



◀ Big Jonathan House at Fort Selkirk, Me'Âu (Basalt Bluff) in the background

## Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

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

Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Historic Site is a 50-hectare site located on a terrace bank of the Yukon River near the mouth of the Pelly River.

Outside of the Historic Site boundary are features in the landscape that contribute to the heritage values and setting of Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk.

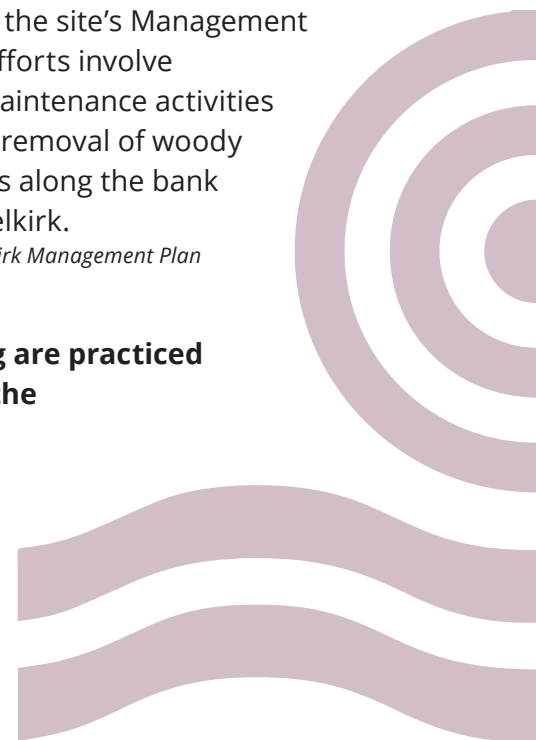
One such landscape feature is Me'Âu (Basalt Bluff), which dominates the view from Fort Selkirk. It is a basalt bluff across the river opposite the site. It is the result of local volcanic eruptions dating to about 1.5 to 2 million years ago and is a significant landmark in the area. The bluffs have navigational significance for river travelers to

signal the approach to Fort Selkirk; wildlife is often seen along the game trail at the top of the bluff; and the bluff features prominently in the scenic views from Huchá Hudän.

Measures to preserve the significant view of Me'Âu as a key landscape feature on neighbouring land are identified in the site's Management Plan. Conservation efforts involve continuing regular maintenance activities such as mowing and removal of woody regrowth at key areas along the bank of the river at Fort Selkirk.

*2021 Huchá Hudän/Fort Selkirk Management Plan*

**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.**





▲ Coward Garage on the left. MeÂu (Basalt Bluff) in the background.



▲ "That old cart belongs to Taylor and Drury's. We had several around here. That other one used to be mine down the road there and bring it to the mail and from the boats and that. It was very handy."  
G.I. Cameron. MeÂu Basalt Bluff in the background



▲ When the Yukon Field Force moved into Fort Selkirk in 1912, they practiced shooting their canon by firing two rounds across the river into the bluff. Today, the impressions from the cannonballs can still be seen from the historic townsite of Fort Selkirk.

## 2022 FORT SELKIRK VISITATION

### This season, 491 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.

	Canada	USA	Other Areas	Monthly Totals
June	30	0	14	44
July	132	35	66	233
August	154	13	33	200
September	10	2	2	14
Region Totals	326	50	115	
Grand Total				491

### Quotes from visitors:

"Great energy here, thanks to all who are hard at work, keeping it so nice! A great experience".  
- Quebec

"Well restored with so much to see and learn from, very well kept up, beautiful setting and good people".  
- Ontario

"Amazing work and information here".  
- New York  
"Nice people and nice spirit place".  
- Germany



# 2022 WORK COMPLETED:

## Fort Selkirk Power System Upgraded!

There were two major upgrades to the power system at the Fort Selkirk work camp this season.

### New generator

The first was the installation of a new diesel generator. This generator is more efficient and quieter than the previous one. It was installed so that it can operate within the generator house. The previous one had to be moved outside whenever it was in use. This upgrade significantly improved ease of use, air quality, CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and especially noise at the site. Industrial Electric Services completed all of the work on a single day in August.

### Solar upgrade

The second power system project at the site was a solar array upgrade. The work involved adding 8 solar panels to the existing array which increased capacity by 3400W. The work also involved adding a new Solar Arc inverter, which can handle the higher electrical loads, and integrating the new equipment into the old system. This addition means that the solar array is now much closer to the ideal for the battery bank which was already on site. The additional power should increase battery life as well as significantly reduce the amount of time the generator needs to run thereby significantly reducing fossil fuel use. The work was completed by Buck Brush Contracting and took place from Oct. 3rd to the 7th.

The work was done after the closure of the site for the season, so there was not an opportunity to see how the new diesel generator, or the solar upgrade operates. It will be exciting to get to the site and see the improvements next year.



## Fort Selkirk Code of Conduct for All Visitors

The Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Management Committee has approved the 'Fort Selkirk Code of Conduct for all Visitors', a sign will be installed at Fort Selkirk, for summer of 2023.

### Fort Selkirk Code of Conduct for all Visitors



Fort Selkirk is a protected cultural site. Its historic and natural elements are cherished and conserved by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon to provide a record of the Yukon's history, a space for continued traditional activities of the Selkirk First Nation and for the enjoyment of all visitors. Please respect this site and leave it as you found it.

