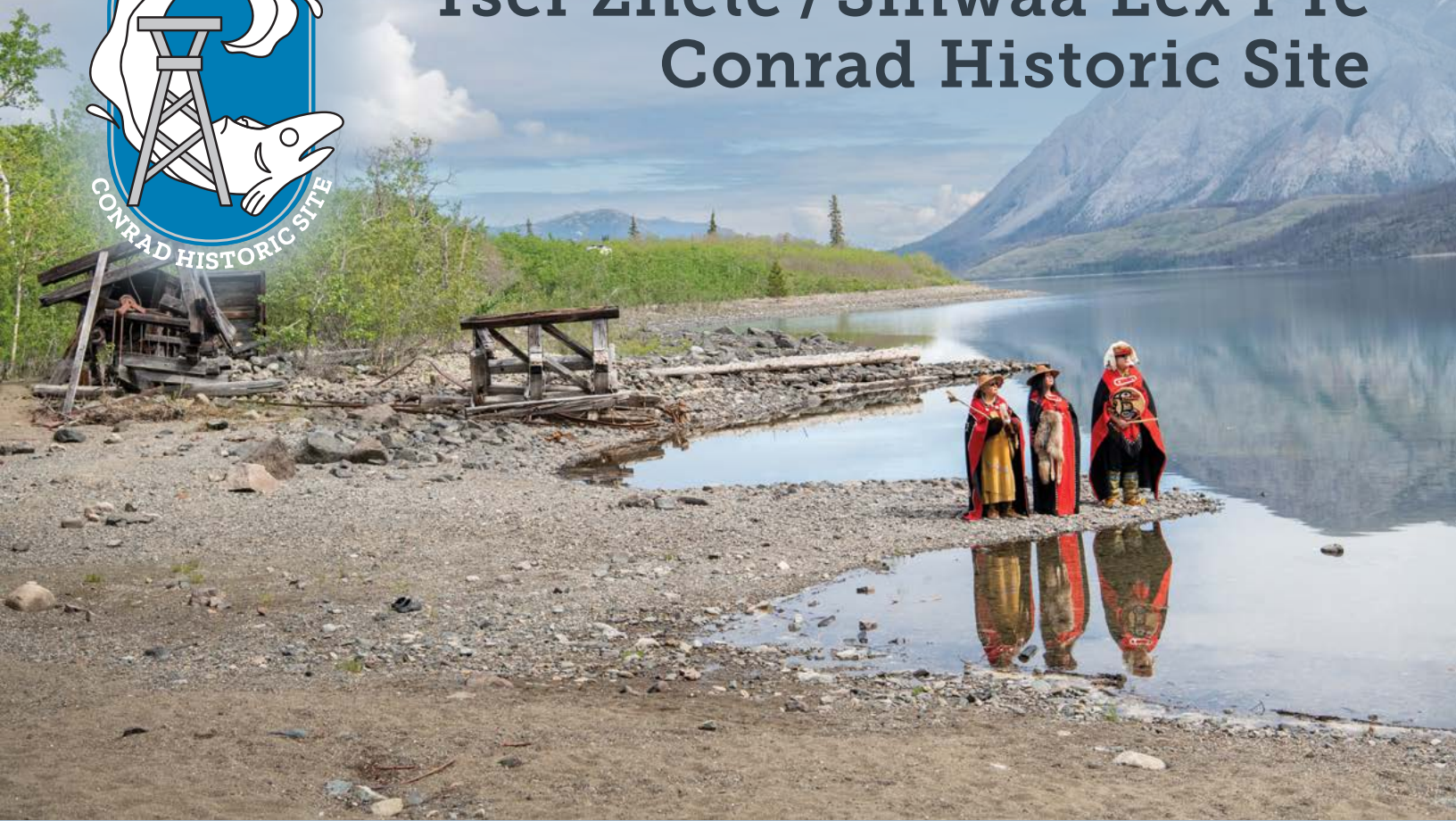




June 2024

Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé Conrad Historic Site



Three Generations of a Carcross/Tagish First Nation family on the shores of Windy Arm. June 15, 2022.

Traditional place names illustrate the Tagish and Tlingit relationship with the land and the water. The connection by the Tagish Kwan to the land was interrupted briefly from 1905 to 1914 when mining exploration and extraction in the Montana Mountain region took place, causing the development of the Conrad townsite. When the Conrad townsite was flourishing, the Carcross/Tagish people adapted and worked at Conrad, employed to do laundry, provide fish, cut wood and staked claims for the newcomers.

The Carcross/Tagish people continued to use the site for traditional pursuits, with seasonal camps that included traditional structures such as meat caches and fish drying racks. The continual use of the site by the Carcross/Tagish people during and after the demise of the mining town demonstrates the resilience of their traditional practices, the values of a living heritage and their longstanding connection to the area.

