



June 2025

# Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé Conrad Historic Site



*Aerial view of the Mountain Hero Tramway Terminal and remnants of the wharf, a rock-filled log structure as seen under the water.  
Drone photo. September 2024.*

The heritage of Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site encompasses many fascinating stories: the early peoples who used stone tools and lived here soon after the glaciers retreated; the formation of the dramatic landscape including the Yukon River's headwater lakes, the spectacular Coastal Range;

the Montana Mountain massif containing mineral riches that attracted hundreds of prospectors and miners; and the work of Carcross/Tagish First Nation citizens to develop this historic site and share its stories with people from the world over.  
*Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site  
Interpreters Manual 2021*

*Tséi Zhéte*

*Sinwaa Éex'i Yé*

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



# Patrick 'Koolseen' James

## Dak`laweidí Clan, Carcross/Tagish First Nation



The Conrad Working Group would like to honour the legacy and contributions of Patrick 'Koolseen' James, who passed away on October 12, 2024.

In early 2022, Patrick James came on as the Carcross/Tagish First Nation Elder representative to the Conrad Historic Site Working Group: an effective collaboration between the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Government of Yukon, which implements the Conrad Historic Site Management Plan and Interpretation Plan.

Patrick shared his knowledge and respect for the land, water, animals and his people with the working group. He was soft spoken, and at times we were not sure if we got it right, until Patrick would speak up and provide positive feedback. He shared stories of what it means to respect the land and water at Conrad for the benefit of all community members, Yukoners, and others who visit and want to understand more about this unique historic site.

"Patrick has left a legacy that continues to inspire and guide us as we continue to implement the Conrad Historic Site Management Plan and Interpretation Plan. We are grateful for his lasting contributions, and we remain inspired and confident in the management of this special site." Rebecca Jansen, Manager, Historic Sites, Yukon government.



*Colleen James and Patrick James. June 2024.*

"Patrick James was a quiet and steady Elder historian whose contributions were vital in continuing the vision of Art Johns in creating, developing, and promoting the Conrad Historic Site; a place that stands as a testament to both his dedication and the values he held dear. Patrick lived by the cultural values that were passed down through generations, always taking the time to teach what he knew to his nephews and to many other community members.



"With his gentle composure and quick smile, Patrick had an undeniable presence that brightened any room. People naturally gravitated towards him, drawn to his wisdom, kindness, and ability to listen. He often spoke of the deep love he held for the land, and he believed it should be shared with everyone—provided it was done with respect. He understood that the land must be cared for in a way that would allow future generations to enjoy its beauty and resources.

"Patrick never turned down an opportunity to spend time on the land, especially when it involved people who were eager to learn about its history and the importance of proper stewardship. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched and the lessons he imparted about both the land and the culture that he has always nurtured." Sean McDougall, Director of Heritage, Carcross/Tagish First Nation



*Patrick James and Ron Chambers. 2022.*





# A new initiative of collaboration and reconciliation!



*Yukon First Nations Studies class of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary School (26 students), accompanying teacher Kimberly Hart, and support staff Erik Gray, Alex Sand and Michelle Olejarz, as well as Tanis Van Bibber from Yukon First Nations Education Directorate, visiting Tséi Zhéle / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site.*

In mid-May 2025, a first-of-its-kind initiative took place at Tséi Zhéle / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site. It was a jam-packed, fun-filled two days and one night of camping at Conrad focused on reconciliation, collaboration, and innovation in relationship building and outreach in the Yukon. Through working collaboratively, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN), the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED), St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary School and Historic Sites unit (HSU), Government of Yukon (YG) introduced a new way for Yukon students to understand, experience and work towards reconciliation.

On day one, Monday, May 12, the students stopped in at Haa Shagóon Hídi, and the C/TFN carving shed with Keith Wolfe-Smarch. They also toured Carcross, looking for the buildings that were brought from Conrad that are identified in the **Carcross Walking Tour guide** - [yukon.ca/sites/default/files/tc/tc-walking-tour-carcross.pdf](https://yukon.ca/sites/default/files/tc/tc-walking-tour-carcross.pdf).

Later that day, the students and teachers arrived at Conrad Historic Site, where they set up camp right away.





