



December 2025

Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé Conrad Historic Site



Drone photo of Windy Arm looking north, Conrad Historic Site on the left and the view to Lime Mountain on the right. September 2024.

Land-Use Research

An analysis of past uses of Tséi Zhéte/ Sinwaa Éex'i Yé/Conrad Historic Site informs the planning process, since there are many periods of significance associated with the historic site.

Information about the site is found in archives, in books and in stories and memories of the Carcross/Tagish people and others who are familiar with the historic site.

In-depth historic and archival research was conducted to understand the use of the site during its time as a town. Similarly, a traditional knowledge project was conducted by C/TFN in 1993 to better understand how the Carcross/Tagish people have experienced the site through generations.

Excerpt from the Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Management Plan. p. 16. July 20, 2022

Tsei Zhéte

Sinwaa Éex'i Yé

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

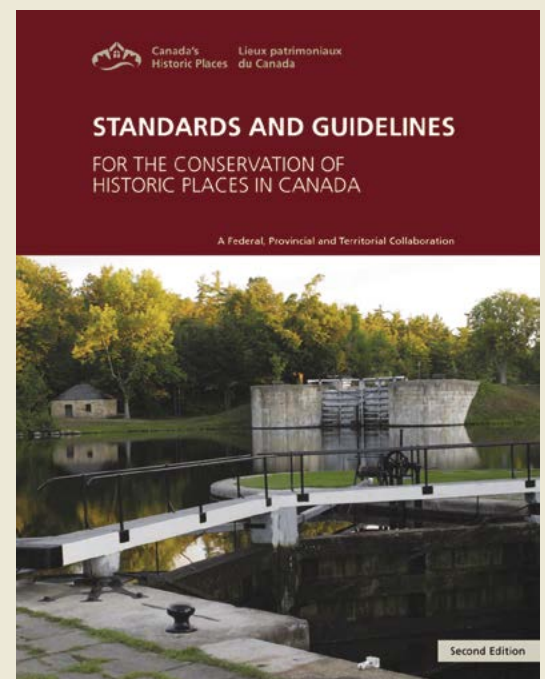
Cabin 1 Conservation Work



The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (Second Edition, 2011) is a set of conservation principles and guidelines that are best practices in protecting Canada's historic places. www.historicplaces.ca

Conservation activities can be seen as a sequence of actions — understanding, planning and intervening. These are described below and can be seen in action through an ongoing conservation project at Cabin 1 in the Conrad Historic Site.

Understanding a historic place is an essential first step to good conservation practice. This is normally achieved through research and investigation. It is



important to know where the heritage value of the historic place lies (its character-defining elements), along with its condition, evolution over time, and past and current importance to the community.

Planning is the mechanism that links a comprehensive understanding of a historic place with interventions that respect its heritage value. Planning should consider all factors affecting the future of a historic place, including the needs of the owners and users, community interests, the potential for environmental impacts, available resources and external constraints.

Intervening on a historic place, is any action or process that results in a physical change to an

element of a historic place. They include the range of activities from routine preservation and maintenance, through more involved rehabilitation or restoration projects. Interventions must respect and protect the heritage value of the place.

The buildings in the Conrad Historic Site are in their original locations and have a high level of authenticity despite their condition. The *Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Management Plan*, 2022 addresses how to conserve these structures for compatible use as part of the interpretation strategy for the historic site.



Cabin 1, northeast corner, square lapped corner, see 'Log Building Corners' poster on page 4.

Cabin 1:

The key recommendation from the Conrad Management Plan is to rehabilitate Cabin 1 for reuse as an interpretive centre.

A few interesting qualities of Cabin 1 include:

1. Unknown Origins:

The exact construction date and original builder remain unknown. Despite extensive research and the review of many historic photographs, only a single small, blurry image of the structure has been found. Because of this, all restoration decisions had to be based solely by analysing the physical remnants of the building.

2. Unconventional Construction Method:

Unlike traditional log cabins where corner logs are notched and overlapped, this building features vertical 2x6 boards nailed to 2x8 lumber to form the corners. Logs were then stacked between the corners and secured with spikes to form the walls. This technique, known as Yukon Corners, likely allowed for faster construction by a builder with a less specialized skill set.



See 'Log building corners' at yukon.ca/en/exploring-yukon-history





Cabin 1. Axe - hewing techniques on three logs.