Excerpt from the 2022 Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Management Plan

Tsei Zhéte

Sinwaa Éex'i Yé

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

Venus Mill

Venus Mill: John Conrad's Jewel (Yukon)

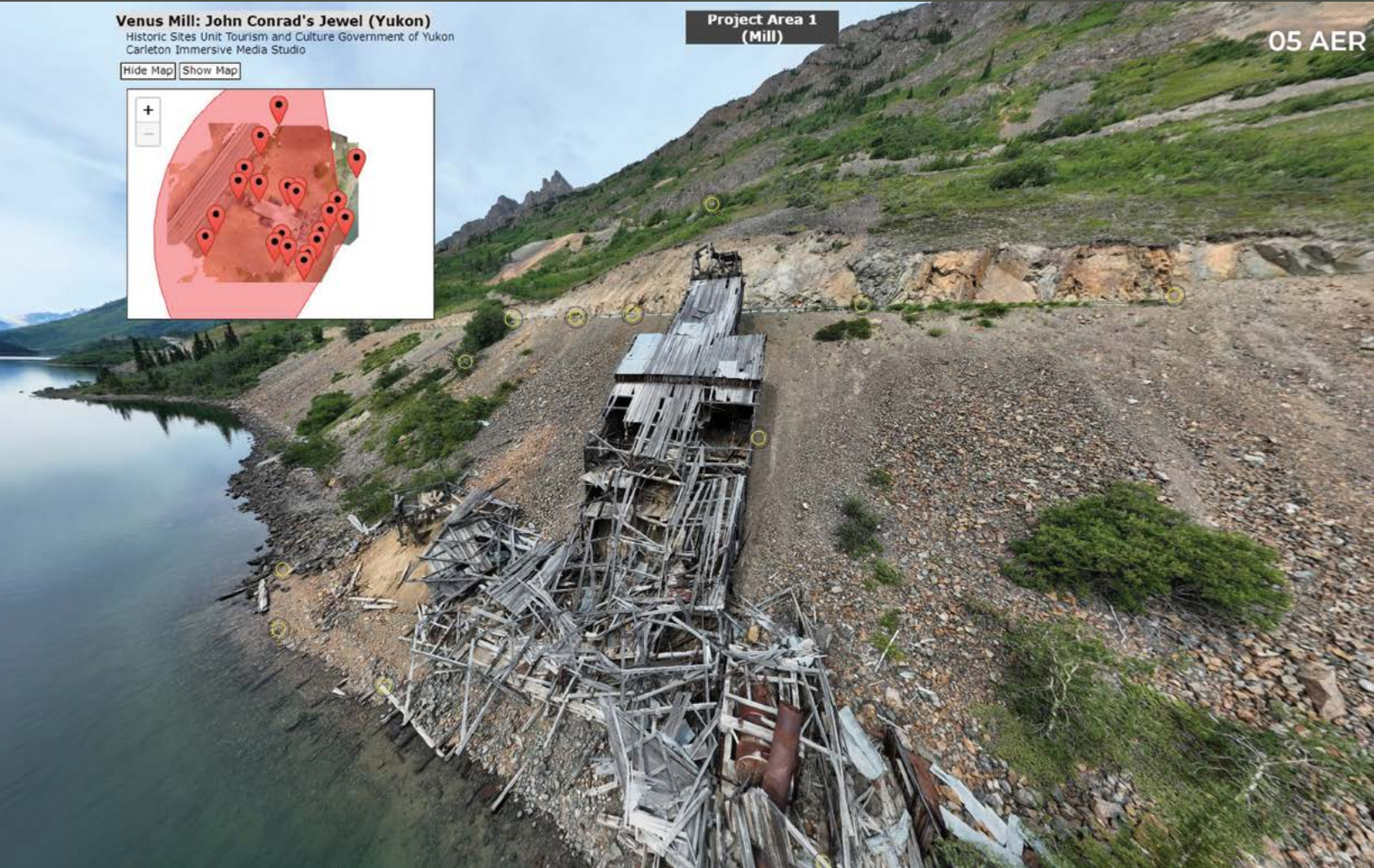
Historic Sites Unit Tourism and Culture Government of Yukon
Carleton Immersive Media Studio

Hide Map Show Map



Project Area 1 (Mill)

05 AER



Historical overview:

The Venus Mill site is located on the western shore of Windy Arm on Tagish Lake, three kilometres north of the BC-Yukon border, off the South Klondike Highway. The 2.2-hectare Heritage Reserve includes the remnants of the Venus Mill, a seven-level mill building constructed in 1908 into the side of a steep slope.

The site is located in the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN). The landscape, centred on Chílíh Dzéte' (Montana Mountain, or Gopher Mountain), is significant to C/TFN as one of the four peaks from which "Game Mother" hung a hammock for her children, the animals, so they could dance, sing and celebrate before they were sent out onto the land. The story identifies Chílíh Dzéte' for its role in supporting the lifeways of the Tagish and Tlingit peoples.

