



December 2023

Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé Conrad Historic Site



Conrad Historic Site Tram Terminal. Archbould Photography. 2022.

One of the foundational narratives of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) people is the Game (Animal) Mother story, which illustrates C/TFN's relationship to the land and animals. It is an important contributor to understanding the traditional lifestyles and connections to the land and the water.

Game Mother Story

This is about Game (Animal) Mother and our people's story of how animals came to be. Game Mother was a woman who lived in this place that we now call the Yukon, near Lake Bennett amongst the mountains. She lived here with her husband and brothers. One spring, Game Mother was about to give birth to all of the animals. Her husband and brothers were

to go to the coast, but she didn't want to go. She was getting big and tired and stayed in a camp they made for her.

First thing you know Moose was born, but it had grizzly bear teeth. So, she called it back and took the teeth out and showed him how to eat willow. Caribou came next and she told him to lose his horns once in a while and showed him how to eat moss.

Then came Grizzly Bear with his great strength and need for sleep, then Wolf who travels alone and is a great hunter. Beaver with his beautiful coat and teeth that never stop growing. And so came all the animals which live in this place. They all came from Game Mother.

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Tsei Zhéte

Sinwaa Éex'i Yé

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

Acknowledgments:

Tséi Zhéte' / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Working Group wish to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of C/TFN businesses and citizens who have worked hard in the care and maintenance of the historic site.

- ▶ **T&C Tree Services** for brushing in preparation for Conrad Day;
- ▶ **Nyla Helm and Cheyanne Silverfox**, maintenance crew, for their continued care and upkeep at the site; and
- ▶ **Richard Atlin Jr.** for building a tent frame at the site that will be used by Elders for cultural and interpretive programming in the summer of 2024.



L-R: Richard Atlin Jr. and Stephan Biedermann. 2023

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With each one, she taught them what to eat, how to live and how to behave. And the animals all stayed around this place with Game Mother.

Game Mother, she wanted the animals to live across the land, so she told them she was going. She made a giant hammock and hung it from the four mountain tops here in this special place where all animals came to be. The hammock had four strings – one tied to each mountain - Tekade'uch, Weji'tsay, Cheli'chele and Tatlachechi (Montana, Grey, Caribou and Nares Mountains).

She invited all the animals onto the hammock, and they danced and sang to each other and had a great celebration. Game Mother had taught them all they needed to know to live. She told them it was time for them to move across the land and to look after themselves. And so, all the animals moved across this land and live amongst us now.

As told to Janet Lee by Elder Clara Schinkel
www.ctfn.ca/haa-kusteeyi/stories/



Canadian Museum of History. Spirit of the Haida Gwaii. Bill Reid with assistance of others. The sculpture in the Grand Hall is the original plaster pattern for two other renderings of this famous carving.

New highway signs for the Conrad Historic Site

Tséi Zhéte/Sinwaa Éex'i Yé/Conrad Historic Site Working Group requested highway signs to indicate and direct people to the historic site. In the fall of 2023, two signs were installed alongside the Conrad Campground highway signs.



Did you know?

Artifacts may not be removed from the land. Wherever you are in the Yukon, you are on a First Nation's traditional territory.

Yukon and First Nation governments are working to protect the ongoing story of our living heritage.

Share your find.

Learn more at yukonlivingheritage.ca



Venus Mill documentation project

Venus Mill along Windy Arm on the South Klondike Highway. Looking southwest. 2021

This summer, Historic Sites Unit staff collaborated with Carleton Immersive Media Studio (Carleton University) on the development of a historic record of the Venus Mill historic mine site. The two organizations will continue to collaborate on the creation of a digital storytelling platform to offer an accessible, linear and interactive public experience of the site.

Recording the physical characteristics of historic structures and landscapes is a cornerstone of preventive maintenance, monitoring, and conservation. The information produced by such work assists the decision-making process for property owners, site managers, public officials and conservators. Rigorous documentation may also serve a broader purpose: over time, it becomes the primary means by which scholars and the public understand a site that has since changed radically or disappeared. These records also serve as posterity and monitoring records in the event of catastrophic or gradual loss of the heritage resource.