3. Hewing Marks:

The logs in Cabin 1 have different types of tool marks leftover from when the logs were shaped or cut by builders. Carefully examining these marks can help identify the type of tool that was used, show the skill of the craftsman, or highlight differences in building techniques.

One example of this is the variety of 'axe-hewing marks' on the logs. These marks are made when a log is chopped, usually with a specialized hewing axe, in order to shape it. The top log in the photo above has almost perpendicular marks, which implies that some other non-specialized type of axe was used. The two bottom logs have smooth, even hewing marks, and some are angled to the left. This suggests the work of a skilled craftsman using a good hewing axe. They may have even been left handed, or were chopping the log from above to produce the left angled marks.

The differences in axe-hewing marks might suggest that Cabin 1 was built by a group of builders with different skill levels. However the varied tool marks and 'Yukon corners' may also indicate that some of the logs had been used in other buildings and then reused in Cabin 1. Ultimately the lack of archival images means that determining the exact history of the cabin is difficult.

Rehabilitation Work:

Rehabilitation work on Cabin 1 is being carried out in accordance with the Conrad Historic Site Management and Interpretation Plan and the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (Second Edition)*. The Historic Sites Unit, Government of Yukon is committed to preserving as much of the original building's material as possible.



During the initial assessment, it was found that most of the bottom three logs and the top logs on all four walls were deteriorated and had to be replaced. The unusual sequence and proportions of the overlapped corners (see poster on page 4, square, lapped) on the sill logs were replicated on the replacement logs using a hewing axe.

6" x 6" timber 'strong backs' have been installed to stabilize and straighten the walls during lifting, log replacement, and realignment of the structure to a more level and square position. The strong backs are mounted on either side of the walls and connected with threaded rods, nuts, and washers so they can be removed once repairs are complete. The angle irons will be left in place to provide stability but will be concealed with wood trim to maintain the cabin's historic appearance.

Moving forward with this project, the cabin will be lifted and moved, as it is, onto an adjacent

gravel pad. The location it is on now will be filled with gravel to match the access road height. The cabin will then be moved back to its original footprint.

Next, restoration work will begin at the top of the walls. The top two logs will be replaced due to decay accumulated over more than 100 years. Notably, the top logs has a left-hand twist, meaning the grain structure of the log can cause twisting which was a poor choice initially because left-twisting logs are prone to splitting, warping, and bowing over time.

A floating floor will be installed to replicate the original construction typical at the time. The roof will be reconstructed as there is just enough evidence remaining from the original roof structure to calculate the original rafter angle and height of the roof peak, which should allow for an accurate reconstruction of the roof.

August 7, 2025 – Conrad Day



L-R: Felishia Johnson, Telene and Kyler Baker, and Colleen James

Conrad Day was hosted by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Conrad Working Group on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at the Conrad Historic Site. The weather was beautiful and warm, creating the perfect setting for a day of celebration and community connection.

An amazing lunch was prepared by Gorgia Morris, the Tagish Nation Dancers filled the afternoon with songs and dances, encouraging everyone to join in and celebrate together.

Colleen James, C/TFN Citizen and Conrad Working Group representative, shared a quick and informative fish filleting demonstration and Deborah Baerg led Tlingit bingo. This continued and successful annual event helps ensure that the vision of the Historic Site Management Plan reflects both the traditional and current use of the area, while sharing its rich history and culture with all who attend.

Conrad Day continued...



↑ Gorgia Morris



↑ Darla Jean Lindstrom, Deputy Kaa Shaadé Hení, C/TFN



↑ L-R: Colleen James, Sheena Johns and John Streicker, then Minister of Tourism and Culture, YG



↑ L-R: Carol Duquette and Geraldine James



↑ Colleen James hanging fish



↑ Tagish Nation Dancers



↑ L-R: Laurence Patterson-Smith and Kevin Bayne



↑ Josie and Kevin Bayne



↑ L-R: Carol Duquette, Dawn Alesna, and children



Yukon Youth Conservation Corps (Y2C2)

On July 2nd, 2025, a dedicated group of fourteen Y2C2 students and crew leaders came together to learn more about the area where they would be working. The students were working on trail improvement projects. Special thanks to Derek Crowe, leader and trainer of the Trail Blazers program, for reaching out to the Historic Sites Unit to ensure the Y2C2 crew understood whose Traditional Territory they would be working on and why it matters.