Colonial miners arrived in the area in 1899 and staked a claim (the Montana Claim) at Chílíh Dzéte'. Within five years, John Howard Conrad arrived in southern Yukon, backed with extensive funding from Eastern Canadian investors. Conrad began to invest in lode silver mining and soon became the largest claimholder in the area. He founded mining companies, including Conrad Consolidated Mines Ltd., established mining camps and gave his name to the early town site of Conrad.

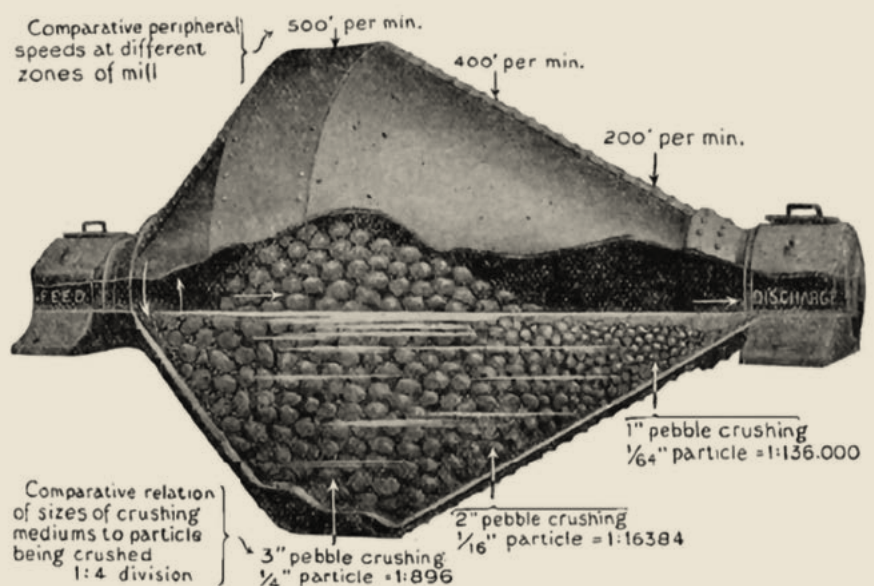
The Venus Mill, the first operating mill in the Yukon, was established in 1908 by Conrad Consolidated Mines Ltd., and was built as a complex that included not only the extant mill building, but also a wharf at the mill's base, a dining hall/warehouse, an assay office and a mine manager's house.

The aerial tramway transported silver ore to the mill, and was reported to have a capacity of 100 tons per day. Gravity and water carried the ore down through several levels of crushers, trommels, screens and concentrators. At the bottom, the concentrated ore was bagged for shipment, first by water to Carcross and then by railroad to tidewater at Skagway, Alaska.

In 1912, due to lower-grade ore and lower yields than expected, the Venus Mill closed and was abandoned. It was briefly resurrected between 1917 and 1920 under new ownership. The Venus Mill never re-opened after 1920, despite intermittent efforts to open the mine several decades later in the 1960s and again in the 1980s.

Technology used at the site:

The Hardinge Mill is a rotating cylindro-conical ball mill that consists of a cylindrical section sandwiched between two conical sections. The mill contains progressively smaller steel balls starting with the largest at the inlet, leading to the smallest near the discharge. It has the advantage of reducing rock (or ore) to a preferred particle size using the least amount of energy. Material is introduced into the feed end of the mill where the largest balls are rotating at the highest speed, with the greatest fall. As material is reduced in size, it advances in the mill through progressively smaller grinding balls, rotating at slower speeds, with a reduced fall. The particles being reduced reach the required degree of fineness and arrive at the discharge end of the mill at the same time. In this way, ideal step or stage reduction occurs in a single machine. This principle is illustrated in the following illustration:



From: <https://www.911metallurgist.com/hardinge-conical-mill/>

The Hardinge mill was installed at Venus in 1920, and only operated for a short time before the Venus mill was shut down for good.

911metallurgist.com/hardinge-conical-mill

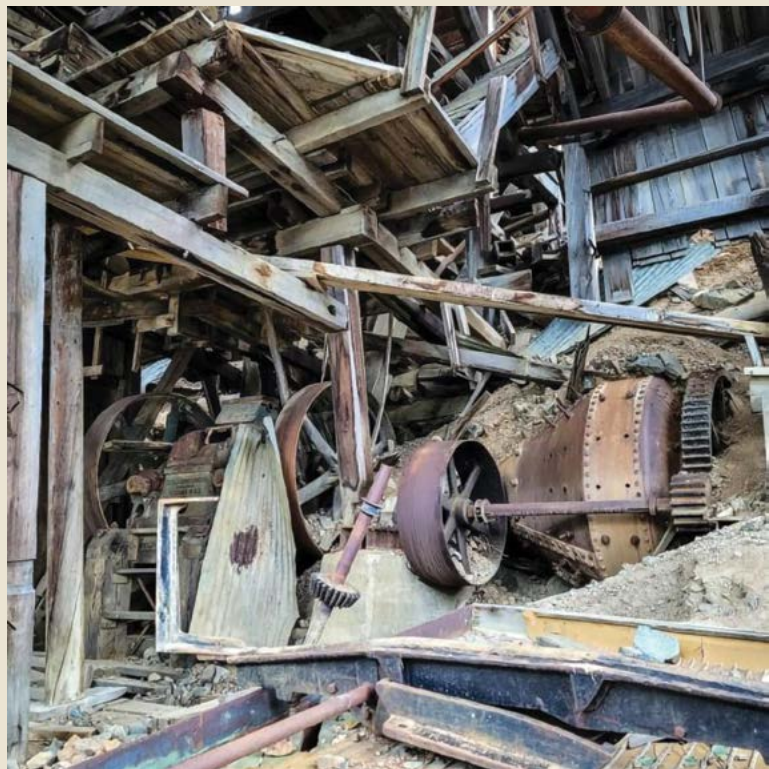
Documentation project update:

The Venus Mill Conservation Project is a two-phase project led by the Historic Sites Unit in partnership with the Carleton Immersive Media Studio (CIMS).

Phase 1 of the project is to develop a comprehensive historic record for posterity, while keeping in mind the future. Phase 2 is to develop a digital storytelling platform for the site's interpretation and presentation.

Additionally, Michael Gates was contracted by the Historic Sites Unit to compile information about the historic operation of the mill. He accomplished this by researching and collecting newspaper articles and trade journals, developing a bibliography, gathering information about equipment and their manufacturers, collecting photos of the equipment from the seven levels of the mill and describing how the mill worked including the various stages of processing the ore. He also identified some messages or themes for site interpretation.

Phase 2 will use the research documentation to develop a virtual tour or an interpretive product, allowing the public to safely interact with the site.



**The Venus Mill structure
is dangerous to enter.
Please enjoy from a distance.**

Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Ye / Conrad Historic Site Interpretive training

On May 28-29, 2024, the Historic Sites Unit hosted an interpretive training session on the land at Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Ye / Conrad for Carcross / Tagish First Nation Citizens.

The objective of this training was to share connections to the area and create an interpretive program to connect visitors to the land, heritage and culture.

Amber Berard-Althouse, a Kluane First Nation citizen who worked as a Parks Canada interpreter for 10 years, shared her interpretive skills from a Yukon First Nation perspective. Amber developed this training specifically for co-managed historic sites and First Nation cultural centres across the Yukon.

Chelsea Jeffery, Historic Sites Interpreter, provided support to Amber and the group, whether it was ensuring there was enough food for all, taking notes or providing some insight to interpretation programs.

Nyla Klugie-Migwans, Senior Indigenous Heritage and Culture Advisor attended to observe how this training could complement the training provided for cultural centres.

Shannon Van Bibber, Historic Sites Planner, has worked with the Conrad Working Group since 2015 and attended to ensure the vision of the Working Group is reflected in the interpretation of the historic site.

A huge shout-out to Carcross/Tagish First Nation Citizens, Christle Moulton, Georgie-Ann Huebschwerlen and Mierl Richard who participated in the training and shared their knowledge, ideas and humour.

This enthusiastic group will continue to work together to host a few drop-in interpretive tours this summer. They will practice and develop their interpretive talks over bannock and tea.

We are all feeling excited about the enhanced interpretation that will be happening at the historic site!