*Chris Gleason and Gus Morberg from YFNED gave a review of how to be bear aware and a bear spray demonstration using "INERT" spray.*



*Kimberely Hart, Teacher, YFN Studies*







Shane Wally “Wallyman” and Vince James, Land Guardians with C/TFN, then took the students on a hike along the Łèiłú Dèi (Butterfly Trail) near the Conrad Campground. Shane gave an informative talk about Skookum Jim, mining reclamation work that C/TFN has done, active mining in the area, and the impact of mining on wildlife and the land. After supper the students were given an interpretive guided walk around the Tséi Zhéle / Sinwaa Éex’i Yé / Conrad Historic Site by Chelsea Jeffery Interpretive Planner, HSU. The tour was structured around one of the key interpretive themes for the historic site, the “physical evidence of mining, industrial development and settlement can be found across the landscape at Conrad Historic Site, demonstrating a contrast to the low-impact traditional land use by many generations of Carcross/Tagish people.”



*L-R: Chelsea Jeffery, Vince James and Shane “Wallyman” Wally*







Cabin 1

Students visited the built heritage and learned of C/TFN harvesting and traditional use across the area, before/during/ and after the short-lived mining period. They discussed the mining history of the site and the impacts of that moment on the land and Montana Mountain, the co-management of the site by C/TFN and YG and the site's interpretation. They also observed and discussed how the age and species of the trees in the former townsite help to tell the story of the historic site. A highlight was when the students successfully identified the architectural style of "Yukon" corners on both cabin 1 and cabin 2 by using the Historic Sites 'Log Building Corners' poster. Check out the poster to the left or visit [yukon.ca/en/log-building-corners-poster](http://yukon.ca/en/log-building-corners-poster).



Cabin 1 "Yukon Corner"





The second day, Tuesday, May 13, 2025, started at 10:00 am with break out groups that included bannock making with Christle Moulton, C/TFN, Conrad Interpreter and beading with Tanis Van Bibber, YFNED

After the morning activities, Mark Young and Sam Bugg, from HSU gave the group an overview of the Conrad historic townsite and the importance of understanding historic sites through mapping and inventory work. Mark and Sam outlined the various methods that have been used to record information about historic places and their features, and why record keeping is important for heritage conservation.

They demonstrated some the various tools used to record information, including digital maps, GPS, a 360 camera and a mapping drone. Any interested students were given the opportunity to fly the drone. Through using current technologies, we can get a better understanding of heritage resources.







Charlie James, C/TFN Elder, made lunch for the students, who eagerly devoured his stew and fry bread. The students learned about the different styles of bannock vs fry bread made by the original people of the area. Charlie and Bessie Jim, C/TFN Elders, told stories over lunch to the students who came away with bellies full and the knowledge of heritage values and genuine sharing and understanding of historic sites and the First Nation values of the area.



Shortly after lunch, the group packed up their camp, loaded onto buses and headed back to Whitehorse. Along the way the students were excited to see a grizzly bear, believe it or not—some students had never seen a bear before! It was exciting for them as they sat safely in the bus.





"I am certain that the students and teachers left the site feeling a new appreciation for the history and culture of the area and for Yukon First Nation peoples' culture and traditions. The trip was such a wonderful experience and success that the teachers from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary School are hoping to bring the Yukon First Nations Studies class back again next year". Shannon Van Bibber, Historic Sites Planner

"The whole experience out at Conrad was amazing and an unforgettable learning opportunity for my Yukon First Nation Studies class. I would like to recognize Shannon Van Bibber from Historic Sites for all of her work in coordinating the fun and educational 2 days at Conrad. She was able to bring together a range of individuals from C/TFN, YFNED and YG. Having the C/TFN Land Guardians, Interpreters and Elders participate and share information and knowledge, as well as beading from Tanis enriched the whole experience. I hope that we can do this again next year!" Kimberly Hart, Teacher, Yukon First Nation Studies.





# 2025 Campfire Talks

at Tséi Zhéle/Sinwaa Éex'i Yé/  
Conrad Historic Site



## Come enjoy:

- Tea and Bannock
- Learn about the history of the area
- Traditional stories and placenames

**Where:** Tséi Zhéle/ Sinwaa Éex'i Yé/ Conrad historic site (next to Conrad campground)

## When:

Thurs., Jun. 12 from 11 am - 2 pm  
Sat., Jun. 28 from 11 am - 2 pm  
Thurs., Jul. 10 from 11 am - 2 pm  
Sat., Jul. 26 from 11 am - 2 pm  
Wed., Aug. 13 from 11 am - 2 pm  
Sat., Aug. 30 from 11 am - 2 pm  
Sat., Sept. 6 from 11 am - 2 pm  
Fri., Sept. 19 from 11 am - 2 pm

Tséi Zhéle/ Sinwaa Éex'i Yé/ Conrad Historic Site is on the Traditional Territory of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and is co-managed by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Government of Yukon. This area was a traditional fishing, hunting and camping site used by ancestors of the Tlingit/Tagish Kwan people. Conrad was a short lived mining town established in 1905 and abandoned by 1914.