Phase 1: A comprehensive historic record for posterity began this summer. The goal of Phase 1

is to accurately document the current state of conservation of the Venus Mill with the use of appropriate and suitable technology. This included planning and implementing recording and mapping activities to produce measured records of the standing structures, topography, and character defining elements (CDE) of the site;

- Using the data from the recording activities, the team will produce as-found measured



Adam Weigert, Arkoun Merchant and Stephanie Murray documenting the Venus Mill. Credit: Carleton Immersive Media Studio (Carleton University), 2023.



Conrad Day

August 11, 2023

The 1st annual Conrad Day was hosted by Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) and the Historic Sites Unit, Government of Yukon on Friday, August 11 at the Conrad Historic Site. The weather was beautiful and warm — so warm that kids were dunking their feet into the waters of Windy Arm! The daycare from Carcross attended, as well as C/TFN Citizens and those who were camping in the Conrad Campground, adjacent to the historic site. The big turnout was welcomed and contributed to a successful day!



The day began with a lunch of BBQ ribs and chicken wings with corn, potato, and watermelon salads.

Colleen James, C/TFN Citizen, Conrad Working Group representative, and a recent Heritage Award winner, gave a demonstration on cleaning, cutting, and hanging whitefish to smoke. This was very popular with the kids, and the adults learned a bit as well.



After lunch, those in attendance were treated to performances from the Tagish Nation dance group, who shared many songs. The audience got involved and everyone had a chance to move to the beat of the drum.

We were also fortunate to have Gary Sidney-Johnson teach the basics of Tlingit, as well as share his porcupine and beaver story with his puppets. He said Tlingit is the second most difficult language in the world to learn and I think many in attendance would agree.



The day concluded with some games for the children. Margareta Toews assisted in beading a key chain and colouring with the children, while Sheena Johns, C/TFN Heritage Manager, hosted a fishpond. All the little graduates of the Tlingit basic language lesson received a little certificate to go to the fishpond. They caught some great fish.

This successful event ensures that the vision of the Management Plan reflects the traditional and current use while sharing with all.



Ottawa, Ontario

October 2023

Colleen James, Sheena Johns and Sean McDougall from the Heritage Department of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Shannon Van Bibber from Historic Sites Unit, Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon travelled to Ottawa to attend the National Trust Conference, which also celebrated its 50th Anniversary.



Photo from L-R: Fairmont Chateau Laurier, where the National Trust Conference was held, Rideau Canal locks and the conservation work being done at the Parliament building. Photo taken by Sean McDougall across the Ottawa River from the grounds of the Canadian Museum of History.

National Trust 50th Anniversary Conference 2023 ***Transforming Heritage***

with Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP)
and Indigenous Heritage Circle (IHC)

October 26-28, 2023 | Ottawa, Ontario



National Trust
for Canada



Ottawa is on the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe People.

The annual National Trust Conference is Canada's largest heritage learning and networking event. Held every year since 1974, the National Trust Conference brings together a wide range of people working to keep Canada's heritage alive. This vibrant annual gathering features challenging and inspiring case studies and lessons from heritage practice, communities, and industry, along with productive debate and goal-setting discussions.

<https://nationaltrustcanada.ca/>

This year's themes included advancing decolonization and anti-racism, leading climate action, supporting the efforts of grassroots organizations, governments and the private sector, and addressing socio-economic challenges that are front and centre in our communities.

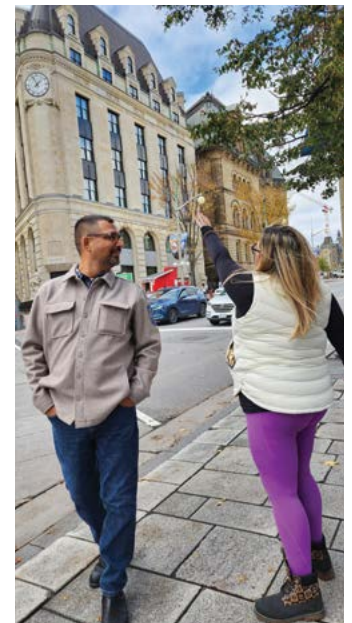


L-R: Sean McDougall, Colleen James and Sheena Johns at the Canadian Museum of History.