Historic Places Days 2024: Every Place, a Story



Robinson Roadhouse

Saturday, July 13, 2024, 12 to 3 pm

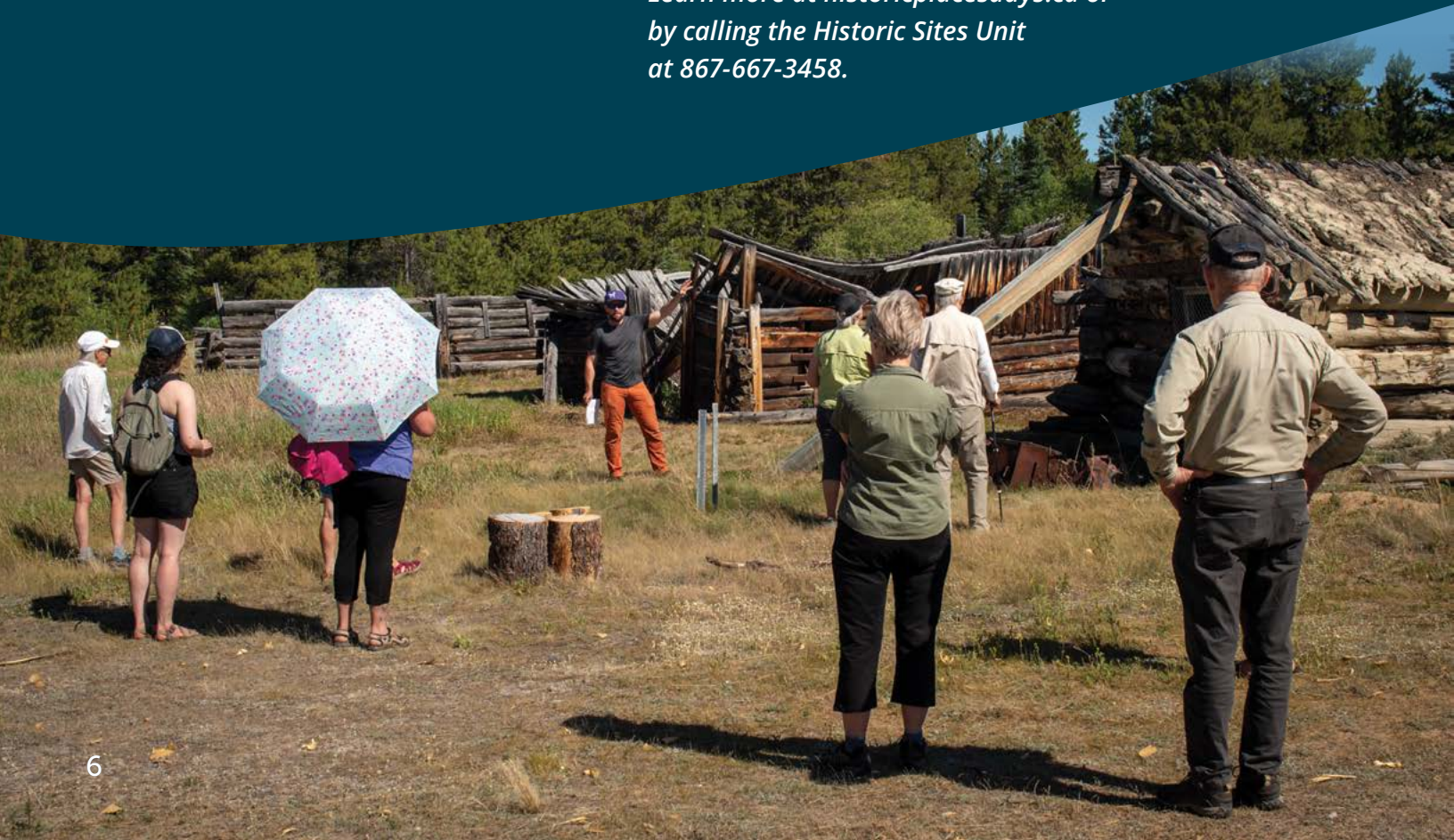
Canada Historic Places Days is an annual campaign promoting the importance of historic sites. From July 10 to 17, hundreds of sites across the country host special events and activities.

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

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

All are welcome.

Learn more at 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.



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



Share your find and learn more at yukonlivingheritage.ca.

Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Day

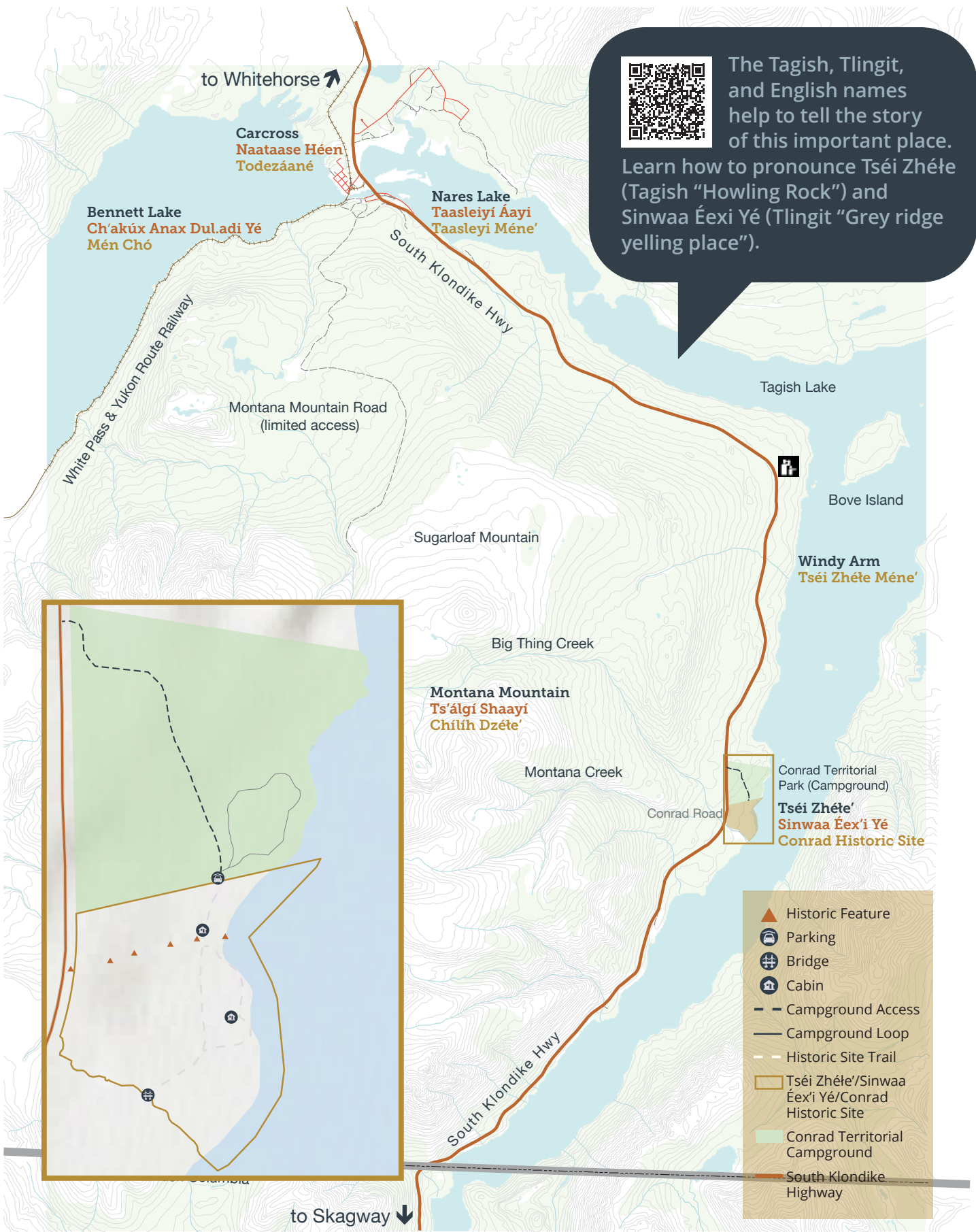
Thursday, August 8, 2024, 12 to 3 pm

On Thursday, August 8, 2024 – from noon to 3 pm, the Conrad Working Group will be hosting a cultural day at the Conrad Historic Site. Join us, for this free event, to see the wonderous views and to learn more about this special place.

Conrad Historic Site is located ~14 km southeast of Carcross. Follow the sign that indicates the Conrad Campground, then follow the dirt road to the bottom of the hill — the campground is on the left, the Historic Site is on the right. There is a locked yellow gate that you can park near and then walk past the gate into the site.

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





The Tagish, Tlingit, and English names help to tell the story of this important place. Learn how to pronounce Tséi Zhéte' (Tagish "Howling Rock") and Sinwaa Éexi Yé (Tlingit "Grey ridge yelling place").

Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad

Historic Site



The Carcross/Tagish First Nation people and their ancestors have been connected to this area for thousands of years. This sheltered spot has long been an important place for harvesting fish, berries and medicinal plants. It is part of the network of traditional trails and waterways throughout the region. The community of Conrad was a short-lived mining town established in 1905 by Colonel J.H. Conrad. At its peak, over 300 people lived in the community. It didn't last long - silver prices went down and John Conrad filed for bankruptcy. The town was abandoned by 1914.

The historic site is on the west side of the Windy Arm of Tagish Lake/Tséi Zhéte Méne' (Howling Rock Lake). It is on the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation. The site is co-managed by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Government of Yukon.