**This is a free, drop-in event. No registration required.**

**For more details call:** Historic Sites Interpretive Planner at 867-332-3862



# Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Day

Thursday, August 7, 2025, 12 to 3 pm



The Conrad Working Group will be hosting a cultural day at the Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site.

Join us, for this free event, to see the wondrous views and to learn more about this special place.

**When:**

Thursday, August 7, 2025, 12 to 3 pm

**Where:**

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. There are two routes — see map on page 13 — into the historic site. There will be signs within the site to direct you to the event.

*Elders and those who require special access within the site, please let our volunteer know at the gate, we will ensure that you get safely into the site.*





## Route map to find Campfire Talks and Conrad Day activities

### Route 1:

Walk along the road and take your second left. Continue until you see the wall tent!

Time: 10 minutes

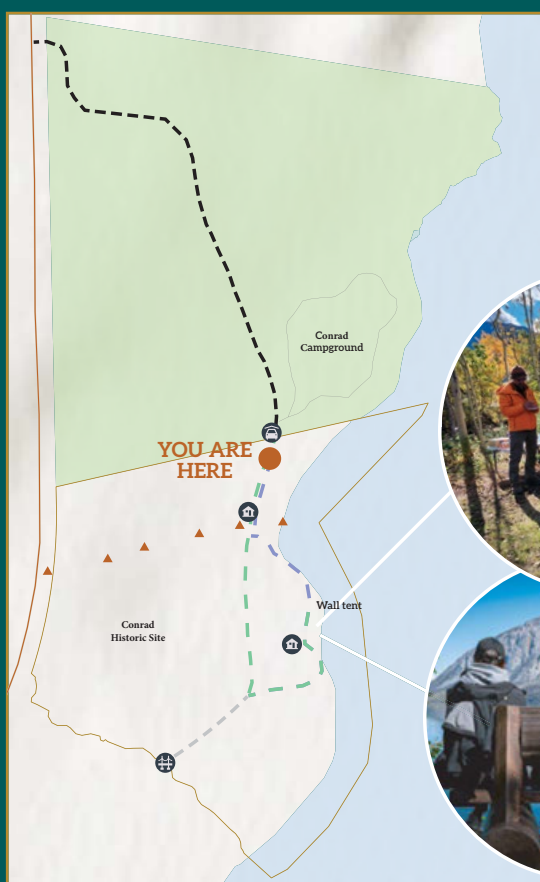
Terrain: easy

### Route 2:

Walk along the road and take your first left (right after the cabin). From the beach, you can either walk along the shoreline until you reach the wall tent, or take the trail from the picnic area.

Time: 5 minutes

Terrain: medium





# Celebrate Historic Places Day at Robinson Roadhouse

Saturday, July 12  
12 to 3 pm



Photo: Yukon Archives, Peter Bennett fonds, 86/9 #50

Join us for a fun-filled event at the historic Robinson Roadhouse!

Come enjoy a free barbeque, site tours, live music and more.  
Bring the whole family! No registration required.

Featuring acoustic country tunes from local favourites Clint Carpentier,  
Kevin Barr, and Boyd Benjamin.

**Where:** Robinson Roadhouse, at km 139 South Klondike Highway,  
near the Annie Lake Road turn-off.



Photos: Bruce Barrett

This historic site is in the Traditional Territory of  
the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.  
Built in 1906, it served as a staging point for miners in the Watson and Wheaton Rivers mining district.

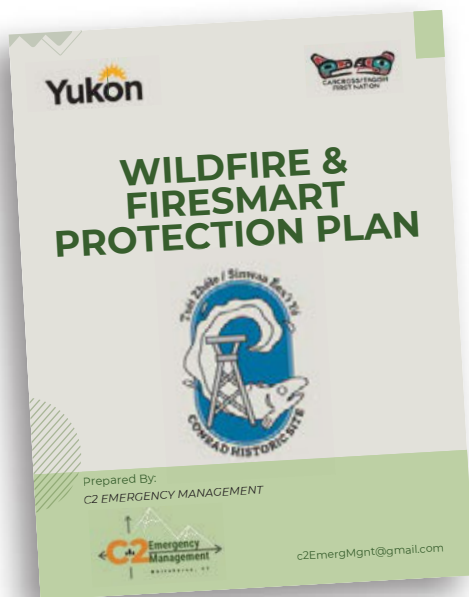
For more information, call Historic Sites at 867-332-3862



Presented by Yukon Historic Sites Unit  
in partnership with the Yukon Heritage Resources Board.