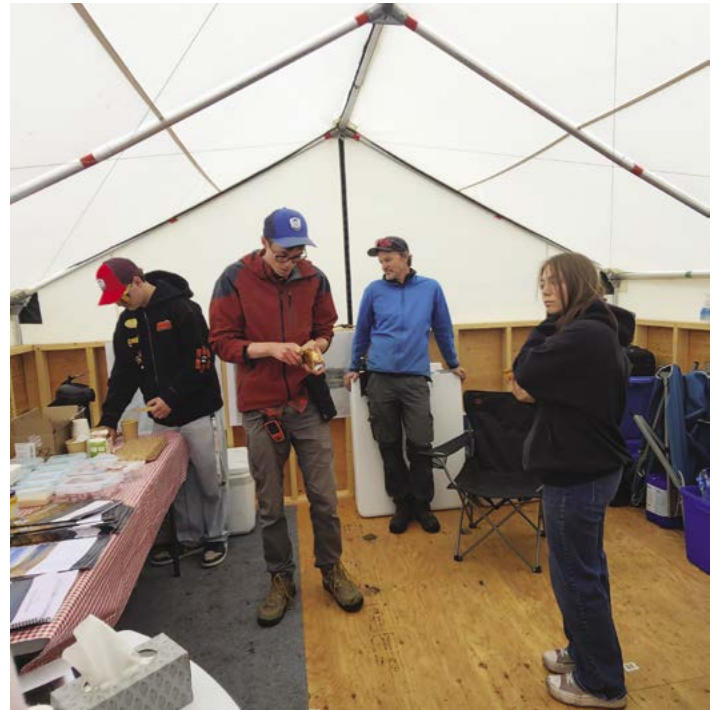
Derek works closely alongside Shane Wally and Vince James, both Carcross/Tagish First Nation Land Stewards who bring invaluable Traditional Knowledge of C/TFN trails and mining to the interpretive perspective.

Conrad interpreters, Christle Moulton and Bessie Jim also shared stories, bannock, tea, and coffee, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Christle and Bessie shared powerful stories about the land and water, emphasizing the deep cultural and spiritual importance of caring for the landscape. Their stories helped connect the trail-building students to the history and stewardship values of the region in a meaningful and memorable way.

By showcasing the Conrad Historic Site and sharing its stories with the students working on trail building, the experience became more than just physical work — it became a lesson in connection. Through cultural teachings,

students gained a deeper appreciation for the land, its people, and the shared responsibility to protect and honour this heritage for generations to come.

For more information about the Y2C2:
[yukon.ca/en/employment/find-government-job/
apply-summer-job-conservation-y2c2](http://yukon.ca/en/employment/find-government-job/apply-summer-job-conservation-y2c2)



L-R: Shane Wally and Vince James, talking with Y2C2 students.



L-R: Mierl Richard, Bessie Jim and Christle Moulton, Conrad Historic Site Interpreters. July 2025.



Conrad Campfire Talks

The Conrad Interpreters met over the spring and planned the schedule for hosting Campfire Talks at the site. The dates were advertised in *What's Up Yukon* and with posters. Interpreter Christle Moulton and Conrad Working Group Representative Colleen James also promoted the talks in an excellent interview with CBC Yukon's Elyn Jones on June 26, 2025. Visitors were greeted with tea and bannock, while they learned about the history of the area including traditional place names and stories.



2025 Conrad Historic Site Campfire visitor stats:

	# of visitors
Jun. 28	60
Jul. 2	20
Jul. 10	8
Jul. 26	13
Aug. 13	14
Aug. 30	30
Sept. 6	30
Sept. 19	100

When Conrad Interpreters were speaking with visitors about their experience at Conrad Campfire Talks, they had positive things to say: they appreciated learning about the layered history of the site, specifically about co-management, the First Nation stories and about C/TFNs clan system, while taking in the beautiful weather and views. Visitors had meaningful experiences, and they were grateful for the opportunity to listen and learn.

“ Congratulations to Christle, Bessie and Mierl for an incredibly successful season of Campfire Talks. C/TFN is proud to see our Citizens taking the initiative to share our rich history and culture with visitors to the area. I look forward to seeing Campfire Talks continue and grow. ”

Sheena Johns, A/Director, C/TFN Heritage.



L-R: Jayden Johns, Kadin Johns, Damian Lee and Lucien Richard.



Some of the Yukon First Nations Studies class from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary School.

