

# LANSING HERITAGE SITE

## HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

AERIAL PHOTO OF LANSING HISTORIC SITE



Photo credit: Wendy Shearer/Yukon Government

## PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DRAFT HERITAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

You are invited to take part in a discussion about the 1<sup>st</sup> draft Lansing Heritage Management Plan.

### **MAYO, YUKON**

**Monday, April 24, 2017**

4:30 to 7:30 p.m. First Nation of Na-Cho  
Nyäk Dun Government House

Or

### **WHITEHORSE, YUKON**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Kwanlin Dun Cultural  
Centre – Artist Studio

Refreshments will be served.

For more information call:

Heritage Manager at **996-2265** or  
Historic Sites Planner at **393-6291**.

Or visit [www.yukohneritage.com/  
heritage-plans/Lansing](http://www.yukohneritage.com/heritage-plans/Lansing)



Photo credit: Wendy Shearer/Yukon Government

Final Agreement - Section 2.6 states the Management Plan shall address the following:

- the traditional and current use by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun;
- the nature and status of resources at the site;
- historic buildings;
- archaeological resources;
- burial sites;
- standards of maintenance;
- public access;
- land use impacts;
- the conditions of third-party use of the site and;
- such other matters as Government and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun may agree.

## Heritage Management Planning and the Lansing Heritage Site

The Lansing Heritage Site, on Settlement Lands of the Nacho Nyäk Dun, is designated as a Yukon Historic Site under the *Historic Resources Act* in accordance with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement; Chapter 13, Schedule A.

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon are jointly preparing a Heritage Management Plan following Final Agreement - Section 2.6. The Lansing Historic Site will be managed by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

## Lansing Steering Committee

The Lansing Steering Committee was established in April 2016 to complete the work described in Schedule A, Chapter 13 of the Final Agreement.

### STEERING COMMITTEE

- Joella Hogan, NND Designate
- Stewart Moses, NND Designate
- Stephen Buyck, NND, Alternate
- Barbara Hogan, YG Designate
- Greg Hare, YG Designate
- Rebecca Jansen, YG, Alternate
- Shannon Van Bibber, Project Manager, YG

## What is a Heritage Management Plan for Lansing Heritage Site?

A management plan provides long-range goals and objectives that guide the protection, conservation and interpretation of heritage sites.

The objectives of the Lansing Heritage Site Management Plan are to recognize and protect the heritage resources, and the traditional and current use of the site by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, third party interests in the site, and by others in Yukon.

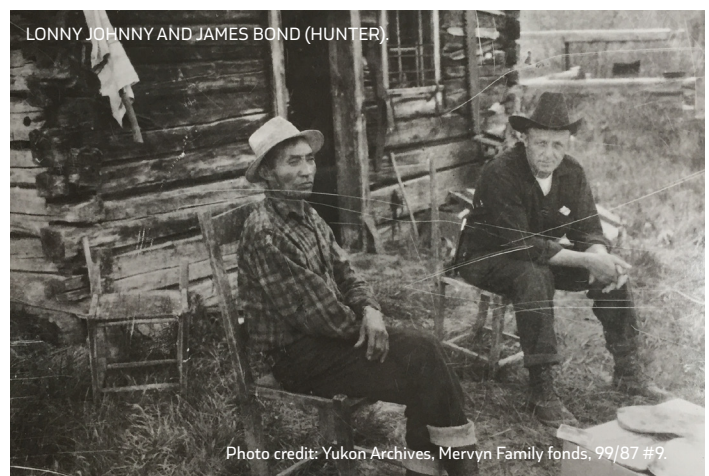


Photo credit: Yukon Archives, Mervyn Family fonds, 99/87 #9.



Photo credit: Yukon Archives, Wilkinson Family fonds, #16756

## Summary of a survey and the 1<sup>st</sup> public meeting



DAVID MOSES CABIN, WEST ELEVATION

Photo credit: Wendy Shearer/Yukon Government

The Lansing Steering Committee, Yukon Government and NND conducted a survey about Lansing from August to October 7, 2016, and held community consultations in Mayo on August 30 and in Whitehorse on August 31, 2016. The key findings included:

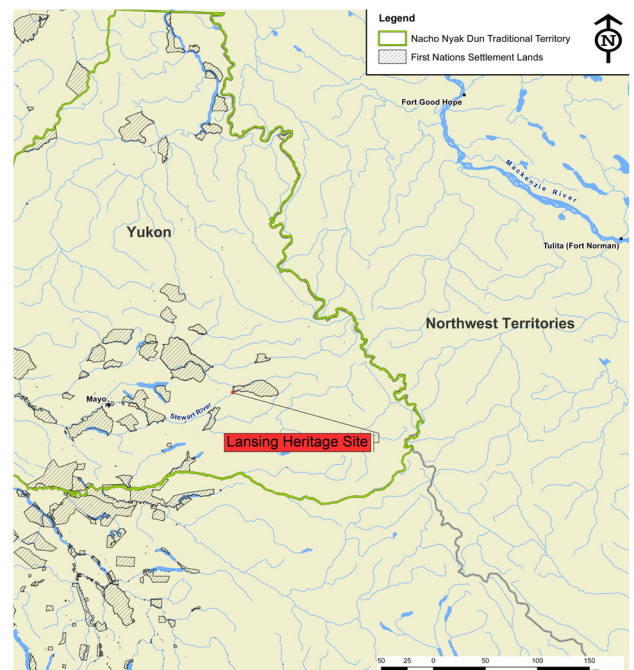
- Although the majority of participants have never visited Lansing, a strong majority said it was important to NND citizens (87%) and to the Yukon in general (88%).
- People commented on the significance of Lansing as a gathering place, trading site, and harvesting area.
- People said their desire in the future was to connect with Lansing's heritage, participate in harvesting activities, and enjoy recreational activities at Lansing if they had the opportunity to visit the site.
- When asked about the future use of Lansing, people supported rehabilitation/ protection of buildings, site caretaking, cultural programming and heritage appreciation, and the seasonal use of the site for cultural gatherings, recreational camping, harvesting, and tourism.

## Highlights from 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Lansing Heritage Management Plan

The Lansing Heritage Site Management Plan would be applied to the historic settlement area that is bounded by the east bank of the Stewart River and the north bank of the Lansing River, and includes the clearing where all of the buildings, structures and landscape features related to the post are found.

Cultural heritage resources include three buildings and several remnant structures from the historic post period, gardens that have been a continuing element of life at the site, and more recent structures related to the trapping period.

The management plan takes into account the requirements for maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, reuse and interpretation of the heritage resources at Lansing. The plan allows for the site to be used by members of NND, Yukoners, and visitors. The plan identifies future approaches to the annual maintenance and monitoring of the site and its resources by the NND. Recommendations are proposed with consideration to the NND history and traditional use related to the site, the Final Agreement and territorial legislation, and best practices for management of cultural heritage landscapes and resources.



HIGH CACHE, VIEW TO THE WEST



Photo credit: Wendy Shearer/Yukon Government

VIEW OF THE CLEARING AT LANSING – GARDEN IN THE FOREGROUND AND HIGH CACHE IN THE BACKGROUND. 2016



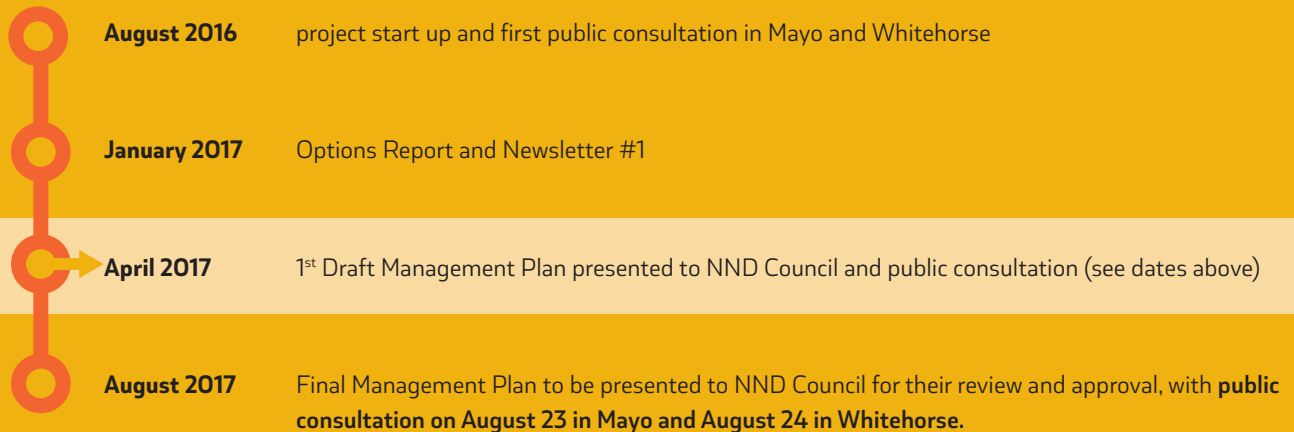
Yukon Government. Photo Credit Joel LeBaron (DSC\_5794)

AERIAL VIEW OF LANSING HERITAGE SITE.



Yukon Government. Photo credit Wendy Shearer (IMG\_0503).

## Where are we in the Heritage Management Process?



DAVID MOSES CABIN. 2016



Yukon Government. Photo Credit Joel LeBaron (DSC\_5567).

## Contact

For more information on the Lansing Post Historic Site, contact:



Heritage Manager  
First Nation of Na-Cho  
Nyäk Dun  
(867) 996-2265 ex 116



Heritage Planning  
Historic Sites  
Yukon Government  
(867) 393-6291

[yukonheritage.com](http://yukonheritage.com)



Photo credit: Yukon Archives, Mervyn-Woods Family fonds, 98/87#432

## Lansing Heritage Site Timelines

**pre-1880s** First Nation people regularly traveled from the Mackenzie basin over the mountains to the Upper Stewart River.

