



▲ Anglican Rectory with re-shingled roof. 2023

Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

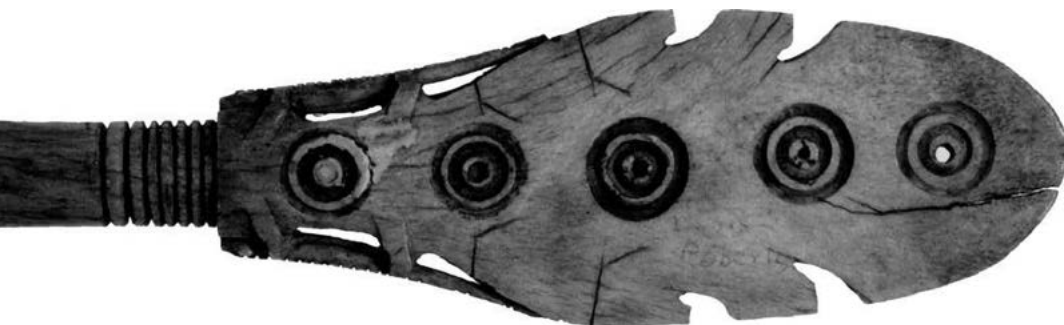
As a living cultural heritage site, Fort Selkirk is a place to share, respect and preserve for future generations.

Anglican Rectory

"It was certainly a well-established mission house when we moved here in '35. And as near as I can remember, it was Reverend Bill Valentine, and his wife were incumbents at the time, and they were great company. They had no children of their own and were here for quite a few years and we got to very friendly. We used to have parties here, mostly played cribbage or whist, or some game like that. They had a school in their front room. I don't believe in the wintertime they used the little school in front at all. They had their class in the little room as you enter this house on the left-hand side. At one time Miss Martin, who later was Mrs. Coward, she lived here and taught the school

in the front in the summertime and the wintertime I believe to save the fuel and the fire situation they taught in the little room on the left-hand side."
Excerpt from recordings with Martha Cameron at Fort Selkirk by Helen Dobrowolsky, August 2, 1984.

The Anglican Rectory was built in 1893 to house the various ministers living at Fort Selkirk. These included Thomas Henry Canham, who probably built the rectory, and Bishop Stringer. The building is constructed of squared, dovetailed logs and retains much of its original finishes and furniture.



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.

WORK CAMP MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Summer 2023 Site Work:

Anglican Rectory

This past August the Anglican Rectory was reshingled by Richardson Contracting. The highest quality Number 1 Grade Blue Label cedar shingles were used to ensure a long lifespan and reduce the amount of future roof maintenance. Some damaged roof decking and fascia boards were also replaced using in-kind rough-cut lumber to match the historic materials. All the historic chimneys were retained and caulked with clear roofing sealant to reduce the visual impact to the building. The cedar shingles have already begun to develop their natural weathered appearance which will continue to develop over the coming years.





▲ Anglican Rectory roof before.



▲ Anglican Rectory roof after.



Washhouse

Work on the new washhouse continued with the work crew focusing on the roof this season. The gable end walls were installed along with the purlins, rafters and roof decking. Roofing underlayment and galvanized roof panels will be installed next season.

YUKON YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS (Y2C2)



▲ L-R: Maddy Mead, Kalie Bennett, Daniel Phillips-Freedman & Jasper Kohut.

The Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (Y2C2) is a summer employment and training program for Yukon students that focuses on environmental education and enhancement. The Y2C2 were at Fort Selkirk in July to work on a project at the Yukon Field Force Complex. The Yukon Field Force originally built 11 log buildings in 1898/99 at Fort Selkirk, only one building remains at the complex. Well defined foundation features of the other ten buildings are still present, but stands of Aspen and Willow have overtaken them and make them difficult to see. With the foundations hidden from view, visitors are unable to explore or appreciate this part of the site's history. The updated Fort Selkirk Management Plan (2021) recommends removing vegetation from around the foundations to help preserve these features and make them accessible to visitors.

The Y2C2 team and the Fort Selkirk work crew cleared trees and brush from the Yukon Field Force building foundations. The removal of vegetation around the complex has many benefits. Removing trees will reduce the risk to damage to the foundation features by tree roots and tree-throws. Exposing the foundations will improve visitor experience by allowing guests to get a sense of scale of this historic fort and its military-style layout. By pushing back the tree-line the complex's last remaining building will be better protected from the risk of forest fires. It also opens the area making it easier to spot bears or other wildlife, reducing the risk of human/wildlife conflicts thereby increasing visitor and staff safety. Thank you to the Y2C2 crew for their hard work and assistance on this project.