To learn more about this historic site, visit yukonheritage.com

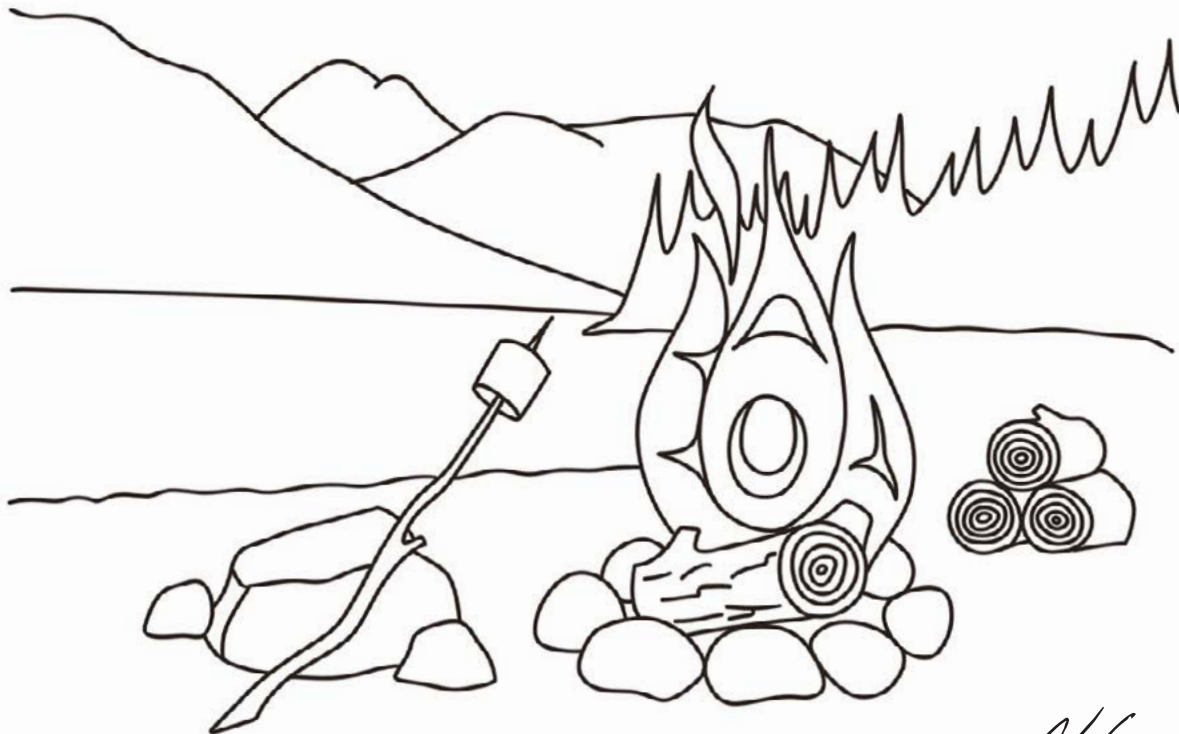


Yukon Archives, E.J. Hamacher fonds (Margaret and Rolf Hougen collection) #347



On the back, you will find an illustration of a lakeside campfire at the historic site, by Carcross/Tagish First Nation artist Violet Gatensby. Add your favourite colours to the scene!

Violet Gatensby completed the Freda Diesing Fine Arts program in 2019 and continues creating artwork inspired by Yukon wildlife, landscapes and actions.



V.G

WALK WITH US

Respectful Travel Guidelines



**INDIGENOUS
YUKON.ca**

The Yukon is home to 14 distinct First Nations and 8 language groups. Our land is beautiful and our water is clean. Our land is everything. We are the stewards of this land and we all have a responsibility to care for this land for future generations. We honour our ancestors who shared their teachings with us so that we can now share them with you. We care for this land — the plants, water, air and animals — by showing it respect and treating it as an equal. As you travel through our beautiful homelands, we invite you to **Ná't'sin t'ra** “hold everything up in respect” Northern Tutchone

When travelling in our homelands, come visit us in our communities

Our culture is rich and powerful — we are proud to share it with visitors who want to listen and learn in a respectful way. When you're in our communities, please visit our cultural centres, celebrate with us during our festivals, buy our art and crafts, listen to our stories, or go on a tour with a local First Nations guide. This helps support the well-being of our communities.

We care for our land — we expect everybody to share this responsibility

For over 10,000 years, these lands have sustained Yukon First Nations people. We continue to survive on this land through our beliefs, our respect, our honour towards all living things. We must always care for the land so that the land can care for us.

This land is our home — when visiting somebody's home we follow respectful behaviours

These are our homelands. When visitors come to the Yukon they will be visiting our home — a place that we love, rely on and feel connected to. It is important to understand the customs of the place you are travelling to. Before you visit our communities, do your best to learn about our people and our cultures. This shows respect for Yukon First Nations people.

Keep the land and water clean

Water is the best medicine in the world. Without water we cannot live. Keeping the land and water clean is essential for keeping our animals, people and environment healthy. Keep a clean camp. Please pack out what you pack in — don't throw garbage on the land or in the water. We must be diligent about caring for our environment for future generations.

Respect the land and the land will respect you

The land is deserving of the highest honour. Be mindful of your behaviour when travelling on the land. Give thanks to the land and the animals. Keep your mind clear and have good thoughts when you are out on the land. Don't make fun of animals or talk badly about them — they can hear you. The land, water, animals — everything has a spirit. We are all equal as guests on this land — once we respect that everything will be good.

Be thankful for the land and all that it offers

Our people rely on the land and all that it offers. The land is our grocery store, our pharmacy and our clothing store. We give thanks when we gather from the land. We take only what we need, we use all that we take, and we share what we have. You have to be careful — if you disturb the land, it's not going to come back again.

Learn the history of this land — it is rich with our stories

The history of this land is much older than the Gold Rush. Our language and stories are deeply intertwined with this land. It is important that visitors hear these stories. It is important that they hear these stories from us — the people who are deeply connected to this land. When given the opportunity, please listen and show respect to the Elders and First Nations people sharing their stories and knowledge.

Respect our sacred places and teachings

Respect is the highest honour we can give. Our teachings define our responsibilities to ourselves, to the land, and to our communities. Our teachings come from our ancestors who came before us. It is our obligation to pass on these teachings, but please understand not all of these teachings are for us to share. Some teachings should only be shared by Yukon First Nations peoples. We also have sacred places that are not meant for visiting. Please do not visit our spirit houses, graveyards or other sacred sites.