**The Tséi Zhéte / Sinwaa Éex'i Yé / Conrad Historic Site Wildfire & FireSmart Protection Plan is a collaborative effort between the Conrad Historic Site Working Group and C2 Emergency Management.**

The intent of this plan is to:

- ▶ identify and understand the possible fire behavior in and around the forested area of the historic site;
- ▶ identify opportunities for protecting and mitigating any fire hazards to the site's heritage values;
- ▶ increase the site's resiliency against wildfires;
- ▶ increase community and visitor awareness of fire risk in the area with simple strategies to reduce fire risk;
- ▶ protect identified heritage values; and
- ▶ increase the sites survivability by reducing forest fuel loading in and around the site.

This plan was shared with Wildland Fire Protection and the Carcross Volunteer Fire Department.

## 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.**

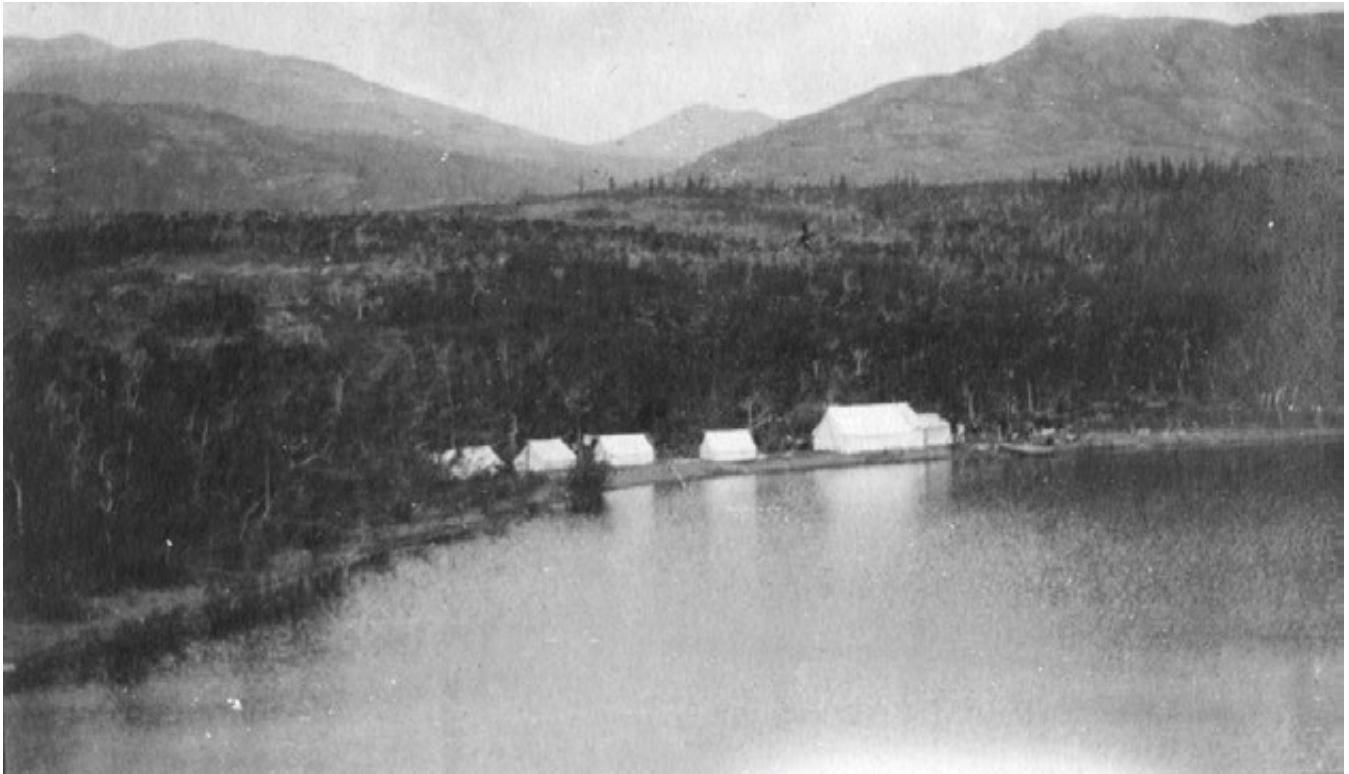
**Learn more at [yukonlivingheritage.ca](http://yukonlivingheritage.ca)**





Tsei Zhete

Sinwaa Eex'i Ye



*University of Washington. PH Coll 41.658b. Yukon Territory photograph album. Tents on shore near edge of forest, likely Conrad, Yukon Territory, August 1905.*

**This newsletter is provided by the Conrad Historic Site Working Group.  
You can view this newsletter online at [yukonheritage.com](http://yukonheritage.com) or please contact:**

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