

JUNE 2023

# Robinson Roadhouse



## Ongoing Conservation Efforts at the Robinson Roadhouse Site

A few years ago, a portion of the Robinson Roadhouse building was separated from the three-part structure to provide space for conservation work on the deteriorated east wall. This was followed by leveling, straightening, and raising the structure to prepare for the replacement of a deteriorated sill and other logs in the walls. This year the replacement sill and wall logs will be installed. The work is scheduled to take place throughout the summer and will be undertaken by a team of experts and learners to ensure the art of log conservation lives on.

Conservation work at Robinson Roadhouse.  
December 2021

### Did you know?

Artifacts may not be removed from the land. Wherever you are in the Yukon, you are on a First Nation's traditional territory. Yukon and First Nation governments are working to protect the ongoing story of our living heritage.

**Share your find.**

Learn more at [yukonlivingheritage.ca](http://yukonlivingheritage.ca)





# Historic Places Days 2023: Every Place, a Story

Saturday, July 8, 2023, 11 am to 2 pm

Canada Historic Places Days is an annual campaign promoting the importance of historic sites. From July 8th to the 31st, hundreds of sites across the country host special events and activities.

Join us in celebrating Canada's Historic Places Days at the Robinson Roadhouse historic site. There will be live music, site tours, a barbecue and games for the whole family to enjoy.

The Historic Sites Unit (HSU), Government of Yukon Heritage Resources Board (YHRB) are pleased to welcome you to this free event.

**All are welcome.**

Learn more at [historicplacesdays.ca](https://historicplacesdays.ca) or by calling the Historic Sites Unit at 867-667-3458.

The site will stay open during all activities and events, but certain areas may be closed to ensure the safety of the public.





## Robinson Roadhouse Personalities:

Charles McConnell was born in Prince Edward Island in 1871. According to W.D. MacBride who wrote his obituary for the *Whitehorse Star*, he made an early reputation as a weightlifter and occasionally astonished visitors to Robinson by juggling a full length of railroad rail.

McConnell headed north during the Klondike Gold Rush, working as a packer on the Stikine Trail. When gold was discovered in Atlin in 1899, he hauled a sled to the new mining camp. He then worked on the White Pass Stage Line between Whitehorse and Dawson, but made time to join the rush to the Kluane region. He exhibited his Burwash Creek gold findings in the show window of a Whitehorse jeweller in the summer of 1905.

For seven years, he operated the roadhouse with Catherine Markle. They applied for adjoining homestead properties totalling 320 acres at Robinson. According to the government correspondence, this was not possible due to the previous, and later abandoned, townsite application of H.W. Vance.

Mrs. Markle moved to Skagway in 1915 and a year later McConnell married Florence Pavin in Carcross, the ceremony officiated by Archdeacon Canham. The comings and goings column of the *Star* had many items in subsequent years about visitors to Robinson and the McConnells' trips to Whitehorse, but no reference was found as to the eventual fate of Florence McConnell. The last time she was mentioned in the *Star* was May 1940. It became apparent, however, that McConnell was on his own in his last years and, at his death, his designated heir was a niece in Prince Edward Island.

He died in Whitehorse on September 22, 1946, a few days after entering hospital for an operation.

H. Dobrowolsky, *Robinson Roadhouse: Bibliography & Chronology*. January 2020



---

Charlie and Florence McConnell at Robinson,  
ca. 1920. YA, Bud and Jeanne (Connolly)  
Harbottle fonds, #6126



Yukon Archives. Harold Davenport Sr. fonds. PHO 610. 2012/18 #98.  
Robinson Road House. 1936 – 1941