Day 1 in Ottawa, prior to the conference, we attended an appointment with the Canadian Museum of History collections personnel Kelly Cameron, Lauren McCoy and Katlin McCormick. We met in their curatorial building to look at Tlingit and Tagish artefacts from the Carcross area. Colleen was able to see a couple of items made by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Scotty James. She was not expecting this, and it was heartwarming to see her enthusiasm and happiness to see these items, especially the model mooseskin boat and two paddles. We also witnessed Sean's curiosity for the Tlingit five tentacle octopus bag and Sheena's awe for a doll carrier made by Mrs. Patsy Henderson and Mrs. Angela Sidney. The remainder of the day was spent visiting the museum.

www.historymuseum.ca



“ The trip to Ottawa was very powerful and informative. We were able to connect with several other Heritage experts from across Canada to share what we have been able to accomplish through our collaborative work between Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Government of Yukon for the development and implementation of the Tsei Zhéte/Sinwaa Éex’i Yé/Conrad Historic Site Management Plan.

Relationship building is very important for all interested parties regarding the stewardship and preservation of our historical sites, and I feel that this trip was very beneficial in developing and strengthening these important relationships.

Having the opportunity to see and gently handle some of the artifacts from the Carcross and Tagish areas, made by our ancestors, was both informative and inspiring. The care, and dedication to knowledge and culture was evident in these pieces of history as we continue to learn from them so that we can pass down our knowledge to the next generations.

Gunalchéesh, Sean McDougall ”



Opening welcome of the National Trust of Canada Conference in the Fairmont Chateau Laurier ballroom.

Day 2 we all attended the conference. It was day full of interesting presentations such as Challenging Existing Narratives and Conventional Heritage Practice; Cultural Landscapes, Spatial Equity and Telling a Fuller Story; and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) readiness, Implementation and Measurement in the Heritage Sector. It also included sessions with the Anishinaabe Algonquin Elders and presenters, for conversations about the challenges of Indigenous historical communities, the disregard for the Indigenous peoples homeland and the lack of engagement and communication with the Indigenous people from these communities and more.



Day 3, Colleen and Shannon, co-presented at the conference in a session of approximately 50 people on the collaborative approach that C/TFN and YG have taken with the conservation of Tséi Zhéte/Sinwaa Éex’i Yé /Conrad Historic Site.

The presentation, titled **‘Inclusive Conservation’** highlighted the successful partnership that C/TFN and YG have developed including best practices for collaboration that foster strong relations, and that respect the Carcross/Tagish First Nation

culture, heritage, experiences, and language that contribute to the social fabric of the Yukon. This is exemplified by the recent completion of the Tséi Zhéle/Sinwaa Éex'i Yé /Conrad Historic Site Management Plan (2021). They shared with others across Canada, the vision and tools to collaborate and build relationships thereby benefiting the conservation of tangible and intangible heritage.

The audience was very intrigued. There were some good questions and comments, and some expressed interest in visiting the Yukon and several wanted to know more details about the content from the presentation.

The benefits gained from attending the conference include a better understanding of Indigenous issues outside of the Yukon, a broader perspective of commemoration of Residential Schools and Cemeteries and a national context of social values of historic sites.

The National Trust Conference will be held in Montreal, QC, November 2024.

Our trip also included a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier directly across from the Chateau Laurier, and we were also witness to the Ottawa Corgis Halloween Parade.

“ **The Tséi Zhéle/Sinwaa Éex'i Yé/ Conrad Historic Site presentation was a proud Yukon moment and a milestone to share at the National Trust Conference.**

Ottawa was an emotional and spiritual trip due to its history, from feelings of loss to re-connection at the Museum, to feelings of gratitude and appreciation at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, to relationships and networks forged, amazing autumn leaves and cute parading Corgi's.

Gunalchéesh, Colleen James



Tsei Zhete

Sinwaa Eex'i Ye



Yukon Archives. Margaret and Rolf Hougen collection. At Conrad City [Six men, two women and three children on front porch of A. Chisholm Hardware. Etc.] Photographer: E.J. Hamacher. Circa 1900.

**This newsletter is provided by the Conrad Historic Site Working Group.
You can view this newsletter online at yukonheritage.com or please contact:**

Heritage, Manager

Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Box 130
Carcross, Yukon Y0B 1B0
(867) 821-4251
www.ctfn.ca

Historic Sites Planner

Government of Yukon
Box 2703 (L2)
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
(867) 393-6291
heritage.planning@yukon.ca
www.yukonheritage.com

