

What's Happening at Robinson Roadhouse?

June 2020



Building Conservation Activities

Past Activities

The Roadhouse is composed of three structurally and aesthetically distinct sections, each of which require different techniques to ensure their conservation. The section of the building currently under construction has been moved away from the rest of the building to allow space for work to be completed. To date, this has involved filling in the cellar, moving it, and straightening, leveling and raising it to a height where work can proceed. Several logs were also partially hewn in preparation for the replacement of deteriorated logs.

Construction fencing was installed around two areas of the site to protect the public from both work and storage areas. These spaces will be expanded and contracted as the work progresses. We ask the public to stay out of these areas and a safe distance away from any work that is underway.

Current Plans

This year we are currently planning to continue preparing further logs for anticipated requirements and to begin the replacement of deteriorated logs. How and when this work can be safely undertaken has not been determined and is dependent on the recommendations and requirements imposed by Yukon's Chief Medical Office of Health and any other regulations related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Future Activities

Over the next five years work is planned to be completed on the two storey part of the building currently being worked on. This section will remain separated while conservation work is undertaken on the rest of the building. This will likely involve the dismantling and re-erection of the one storey part of the building with new logs, followed by the replacement and leveling of the other two storey section. When this work is complete the three parts will be reassembled back into a single building.





A separated section in the process of being leveled, straightened and raised to a convenient working height.

Historic Places Day 2019: Every Place, a Story

Historic Sites, Yukon government and the Yukon Heritage Resources Board celebrated Canada Historic Places Day at Robinson Roadhouse on July 6, 2019. This was the second annual celebration at Robinson, and over 85 people visited the site during the 3-hour event and enjoyed a free barbeque and cake. Many took part in a variety of family-friendly games inspired by picnic games enjoyed at Robinson Roadhouse by the Bartender's Union in the 1950s. Approximately 35 people participated in a site tour led by Historic Sites staff.

Canada Historic Places Day is a celebration of heritage sites across the country. Coordinated by the National Trust for Canada, the event encourages sites to open to the public and offer an experience

that celebrates Canada's history and culture. Thank you to everyone who came out and helped us celebrate 2019 Canada Historic Places Day at Robinson Roadhouse.

Special Events

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

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



Students take measurements of buildings at Robinson Roadhouse during the 2019 Yukon College Heritage and Culture Field School.

Log Building Conservation Workshops

A log conservation workshop was held at the Robinson Roadhouse site in 2019. Various basic elements of working with logs and hand tools were 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.

If we are unable to offer the Log Building Conservation Course this summer, introductory and advanced iterations of the workshop are anticipated to be offered next summer when health and travel restrictions allow.

More advanced offerings will utilize opportunities presented by this site to 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.

Yukon College, Heritage and Culture Field School

Each year, Historic Sites unit staff lead a 3-day course on historic site documentation at Robinson Roadhouse as part of the Yukon University Heritage and Culture Field School. The four-week experiential field school is designed to introduce students to practical heritage and culture management skills including issues relating to archaeology, conservation, archives, oral history, collections and historic sites research and documentation. Robinson Roadhouse provides an exceptional opportunity for students to learn about the history of the site and to gain practical experience creating measured drawings and documenting the construction style and condition of the site and buildings.



2019 Log Conservation Course at Robinson.



Paul Cyr at Robinson Roadhouse with one of the early Cyr Trucking vehicles and an attack of giggles.
Photo credit: Yukon Transportation Museum. #2017-1-977. 1940

Robinson Roadhouse Research

Helene Dobrowolsky of Midnight Arts was contracted to conduct research on the history and development of Robinson Roadhouse and the surrounding area. This work will deepen our understanding of the site helping to support the future repair and maintenance of buildings at Robinson Roadhouse and interpretation of the site and the surrounding area. Helene has been conducting archival research and talking to Elders and locals with knowledge of Robinson Roadhouse.

Helene has uncovered a wealth of new archival images and information on the site already, such as this photo from Robinson Roadhouse in the 1940s from the Paul Cyr Collection at the Yukon Transportation Museum.

A final report with a brief history of Robinson Roadhouse with a chronology of events, copies of pertinent research, including maps, documents and images was completed over the winter.

Copies of the report can be found at Yukon Archives, the Lorne Mountain Community Association and at the Historic Sites office. Digital copies are available upon request. If you have any information or historic photos of the site that you would like to share with us, please contact Rebecca Jansen at heritage.planning@gov.yk.ca or call 867-332-2911.

For more information:
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