



▲ Aerial view of built heritage resources at Fort Selkirk. Looking northeast to the Basalt Cliffs (MeÄu). 1960

Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

As a living cultural heritage site, Fort Selkirk is a place to share, respect and preserve for future generations.

Built Heritage Resources:

The built heritage that can be observed at Fort Selkirk tells the story of the development history of the site, its abandonment as an active townsite and community, and its conservation as a living heritage site. The standing structures of Fort Selkirk Historic Site present a variety of architectural forms; however, most buildings are small in scale, constructed of locally available materials, and are arranged in an ordered alignment facing towards the Yukon River. The design and construction of the buildings present a range of types. Residential buildings include compact cabins constructed of log with pitched roofs of sod or shingles, family cabins, and larger gabled roof dwellings. The building forms, materials and construction techniques reflect the cultural traditions of the builders. The vernacular log

construction, refers to the practice of using locally sourced materials and traditional construction techniques specific to a region. This approach often involved the use of locally harvested logs, along with recycled materials from sources such as sternwheelers or abandoned buildings, which were repurposed for new building construction. The techniques employed at Fort Selkirk resulted in different architectural details, including round logs, sawed logs, milled lumber, a variety of different joint details, and roofing that included sod, shingles or metal.

The built heritage resources include a collection of conserved buildings associated with Fort Selkirk's commercial activities, religious and educational institutions, residential buildings and outbuildings.

Huchá Hudän/Fort Selkirk Management Plan. Built Heritage Resources. P 18. August 20, 2021.



Selkirk First Nation values of caring, sharing, respecting, and teaching are practiced at Fort Selkirk; therefore, there are no alcohol or drugs permitted at the Fort Selkirk Historic Site.

MAINTENANCE AND CONSERVATION:

Summer 2024 Site Work

As a co-managed Historic Site, the Selkirk First Nation and the Historic Sites Unit, Government of Yukon co-operatively planned the following work at Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk, with the assistance of contractors, the Fort Selkirk site manager and work crew:

- ▶ General repairs and maintenance of historic buildings;
- ▶ Continuation of work on the wash house
- ▶ Annual FireSmart and vegetation management. This involves the work crew pruning, thinning, mowing, mulching, and removing flammable vegetation to minimize the negative impacts of a potential wildfire.

2024 FORT SELKIRK VISITORS

June 4 to September 17, 2024

	Canada	USA	Europe	Asia	Parks Day	Monthly Totals
June	55	4	69	0		128
July	144	14	48	4	92	302
August	50	5	36	1		92
September	4	2	6	17		29
Region Totals	253	25	159	22	92	
Total Visitation						551

“Lovely spot, very clean camp, has everything you need and more. Buildings and history are well preserved. Thank you.”
- Ontario/Saskatchewan

“Amazing place! The campground is well maintained, the village is incredible and full of history.”
- Italy

“Incredible! Surprised by how much is here. Wish we were camping.”
- Berlin, Germany

LOG BUILDING CONSERVATION TRAINING

On-site *Log Building Conservation Training* with log conservation specialist, Peter Caron, took place from June 24–28, 2024. This hands-on course was an opportunity for Selkirk First Nation citizens to learn about stabilizing and lifting a historic building, in preparation for sill log replacement. The crew worked on the Tommy McGinty cabin, which has several rotten sill logs.



▲ Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Log Conservation Course participants and Instructor: (L-R) Kyland Simon, Scott Roberts, Sheldon Joe, Shawn Alfred and Peter Caron, June 2024.



▲ *The Tommy McGinty Cabin before work began. June 2024*



▲ *Separation of cabin walls to allow for replacement of lower sill logs. June 2024*



▲ *Construction of internal frame to stabilize cabin for lifting. Interior of Tommy McGinty Cabin. June 2024*

Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Management Committee:

Annette Albert
Selkirk First Nation

Darin Isaac
Selkirk First Nation

Grey Fairclough
Selkirk First Nation

Joel Le Baron
Government of Yukon

Rebecca Jansen
Government of Yukon

Shannon Van Bibber
Government of Yukon

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee manages the site on behalf of Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon and encourage all to contact them regarding on-site events and other activities.