Selkirk First Nation Cemetery Mapping

- ▶ The First Nation Cemetery was mapped with a drone this summer to create an aerial map. The aerial map will be used by Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and Yukon government (YG), as part of an ongoing effort to improve the records of the cemetery graves.

Riverbank Erosion Monitoring

- ▶ Erosion monitoring of the Fort Selkirk riverbank continued this season. Ground measurements were taken at 16 fixed locations between the Coward Machine Shop and the Anglican Church. Results indicate that minor erosion continues to occur along this section of the riverbank, with the highest amount of erosion continuing to occur in front of the schoolhouse.
- ▶ In August, aerial drone mapping of the riverbank was also conducted. The August drone mapping was compared to drone mapping taken in June 2021. Comparison between the two years shows that in some areas of the riverbank, clusters of bushes and saplings that were observed along the riverbank in 2021 are no longer present. The removal of this vegetation is likely the result of river ice scouring the bank during the spring break-up of 2021 or 2022.

Summer 2023 – Site Crew:

Project Manager:
Franklin Roberts

Watchman:
Norman Silas

Expeditor:
William Smith

Cooks:
Keisha Baker
Magdaline Silverfox

Labourers:
Shawn Alfred
Dion Edwards
Sheldon Joe
Brian Tisiga

Interpreters:
Freda Alfred
Kim Sheldon

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



PARKS DAY

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Every year on Parks Day, Selkirk First Nation and Yukon government's Historic Sites Unit work together to bring visitors to Huchá Hudän/ Fort Selkirk by providing free boat transportation from Pelly Farm to the site. This year we welcomed almost 100 visitors on a hot sunny day.

Some people were visiting Fort Selkirk for the first time, and others were returning to a place that's been special to them for a long time.

Thank you to our team of volunteers and staff for helping out throughout the day. It was a great team of people who worked hard to share this special place with all who visited.

- ▶ Teri-Lee Isaac, Heritage Manager, Selkirk First Nation and Chelsea Jeffery, Interpretive Planner, Government of Yukon led the planning, logistics and welcomed visitors,
- ▶ Freda Alfred, Interpreter at Fort Selkirk, provided walking tours of the site to captivated audiences,
- ▶ Franklin Roberts, William Smith, and Dale Bradley captained three boats as they ferried people to and from the site,
- ▶ Greg Fortune, Historic Sites Researcher and MaryRose Metcalfe, Administrative Assistant, Historic Sites, Government of Yukon and Morgen Smith and Red Grossinger of the Yukon Heritage Resources Board, welcomed visitors and assisted embarking and disembarking of the boats and;
- ▶ Bess McCarville, volunteer and photographer.

Come join us next year! **Save the date July 20, 2024**

For early registration call Chelsea Jeffery at (867) 332-3862 or email: heritage.planning@yukon.ca



“ Thanks again to everyone involved in hosting. Freda gave us a great on-site tour with stories about the buildings and the First Nation and non-First Nation people who lived in them and the interesting history of the site. It was a beautiful day for a boat ride and a rare chance to enjoy Huchá Hudän/Fort Selkirk. Thanks again!”

Parks Day participant



2023 FORT SELKIRK VISITATION

	Canada	USA	Europe	Asia	Monthly Totals
June	11	9	22	3	45
July	89	3	92	3	187
August	63	23	90	6	182
September	4	0	1	0	5
Region Totals	167	35	205	12	
Grand Total					419

A visitor from the UK wrote in the visitor log book that they were the great-great grandson of Robert Campbell.