- ▶ The Yukon's *Historic Resources Act* protects historic buildings, structures and artifacts. Do not disturb historic structures or artifacts by removing them or altering them in any way.
- ▶ Access to historic buildings is limited to self-guided visits, interpretation and pre-approved special events. Staying overnight or using stoves of any kind in historic buildings is prohibited.
- ▶ After exiting a building, close the door securely behind you.
- ▶ If an artifact appears out of place or is discovered in disturbed soil (such as the riverbank), it should be left in place and the find reported to Fort Selkirk staff.
- ▶ Fort Selkirk is a public site. Please respect other visitors and protect their experience by being courteous and quiet.
- ▶ Tour operators and other group leaders are responsible for the behaviour of their clients and staff.
- ▶ Fires are only allowed in the campground and only in approved fire pits.
- ▶ Leave no trace of your presence. Dispose of food and waste properly.
- ▶ Food and other scented items can attract bears. For the safety of all visitors, store attractants in bear proof bins.
- ▶ Fort Selkirk is remote and resources are limited. Please limit your use of firewood and garbage facilities.
- ▶ Always observe wildlife from a distance and never follow, approach or feed animals.
- ▶ Keep pets under close control at all times.
- ▶ Please refrain from consuming any drugs or alcohol while at Fort Selkirk.
- ▶ The work camp downriver of Fort Selkirk is set aside for Fort Selkirk staff. Please do not enter this area unless invited.





▲ Huchá Hudän Yelin (the Selkirk Spirit Dancers) dancing in front of Big Jonathan house at Fort Selkirk.

## PARKS DAY

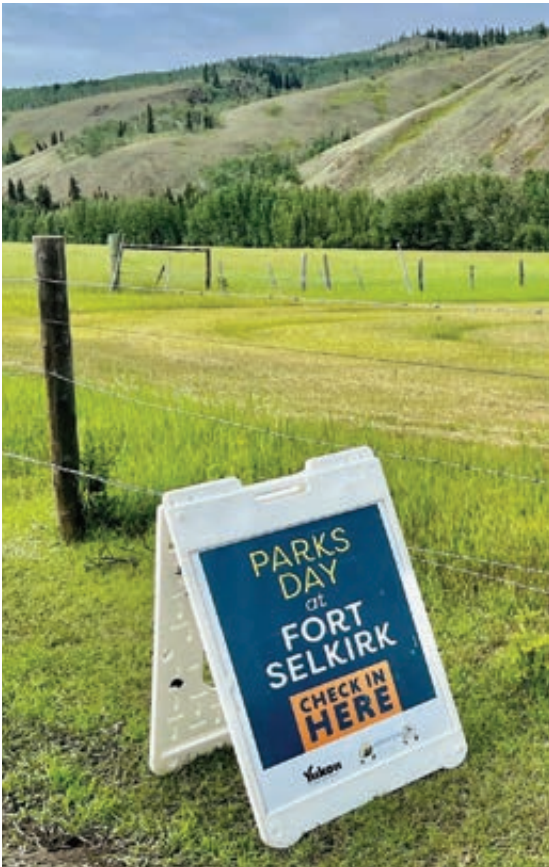
After two years on hiatus, our annual Parks Day event at Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk was back this year. On Saturday, July 16, Selkirk First Nation (SFN), and the Yukon government (YG) Historic Sites Unit welcomed visitors to the site for the day. 91 people made their way down the road from Pelly Crossing to Pelly Farm, where three boats ferried visitors back and forth to Fort Selkirk all day. Teri-Lee Isaac from Selkirk First Nation Heritage and Culture Department delivered site tours to guests, and the rain stopped just in time for Huchá Hudän Yelin (the Selkirk Spirit Dancers) to perform at Big Jonathan House.

A week before the event was scheduled to happen, we were almost certain we would need to cancel due to wildfire activity in the area. With cooler weather and lots of rain the days before the event, and long hours of firefighting and fire smarting

work by the Fort Selkirk and SFN crews as well as Wildland Fire Management, we got the go-ahead to make it happen.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the day possible at beautiful Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk. We're looking forward to next year already!





▼ Teri-Lee Isaac giving an interpretive tour to guests at Parks Day.



▲ Parks Day at Fort Selkirk was very busy. Aside from the historic site visitors, Wildland Fire crews were flying around the area keeping watch and mitigating the fire that was close by. A very special thank you to Dale Bradley of the Pelly Farm and Wildland Fire for their work in keeping Fort Selkirk safe from fires.





▲ Holy Cow! Near the Pelly Farm, a Parks Day volunteer is woken up by the sound of moos.

## Fort Selkirk Work Crew Summer 2022

**Franklin Roberts** – Site Supervisor

**Sharon Silverfox** – Cook

**Taleen Silverfox** – Cook's Helper

**Freda Alfred** – Interpreter

**Joseph Sam** – Labourer

**Justin Harper** – Labourer

**Scott Roberts** – Labourer

**Sheldon Joe** – Labourer

**Carl Blanchard** – Watchman

**William Smith** – Expeditor

**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.**



▲ Yukon Archives. July 1, 1927. Children standing on bell tower next to school waving flags. MeÂu (Basalt Bluff) in the background.

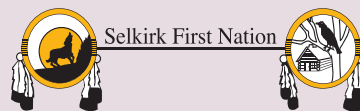
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This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.  
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**Yukon**