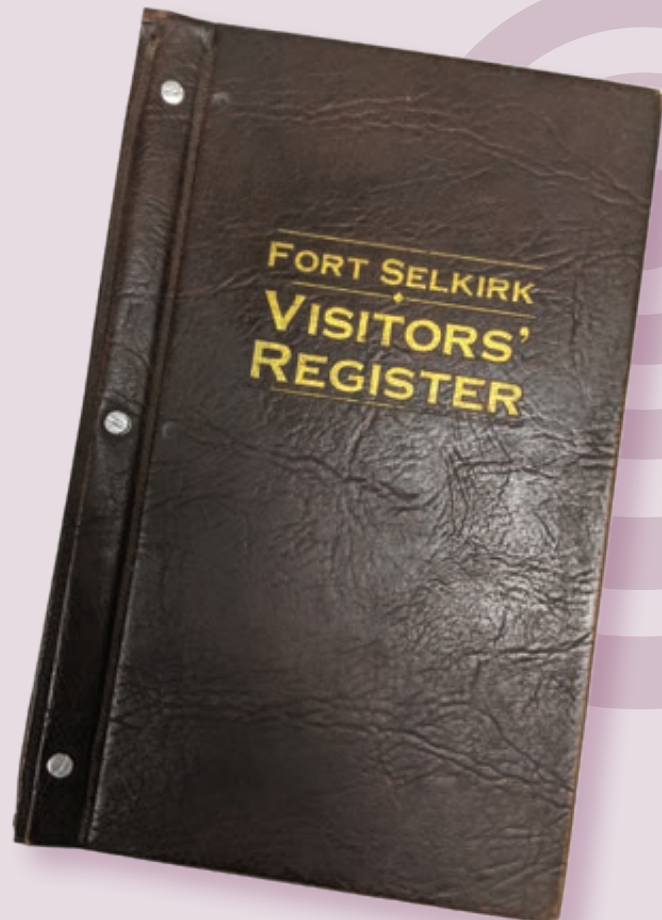
Danny Roberts' work at Fort Selkirk was appreciated by all who knew him, and Danny became famous as a Fort Selkirk interpreter. Travellers from around the world remember him fondly.



▲ Danny Roberts (year unknown)

2021 FORT SELKIRK VISITATION TOTALS

	Canada	USA	Culture Camp	Signing Ceremony	Monthly Totals
May (No records)					0
June	26	3			29
July	41				41
August	126		25	75	226
September	12				12
Region Totals	205	3			
Grand Total					308



TRAINING

Certified Interpreter Guide training

The Interpreter Guide training was offered in Whitehorse from April 25 to 28, 2022, through the National Association of Interpreters. Freda Alfred, Nancy Alfred and Kimberly Gill have successfully received their Interpretive Guide certification.



Certified Interpretive Guide™

Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG™) certification is a 32-hour training level certification designed for interpreters who are seasonal, temporary, new hires, or volunteers just starting in the field or for those who would like a refresher on the fundamentals. If you conduct tours, demonstrations, lead hikes and other recreational activities, present living history programs, etc. then this is the certification.

What are the benefits of being a CIG?

- ▶ Certification helps you cultivate and build a professional self-image.
- ▶ Learning presentation skills will increase your confidence in working with the public.
- ▶ The opportunity to network and build community with others in your field.
- ▶ The process of becoming certified and maintaining the designation provides incentives to continue professional development.

What are the Outcomes of the CIG course?

You will be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of:

- ▶ The history of the interpretive profession.
- ▶ The basic principles of interpretation.
- ▶ Current literature in the interpretive field.
- ▶ Create a program outline and presenting a thematic interpretive presentation.

WORK CAMP MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Summer 2022 Site Work:

- ▶ Contractors will be on site this summer to finish the washhouse and install a new generator. The new generator will supplement the new solar system and will be far quieter than the one currently on site.
- ▶ The work camp cabins and kitchen will undergo roof repairs.
- ▶ The Fort Selkirk solar system will receive a substantial upgrade, with new solar panels, inverter and charger. This will allow Fort Selkirk to lower its reliance on fossil fuels and provide a reliable power source for all work site activities. It will also contribute to the serenity of Fort Selkirk by allowing generators to be switched off. This project forms part of Government of Yukon's *Our Clean Future* strategy to increase the supply of electricity generated from renewable sources.
- ▶ Historic Sites staff will conduct repairs on the ridge caps of many historic buildings, including the Anglican Church. This will extend the life of current roof systems.



▲ Washhouse



▲ Work camp septic

▼ Anglican Church from above



SPECIAL EVENTS



▲ Yukon musician Kim Beggs
(Karen McColl/CBC)

Yukon Fresh A.I.R (Artists in Residence) Exchange (YFAIRE) 2022

July 14 – 21, 2022

Kim Beggs, well known Yukon Musician and Lead Producer of YFAIRE, will be hosting a 10-day multi-disciplinary artist exchange at Fort Selkirk. The event will bring many artists from around the Yukon together to connect, perform, share knowledge and create new works.

PARKS DAY

Saturday, July 16, 2022

Canada's Parks Day is an annual event promoting the importance of our country's many parks and historic sites. Special events and activities at hundreds of sites are hosted across the country, including the popular open house at Fort Selkirk.

The last Parks Day event happened in July 2019.

We are excited to again welcome guests on July 16, 2022.

For more information and to register for a boat trip to Fort Selkirk, contact Historic Sites at 867-667-5386.

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

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





▲ BC Provincial Archives. 1899. Panorama of Fort Selkirk from the Yukon River.

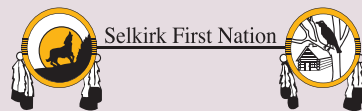
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View this newsletter online at yukonheritage.com

This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.
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Yukon