Respect and honour our culture — understand that our culture is not for sale

Our culture is strong, based on knowledge handed down for more than 10,000 years. Our culture is our stories. Each community has its own stories, songs, ceremonies, and ways of doing things. We welcome you to watch and listen with respect, but visitors must understand that our culture is not for sale. Please do not copy our designs, songs or dances. They belong to our family members, clans and communities. We have been working hard to reclaim our cultures and languages for many years. We ask that you support this reclamation and revitalization.

Respect our ancestral knowledge, customs, and livelihoods

Our people continue to practice subsistence lifestyles in today's modern world. As hunters, trappers, and other land users, we are mindful of our harvesting practices and understand that animals provide sustenance for survival. We ask that visitors to Yukon First Nations lands not interrupt or interfere with our right to subsistence activities on our traditional territories.



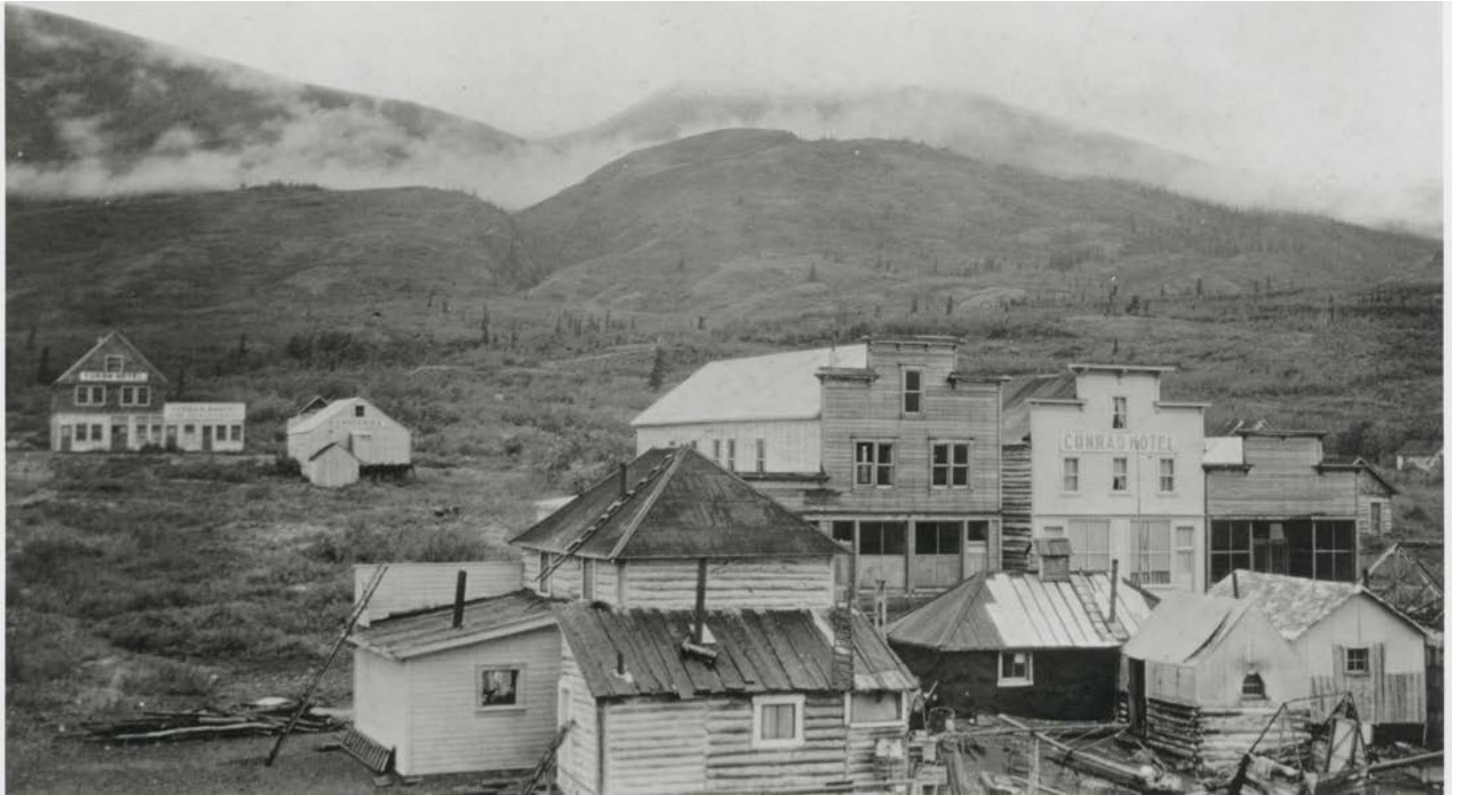
Scan the code to learn more about travelling respectfully through the Yukon.

Gratitude to the Elders who shared their knowledge, stories and wisdom that form the foundations of these Guidelines.



Tsei Zhete

Sinwaa Eex'i Ye



Yukon Archives. G. Donaldson Collection. PHO 120 80/15 #21. Conrad City, Yukon. [View of Conrad City, Yukon. Various buildings are visible including "Yukon Hotel" and "Conrad Hotel"]. 1906-1911

**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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