September 19, 2025 - **Conrad Historic Site Campfire Talk and Culture Days**

The final Campfire Talk of the season, held in conjunction with Culture Days, drew an enthusiastic crowd of 100 attendees to the historic site. The guests included students from the Grade 7/8 and 9 classes at Ghùch Tlâ Community School in Carcross, along with the Grade 11/12 Yukon First Nations Studies class from St. Francis Assisi Catholic Secondary in Whitehorse, as well as visitors from Whitehorse, Carcross and Skagway. Together, they celebrated a vibrant day filled with art, culture and heritage, creating a meaningful community experience.



L-R: Cathy Hines and Lianne Maitland from Yukon Historical & Museums Association (YHMA) and C/TFN Elder Bessie Jim pushing the rain away.

Christle Moulton and Bessie Jim, Conrad Historic Site Interpreters, shared stories and expertly interpreted the history and cultural significance of the site through the lens of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation people.

Shane Wally and Vince James, also participated in sharing their knowledge of mining, trail building, and the deep-rooted traditional values that showcase the vital connection between the land and its people. They highlighted the ongoing responsibility to protect and honour this heritage for future generations as they guided visitors around the historic site and along the Déi Łèikú (Butterfly Trail), which connects to the Conrad Campground.





L-R: C/TFN Elders Charlie James, Elizabeth Baker, Geraldine James



Christle Moulton, Conrad Interpreter



C/TFN Elder Bessie Jim, Conrad Interpreter



L-R: Shyanna Lord is with while Elizabeth Baker, who led the beading table, where visitors could pick up a beading kit, and sit alongside others to learn a simple beading technique to make a key ring.



Jedi and owner, Sherry, from Skagway, Alaska



Leslie Cawley demonstrated soapberry ice cream. Leslie picked soapberries prior to coming out to Conrad, where she showed all how to whip the soapberries into a very fluffy and perfectly sweet ice cream for all to share.



Lesley waiting patiently to demonstrate the soapberry ice cream, beside the warm wood stove and Charlie's stew.



Donna Cindrich demonstrating bannock making over the campfire.



Josslyn James, C/TFN Citizen, showcased her artistic talent by using acrylics to capture the view from the Conrad Historic Site across Windy Arm to the mountains. This painting will be installed into the Conrad Interpretive Centre once the centre is completed.



It was a fun and educational day, and it seems the students truly enjoyed the experience.

A very special thank you to Sheena Johns, A/Director of Heritage, Carcross/Tagish First Nation; Shannon Van Bibber, Historic Sites Planner, Chelsea Jeffery, Interpretive Planner, and Mark Young, Historic Sites Inventory Technician from Government of Yukon for assisting in many ways to host this amazing event.

Culture Days is a national celebration of arts and culture. In September, each year, millions of people attend thousands of free participatory arts and culture events across the country both in-person and online.

Culture Days programs invite the public to get hands-on and behind-the-scenes to highlight the importance of arts and culture in our communities.

<https://culturedays.ca>



Tséi Zhéle / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Working Group

The Conrad Historic Site Working Group guides the implementation of the Vision and Goals outlined in the Tséi Zhéle / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Management and Interpretation Plan to ensure that they are carried out in a manner that is fair and equal to both governments to preserve the traditional, cultural, natural and historic values of the historic site.

Colleen James, C/TFN

Frank James, C/TFN

Sheena Johns, C/TFN

Rebecca Jansen, YG

Ty Heffner, YG

Lee Whalen, YG

Acknowledgements:

Tséi Zhéle / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Working Group wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of C/TFN Citizens and businesses who have worked to care for this historic site and ensure the safety of all that work at and visit it.

T & C Professional Tree Services for continuing to work on maintaining the trees and brush within the historic site — particularly around Cabin 1 and along the walking trails — to ensure the safety of all that work and visit it.

Conrad Maintenance Crew

Nila Helm and Cheyenne Silverfox continue to provide consistent and reliable upkeep at the historic site to ensure the site remains safe and welcoming. Their hard work and ongoing presence are greatly appreciated.



Nila and Cheyenne at the Conrad Historic Site. July 2025.

Tsei Zhete

Sinwaa Eex'i Ye



Yukon Archives. PHO 579 2002/118 #331 Watson's Hotel at Conrad City [Nine men, three children and a dog posed on front porch] [Inscribed] E.J. Hamacher photo. - Photographer: E.J. Hamacher photo.

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

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