

August 2020



## What is happening at Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

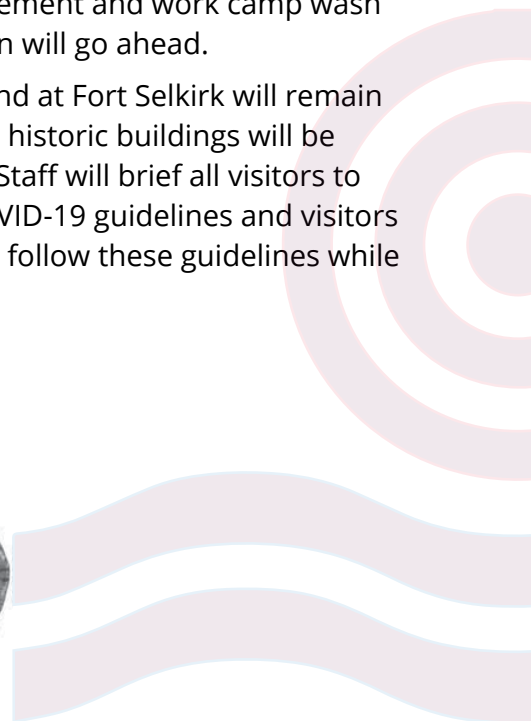
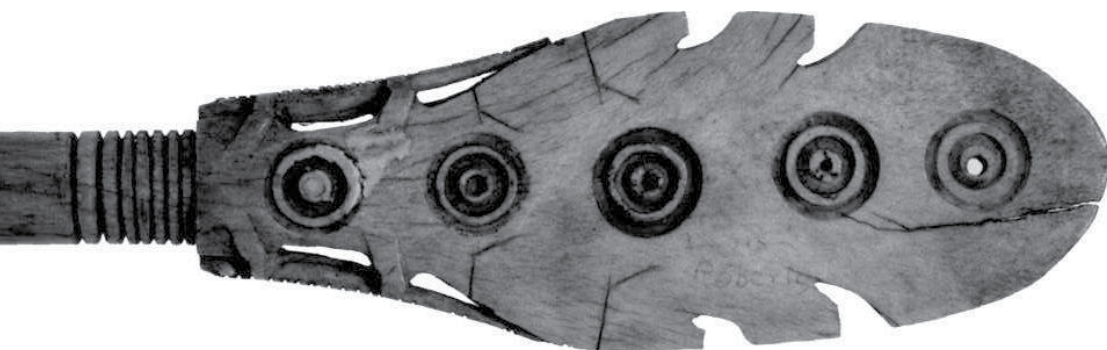
### CHANGES AT FORT SELKIRK DUE TO COVID-19

To help protect the health of visitors, staff and the community, all activities at Fort Selkirk must meet Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and Selkirk First Nation's directives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee recommended temporarily reducing the number of staff on site to keep group numbers under ten individuals and ensure social distancing measures could be maintained. Fort Selkirk staff will continue to maintain the work camp, campground, and historic site.

Large scale restoration projects and the log conservation training will be put on hold this season. Critical projects such as the Stone House roof replacement and work camp wash house construction will go ahead.

The YG campground at Fort Selkirk will remain open, however, all historic buildings will be closed to visitors. Staff will brief all visitors to Fort Selkirk on COVID-19 guidelines and visitors will be required to follow these guidelines while on site.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

At the time of printing, restrictions on public gatherings remain in place to protect Yukoners from the threat posed by COVID-19.

There will be no special events held at Fort Selkirk this summer.

- July 18, 2020 Parks Day – cancelled
- Selkirk First Nation Culture Days – cancelled

Please check for updates on Yukon.ca or contact the Yukon Historic Sites office at 867-667-5386 or toll free in Yukon: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5386, or email [heritage.planning@gov.yk.ca](mailto:heritage.planning@gov.yk.ca)

## LOG BUILDING CONSERVATION TRAINING

The log conservation training planned for July will not be offered this year due to restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Introductory and advanced versions of the workshop are anticipated to be offered next summer if health and travel restrictions allow. The advanced workshops provide instruction on other aspects of building conservation such as: bracing and lifting, crown end repairs, chinking and daubing, the re-facing of logs, among other techniques and methods.

Various basic elements of working with logs and hand tools will be covered including:

- identifying tool marks and the importance of their replication;
- log construction techniques and styles;
- basic types and variety of hand tools used to shape logs;
- selection, peeling, layout and storage of logs; and
- basic notches and splices.

Most of this instruction is hands-on under the direction of Peter Caron, a craftsman with extensive experience in the conservation of log buildings, with additional support from Historic Sites staff.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

An archaeological assessment of the Fort Selkirk work camp was conducted June 24 to 27, 2020. The assessment was undertaken to ensure that no archaeological resources would be impacted by the construction of a septic field for the proposed work camp wash house. Areas tested included the footprint for the septic field as well as future locations for buried water and electrical lines.

Preliminary results show that none of the areas tested contained any archaeological or historic artefacts. Don and Audrey Trudeau assisted with the archaeological assessment. Audrey, a Selkirk First Nation citizen, shared her memories of the work camp area from before it became the work camp. Her knowledge of the area helped to explain why no artefacts were found in this area of Fort Selkirk.



*Archaeology dig*

## CONSTRUCTION OF SEPTIC FIELD AND WASH HOUSE

The development of the new wash house continues to move forward this year. The septic system has been designed to work with the soil conditions at Fort Selkirk and to meet all environmental guidelines. Once a permit for the septic system is approved, ground work for the septic system can begin. Excavation of the septic field is planned for early August.

## ARTEFACT COLLECTION

This summer YG and SFN staff will begin a new project to catalogue artefacts at Fort Selkirk. Artefacts in all the historic buildings will be documented and catalogued. Staff will also be looking at ways to improve how interpretive artefacts are displayed in the Stone House and how they are stored in the Stone Shed.

This project will help us better understand what artefacts are on site, what condition they are in, and ensure they are stored in a manner that preserves them for future generations.

## STONE HOUSE ROOF

Repairs to the Stone House roof will be completed this summer. The Stone House is one of a few buildings at Fort Selkirk with a unique pattern of red and green hexagonal shingles. Because these shingles have not been manufactured since the 1960s, the Fort Selkirk staff have always made replacement shingles by hand from red and green rolled roofing.

Recently, major manufacturers stopped producing rolled roofing in these colours, so a company in California was retained to produce a special run of red and green rolled roofing for this project. New shingles will be cut from these rolls and installed on the Stone House later this summer.



*Building interior*



*Various artefacts*



*Stone House roof repairs*

*Fish drying on rack in front of Big Jonathan House at Fort Selkirk.*  
Photo credit: YA. Martha Silas fonds. Pho 340. 87/39 #8. L-R: Mary Luke,  
Susie Jonathan, Jonathan Campbell and Sam Isaac.



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This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.  
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