



▲ Fort Selkirk. 2022.

Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

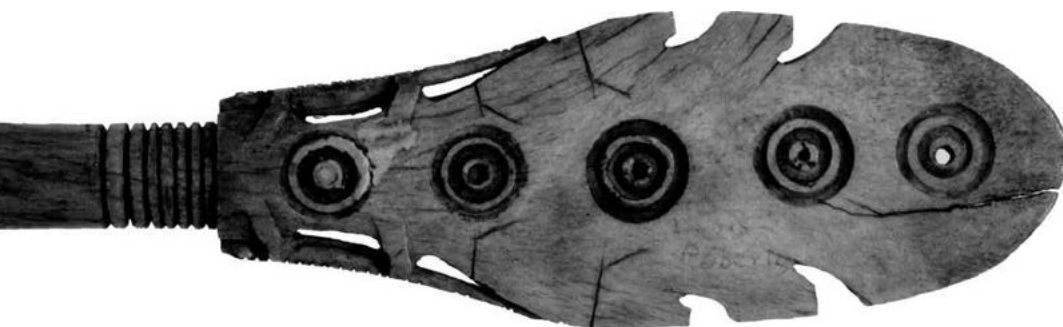
As a living cultural heritage site, Fort Selkirk is a place to share, respect and preserve for future generations.

R.C.M.P Detachment

Built in the mid-to-late 1920's, the cabin (pictured above) is similar in design to the Yukon Field Force buildings, although it was constructed much later by Afe Brown, a local trapper. In 1932, the R.C.M.P rented the cabin from the local storekeeper. Its best-known residents were the G.I. Cameron family, who lived here from 1935 to 1949.

The Corporal used a front room of the cabin for his office. When the telegraph operator was off on patrol fixing the lines, Martha Cameron moved the telegraph equipment to this building and took over as operator.

Excerpt from the "Walking Tour of Fort Selkirk".
View more information at
<https://yukonheritage.com/historic-sites/fort-selkirk>



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.

REMEMBERING IONE CHRISTENSEN (NEE CAMERON)

October 10, 1933 to August 15, 2025



▲ Ione's last visit to Fort Selkirk, the place that she loved so much! R.C.M.P. Red Serge Dak Dara and Andrew Perry standing with Ione Christensen at Fort Selkirk. August 20, 2021.

“

You have to be able
to know your history
in order to plan
your future.

”

Ione Christensen

Christensen, I. (2015) Whitehorse:
An Illustrated History. [Video]. Exploring
Yukon History. [https://yukon.ca/en/
exploring-yukon-history](https://yukon.ca/en/exploring-yukon-history)

Huchá Hudän Fort Selkirk Memories – Ione Christensen

by Helene Dobrowolsky, November 2025

In 1935, Ione Christensen's first view of Fort Selkirk was from the deck of a sternwheeler. Corporal G.I. "Cam" and Martha Cameron, and their lively 18-month-old, Ione were moving into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment, their log cabin home for the next 14 years.



▲ Yukon Archives. J.P. Kirk Collection. Lone Cameron & Dale Devore with "Sheep" by H.B. Co. Warehouse. Fort Selkirk. May 1939.



▲ Yukon Archives. Adami Collection. L-R: Jean Campbell, Mary Adami, Lone Cameron, Kay Wood, Martha Cameron, Jack Wood (H.B. Co. Mgr.), Oscar Adami with motorcycle, Annabelle Adami & Jackie Wood. Circa 1940.

In the 1930s, Fort Selkirk was home to about 12 non-native people and a large seasonal population of Northern Tutchone who came into town to sell furs and celebrate the Christmas and Easter holidays. At an age when most children were barely starting school, lone was safely using a .22 firearm, trapping small game, and learning to steer the detachment motor boat. This upbringing fostered her independent spirit and love for the Yukon outdoors.

At age 11, lone left town to continue her education and learn new skills at a girls' boarding school on Vancouver Island. She completed high school in Whitehorse. The town had boomed during wartime construction of the Alaska Highway, becoming the territory's main economic centre and, in 1953, the Yukon's new capital. The building of the highway led to the end of the sternwheeler era, and the abandonment of the small settlements along the Yukon River. Fort Selkirk people moved to Minto to take work building the new road from Whitehorse to Dawson City then most settled in Pelly Crossing.

In Whitehorse, lone met and married Art Christensen, they had two sons, and she began a career that

encompassed a long list of female firsts including first woman Justice of the Peace and Commissioner of Marriage, Juvenile Judge, Mayor of Whitehorse, Commissioner of the Yukon, and Yukon Senator. She has often stated that in each of these



▲ S.S. Klondike at Fort Selkirk. L-R: Edith Joynt, Martha and G.I. Cameron. Front row: Annabelle Adami and lone Christianson. circa 1942-49.

roles it was important to her to do the best job she could to inspire and make it easier for the women who would follow.

lone's final visit to her childhood home took place 86 years later in August 2021. This time she travelled by plane with a childhood friend, Lucy Van Bibber-Sanderson, and other dignitaries, to witness the signing of the updated Huchá Hudän Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan. These two journeys marked significant changes to the small Yukon River community as well as the life experiences of a remarkable woman.

As the plane landed, lone reminisced how her mother used to maintain that airstrip with a small tractor. She visited with the Mounties from Pelly Crossing telling them stories about her father's detachment at Fort Selkirk. On the way home, this sharp-eyed 88 year old was the only passenger to spot a moose from high in the air.

