



June 2021



What is happening at Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

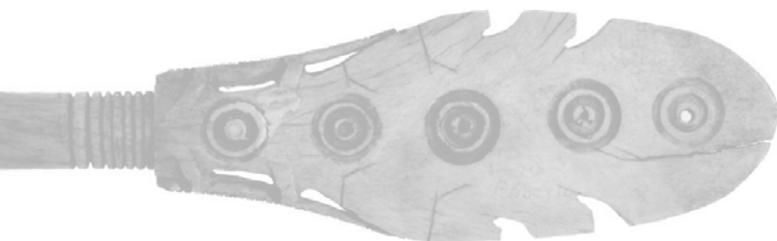
COVID-19 UPDATE

Fort Selkirk is open to visitors. We recognize that people are eager to get out and explore the Yukon but we ask that the visitors respect the wishes of Yukon communities and adhere to the guidelines described below when visiting our historic sites. All orders and recommendations issued by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health apply in Yukon Historic Sites, including:

- Organized gatherings are limited to 20 people indoors and 100 people can gather outdoors, with physical distancing.
- All visitors must wear masks in indoor public spaces or when social distancing is not possible;
- Only camp with members of your social bubble – maximum 1 bubble per campsite;
- Follow all park and campground rules and practice the Safe 6 +1
- Maintain a 2-metre distance from those not in your own household;
- Clean your picnic table before and after you use; and
- Self-isolate for 14 days, if necessary, prior to visiting a Historic Site

Please Note

- No one is permitted to self-isolate at the Fort Selkirk Historic Site.
- Non-residents who are required by law to travel through Yukon within 24 hours cannot stay or stop at Historic Sites.



THE FORT SELKIRK WORK SEASON WILL START ON MAY 31, 2021

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee recommended regular staff onsite for 2021 to continue the conservation and maintenance of the site. Projects include completion of the Stone House roof replacement and the work camp wash house.

Interpreters will also be hired to welcome visitors to the site. Fort Selkirk staff will continue to meet Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and Selkirk First Nation's directives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to monitor the situation, and may have to respond to changes on short notice. Public patience and cooperation is appreciated.

The site will be fully open. Staff will continue to brief all visitors to Fort Selkirk on COVID-19 guidelines and all visitors will be required to follow these guidelines while on site.

SUMMER 2021 SITE WORK CAMP MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

Wash house

A new wash house is being constructed to support Fort Selkirk staff.

Each washroom will have a toilet, shower and sink. The new wash house will be a great improvement to the work and camp life of seasonal staff.

Power Generation

The work camp's existing diesel generator is due to be replaced this season. We will be looking at the camp's present and future power requirements to determine what size generator to select as a replacement. In addition, we will

be exploring how we can use more renewable energy sources at Fort Selkirk.

The Government of Yukon developed 'Our Clean Future' in partnership with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups and Yukon municipalities over the course of three years. Funding available through this program will be used to conduct a renewable energy assessment of Fort Selkirk. The assessment will look at our existing solar power generation, explore what other types of renewable energy can be used, and which types of renewables are the best fit for the work camp. This assessment will help us plan for future renewable energy infrastructure at Fort Selkirk and help reduce the need for diesel power.

RESTORATION AND REPAIRS

Each season Fort Selkirk's historic buildings are assessed to determine which require repairs or stabilization. This assessment helps to determine what work will be undertaken during the work season.

Assessment of the Catholic Church showed that the building is in need of stabilization. Stabilization of the walls using bracing and cables will help hold the walls together until the church can be repaired.

Pending results of an archaeological assessment, restoration work is scheduled to begin on the Coward Garage, which is currently being stabilized with cribbing, framing and cables. Many of the logs needed for repairs were cut and brought in to the site and stored near the garage last season. This first phase of restoration work will focus on repairing the building's foundation, which will require excavating around the base of the building. Before work begins, an archaeological assessment will be conducted to determine if there are any archaeological resources present, and if so, how to best mitigate any potential disturbance.

Work on the Stone House roof will continue this year, with the goal of completing the shingling before the end of the work season. The custom-made hexagonal shingles needed to reroof the building were delivered to the site last season, so only a small amount of building materials need to be brought in to Fort Selkirk before work can begin. Over the winter, additional scaffolding was also purchased to assist with this project.



*Parks Canada. Waterways Survey. 1973
[St. Frances Xavier Roman Catholic Church built in 1898].*



Coward Garage. 2005

EROSION MONITORING

With the high river levels last fall and the higher than average snow pack this winter, we will be paying close attention to the Fort Selkirk riverbank this spring. Erosion monitoring last season did not detect any significant erosion, despite the high river levels.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks Day

The annual Parks Day event will be in July 17 2021, provided there are no COVID-19 restrictions. All recommended COVID-19 protocols will be in effect to ensure a safe event. We will continue to monitor the situation and may have to respond to changes on short notice.

For more information on this event and to register, please contact Mary Simon at maria.simon@yukon.ca or phone (867) 667-5386.

2021 FORT SELKIRK HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN SIGNING CEREMONY

The updated Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan has been approved by Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon.

A signing ceremony is planned on Parks Day, July 17, 2021.

The updated Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan ensures the protection, conservation and interpretation of the heritage values of Fort Selkirk, and recognizes and protects the traditional contemporary use of the area by Selkirk First Nation Citizens and other Yukon residents.

For more information on this event and to register for the signing ceremony, please contact Teri-Lee Isaac at isaact@selkirkfn.com or phone (867) 537-3331 ext 606.



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This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.
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