**1883** Samuel Lansing was one of the early prospectors in the Yukon Territory and mined the bars of the Stewart River in 1883. He prospected the Lansing River in 1883 when it received his name. He prospected widely and was one of the first following in the Fortymile strike in 1886. (Coutts: 1980, 154)

**1898 – 99** Several prospectors crossed the divide from the Mackenzie side and descended the Stewart River to the Yukon. According to geologist Joseph Keele, this was the first non-indigenous travel of the river above Fraser Falls.

**1898** In 1898, Frank Braine travelled with a party of First Nation people from Fort Good Hope to the Stewart River at the mouth of Lansing river. He erected a trading post, bringing up his supplies from Dawson every summer. Keele went on to mention that many indigenous people were dying from the “dreadful influenza” (Joseph Keele, 1910: 12)

**1900** The October 1900 patrol report mentioned that First Nations people of Upper Stewart area would be heading upriver once the river froze to meet hunters from Mackenzie River area.

**1902 - 1908** Percival Nash and Frank Braine brought a group of Slavey people from the Fort Good Hope area to guide them over the Mackenzie Mountains to Lansing, where they established a trading post at the confluence of Lansing and Stewart rivers. Over the next few decades, this was a fur trade post and centre for Northern Tutchone, Peel, Macmillan River and Tulita (formerly known as Fort Norman) people.

**1908 - 1911** Nash and Braine sold the trading post to Jim and Helen Ferrell.

**1911 – 1936** The Ferrell’s sold the trading post to Jim Mervyn, a trader from Ontario. Jim Mervyn married Julia Dechilia, who is originally from MacKenzie.

**1918** Influenza epidemic caused many deaths among First Nations people in the area. [Cox, 1995: p5]

Father E. LeRay, OMI, went up the Stewart River in a pole boat and portaged around the falls to reach Lansing in about 1918. At that time there were over 100 native people there, and they had built a log meeting house where Father LeRay stayed and held ceremonies, mass and instruction. He spent two months there before going to Mayo for four weeks, then to Wernecke, circa 1918 according to Father Huijbers.

**1923** A census records 110 people at Lansing Post, 104 listed as Catholic, 4 as Anglican



Photo credit: Wendy Shearer/Yukon Government

1936

The Stewart River at Lansing rose 12 feet in 45 minutes. The Post was flooded but nothing was lost, as Jim Mervyn piled his stock high and dry. By the late 1930's Jim Mervyn began expanding his business activities in the Mayo area.

1938

Jim Mervyn backs away from the operations at Lansing Post. The Mayo Miner reported that the Mervyn's daughter, Maggie Wood, and her husband, Jimmy Wood, were going to run Lansing Post that winter.

1941

A First Nations census for the Mayo District shows that eight people were living in the Lansing Post area: Lonny Johnny, Delphinia Allison, and Christine, Helen, Paul, Frank, Joe and Katherine Germaine.

1947

Big game hunter James Bond visited Lansing while being guided on a hunting trip by Louis Brown and Norman Mervyn. He described the site as a rather desolate place with only two buildings "in good shape". These were used by Norman Mervyn and Lonny Johnny as part of their trapline. He observed that, "The finest vegetation I have seen anywhere in the Yukon grows at Lansing."

Late 1940s

Fur prices fall to low levels, discouraging trappers from going on the line.

1976

Jared and Eddie Wilkinson moved to Lansing, then an abandoned settlement, from the Pelly Crossing area.

1977

Eddie Wilkinson was killed by a bear at Lansing.

1979

Bruce Mitford purchased the trapline concession from Jared Wilkinson. His wife, Beth Hunt moved to Lansing in 1980, and the Mitford's have lived, trapped on their concession, and raised a family at the Lansing site for the past 36 years. During their residency they have maintained the site and made necessary repairs to keep the remaining buildings in sound condition. New support structures were added to rehabilitate historic buildings and a large garden in the centre of the open space has been cultivated. When river erosion threatened the David Moses cabin, Bruce took the logs apart and reassembled it further back from the river to preserve the historic building.

1993

First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun sign land claims final agreement. Schedule A, Chapter 13 of the Nacho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement states that the Lansing Heritage Site shall be established as a Designated Heritage Site and that the Government of Yukon and the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun shall jointly prepare a management plan for the site. The Lansing Historic Site will be managed by the First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun.

2002

August, archaeological investigations were carried out at Lansing Post Heritage Site to help determine the boundaries of the site and other potential heritage management issues in the immediate area as set out in the Nacho Nyäk Dun First Nation Final Agreement.

2015

Bruce Mitford, with the support from NND and YG, repaired the foundation under the Germaine cabin.

2016

Commencement of management planning process for the Lansing Post heritage site.