“Timeless beauty and magnificent company. Thanks to all who take such excellent care here!”
– Phoenix, Arizona

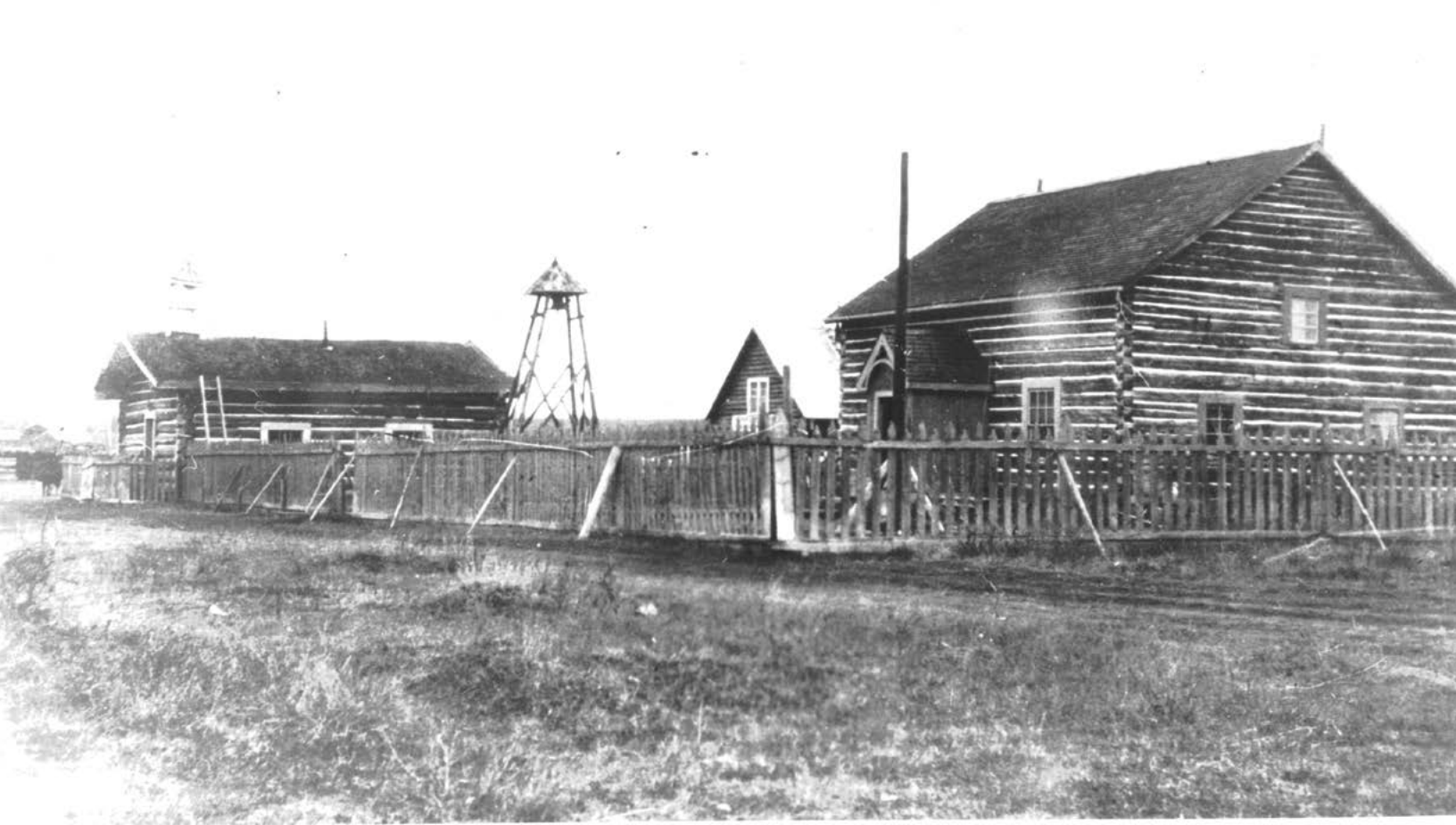
“Thank you for sharing this special place.”
– Toronto, Ontario

“We will carry the stories of this unique place in our hearts and share it back home. Massi Cho!”
– Sherbrook, Québec

“A great adventure! 5-Star Outhouse 😊”
– Aargau, Switzerland

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. Diocese of Yukon. L-R: Anglican School/Mission, T&D Store, Mission House. Fort Selkirk. 1887-1900's

All photos © Government of Yukon except where indicated.

View this newsletter online at yukonheritage.com

This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.
For more information, please contact:

Teri-Lee Isaac
Manager, Heritage
Selkirk First Nation
(867) 537-3331
Isaact@selkirkfn.com

Historic Sites Planner
Government of Yukon
(867) 393-6291
heritage.planning@yukon.ca
yukonheritage.com