Contact information is provided on the back page of this newsletter.

PARKS DAY



July 20, 2024

Every year since 1998, the Selkirk First Nation and the Historic Sites Unit have collaborated to offer visitors a unique opportunity to explore Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk for Canada's Parks Day.

Parks Day is celebrated each year across Canada to promote the importance and benefits of parks and historic sites through visiting and exploring these places.

This year, Parks Day visitors embarked on a journey that began with an hour-long drive on a dirt road from Pelly Crossing to the Pelly Farm, where they were welcomed by staff and volunteers, at the riverbank.

From there, boat transportation—complete with lifejackets—was provided for a scenic 30-minute ride

along the Yukon River to the mouth of the Pelly River, where Fort Selkirk is located.

Upon arrival at Fort Selkirk, visitors were greeted, checked in and familiarized with the site and its layout, before spending the day exploring the historic townsite at their own pace. Visitors were then checked out of the site when they took the return boat rides later that afternoon.

Organizing a safe and fun event of this scale requires significant planning and coordination, and we are grateful for the support of many dedicated individuals. This year's Government of Yukon, HSU team included Chelsea Jeffery, Interpretive Planner; Mark Young, Inventory

Technician; Ben Hureau, STEP student; and MaryRose Metcalfe, Administrative Assistant, with additional support from volunteer Bess McCarville.

A special thanks to the skilled local boat captains, Richard Hager and Mike Dobson, who are Fort Selkirk staff, and Dale Bradley from the Pelly Farm, for transporting visitors safely to and from the site. Their expertise and commitment made the day possible.

In 2024, 91 registered visitors had the chance to enjoy this incredible experience. Registration for Parks Day 2025 opens in May, but you can always reach out ahead of time to join the contact list.

Email: heritage.planning@yukon.ca or call Chelsea Jeffery, Historic Sites, Government of Yukon at 867-332-3862.

“ Thank you for planning and executing an

amazing Fort Selkirk experience this past weekend! It was a day of unforgettable adventures, sight seeing, learning, and incredible encounters with historic sites. Everything was so well organized, and you guys were so welcoming, lovely and so on top of everything!”

Parks Day visitor



TERI-LEE ISAAC

After more than 10 years of dedicated service, Teri-Lee Isaac, Heritage Manager at Selkirk First Nation, has retired. Teri-Lee has been a key figure in the success and development of Huchá Hudän/Fort Selkirk.

Teri-Lee was instrumental in the development of the 2021 Huchá Hudän/Fort Selkirk Historic Management Plan while also ensuring that Selkirk First Nation staff could participate in essential maintenance work at the site. Through her efforts, the Fort Selkirk staff and SFN citizens received valuable training in log conservation, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to care for the lands and resources at Fort Selkirk.

Her coordination skills were essential, from organizing expeditors and securing groceries for the cooks to managing boat transportation logistics. Teri-Lee also played a crucial role in organizing and ensuring the yearly success of Parks Day, including arranging for the Selkirk Spirit Dancers to be present.

Teri-Lee's dedication, hard work, and her passion for preserving the cultural and natural heritage of Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk, as well as her commitment to the people of Selkirk First Nation, has been inspiring. Her legacy will continue with all who had the pleasure of working with her.

As she embarks on this new chapter of her life, we wish Teri-Lee all the best in her next journey. Thank you for your many years of service, and for making such a significant difference to the historic town site of Huchá Hudän /Fort Selkirk. Teri-Lee will remain connected with Fort Selkirk through her business, Tutchone Tours, which provides Yukon River tours to Fort Selkirk.

For more information, visit tutchonetours.com





▲ Yukon Archives. Wood raft at Fort Selkirk. Victoria Mountain and Rock in the background. Van Bibber Collection. Vol. 5. H-116 #16. N.d.

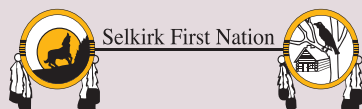
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This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.
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