

Conrad Historic Site Heritage Management Plan Newsletter March 2017

Throughout the fall and winter of 2016-17, work has continued on the Conrad Historic Site Management Plan. In August 2017, the Denise Cook consultant team met with the Conrad Steering Committee at the heritage site to discuss next steps. The consultant team then documented and photographed the site features.

Two public workshops were held in January 2017 to present the draft site development plan and discuss progress on the Heritage Management Plan. The first workshop was held in Carcross at the Community Hall on Wednesday, January 18, and the second at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre on Thursday, January 19. Both workshops were well-attended; attendees included students from the Yukon College Natural Resources Management program, members of the public and members of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. The consultant team provided a presentation and recorded comments and the Conrad Steering Committee were also in attendance at both workshops to answer questions and encourage people to provide comments.

Overall comments from both workshops indicated a high level of support for the goal of protecting the historic and natural resources and values of the Conrad Historic Site, and a high level of support to implement measures to achieve that protection. As such, proposed interventions such as restricting vehicle access into the site, including restricting trailered-boat launching from the cove area, and making the site more accessible were well-supported. This support came from casual users as well as from long-term repeat users of the site.

There was support for the preservation and possible re-use of the historic structures, as well continued traditional First Nations use and recreational use and activities on the site.

The intent of maintaining the existing camping locations, with some upgrades, was also well-supported, with the understanding that establishing tent locations, provision of fire wood, and installation of toilet facilities would reduce damage to the site and its natural and cultural elements. In this regard, the restriction of vehicles was seen as a logical management tool.

With regard to the structures, most respondents liked the goals of stabilizing the existing buildings and tram towers and making them more accessible, along with interpretation of the history of Conrad and associated mining activities, First Nations presence and traditional use of the area.

Over the next three months, development of the plan will continue, including detailed site development and visitor use, with guidance from the Steering Committee and consideration of the public's comments. Highlights of this work include the evolution of heritage conservation strategies, interpretation and preliminary recommendations for site marketing. The submission of the final Conrad Heritage Management Plan is anticipated for June 2017.

Timeline:

- 3rd Open houses in Carcross and Whitehorse to comment on the FINAL Draft Heritage Management Plan June, 2017
- Final Heritage Management Plan approval (YG and CTFN) July/August, 2017
- Signing Ceremony of Final Management Plan at Conrad Historic Site August/early Sept, 2017