Huchá Hudän continues to be a special place in the Selkirk First Nation Traditional Territory, and is now a designated historic site. Since the late 1970s, seasonal crews have worked at the site to conserve buildings and maintain the grounds. The Selkirk First Nation and Yukon government also compiled photographs and recorded oral histories to share the stories of the Elders and Seniors of Fort Selkirk, including lone's parents. lone dearly loved her first Yukon home and visited often over the years. Her time at Fort Selkirk shaped her character and, she in turn, helped bring the town's history to life, reminding us that Huchá Hudän is far more than a collection of abandoned buildings.

MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Summer 2025 Site Work

This summer was a productive season at Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk, with significant maintenance and improvements completed across the site. The Fort Selkirk Work Crew completed repairs on a number of historic buildings this summer, some of which include decking and rolled roofing repairs on the Coward Cabin east porch roof, the R.C.M.P. Detachment rear addition, the rear addition on the T&D Store and the re-roofing of St. Andrew's Anglican Church.

Thank you to the Fort Selkirk Staff and Work Crew for all their hard work and for the successful summer at Fort Selkirk.

Kelinda Sax - Fort Selkirk Manager

Franklin Roberts - Fort Selkirk Advisor

Lino Battaja - Cook

Cindy McGinty - Cook

Rachel Rodrigue - Cooks helper

Vicki Joe - Cooks helper

Mitchel Alfred - Labourer

Shawn Alfred - Labourer

Ralph Harper - Labourer

Allen Joe - Labourer

2025 FORT SELKIRK VISITORS

	Canada	USA	Europe	Asia	Monthly Totals
May	4	6	0	0	10
June	57	9	52	1	119
July	103	6	48	2	159
August	77	8	37	4	126
September	15	2	16	0	33
Region Totals	256	31	153	7	
Total Visitation					447

"This is our third time here. I made my re-marriage vow to my wife in the church."

- Berlin, Germany

"Very interesting to learn about the first nation history as well as the Gold Rush stampede's influence."

- Calgary, Canada

"My third time to visit Fort Selkirk. I absolutely love it here. Thank you for having such a welcoming campsite. And thank you for the conservation of these buildings on this historic and beautiful site."

- Cumberland, Ontario

Kubota Tractor

In February 2025, Fort Selkirk acquired a new Kubota LX2610 tractor to replace the aging Kubota BX24. The larger and more powerful LX2610 will be an essential asset for ongoing repair and maintenance projects. Its increased size initially presented a challenge, as the tractor was too tall to fit inside the workcamp garage. To resolve this, the Work Crew modified the garage by raising the height of the door opening, while also repairing the leaking roof. This ensures the new tractor can now be stored securely indoors.



▲ Kubota LX2610



▲ Washhouse with windows and doors installed.

Washhouse

In July, the *Plumbineers Inc.*, a plumbing and heating contractor, completed the rough-in of plumbing and ventilation systems for the washhouse. Their work included installing shower stalls and an on-demand water heater.

The Fort Selkirk Work Crew installed windows and doors, effectively weatherproofing the building. Looking ahead to next season, we anticipate completing both the plumbing and electrical systems, with the goal of having the washhouse fully operational.

Coward Garage

In July, the Fort Selkirk Work Crew, in collaboration with Yukon government staff, completed stabilization work on the Coward Garage. The roof had sustained extensive damage to its rolled roofing, decking, and several rafters. To restore structural integrity, the team removed the compromised decking and installed new rafters and support posts. Once stabilized, a temporary corrugated metal roof was added to safeguard the building. These measures will protect the structure and mitigate further deterioration until full restoration can be undertaken.



▲ Aerial photo of Coward Garage during conservation repairs.



▲ Cladding the roof after structural stabilization.



▲ SFN and YG staff after project completion. L-R: Allen Joe, Shawn Alfred, Mitchell Alfred and Alasdair Smith.

St. Andrews Church

One of the major undertakings this summer was the re-roofing of St. Andrews Church. The previous roof, installed in 1983, had significantly deteriorated, with many shingles cracked, warped, and detached. In August, *Hucasaw Construction* began the reroofing project, supported by the Fort Selkirk Work Crew, who provided both logistical coordination and on-site assistance to ensure smooth progress.

The new roof incorporates several design enhancements, including a breathable underlayment, metal flashing along the hips of the bell tower, and a small roof cricket (a small triangular structure designed to divert water away) positioned between the bell tower and the main roof to divert water away from its base. While these improvements may not be clearly visible, they enhance the roof's performance and contribute to the long-term preservation of the church.



▲ July 10, 2023



▲ September 18, 2025



▲ Yukon Archives. Van Bibber Collection. H-116 #135. L-R: Oscar Adami, Ione Christensen (nee Cameron), Pat Van Bibber (sitting on the Canadian Pacific Airlines tractor) and Melinda Jane (Linch) Van Bibber. Fort Selkirk. n.d.

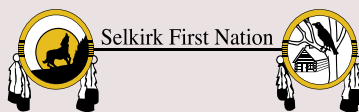
All photos © Government of Yukon except where indicated.

View this newsletter online at yukonheritage.com

This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.
For more information, please contact:

Patrick McGinty
Heritage Manager
Selkirk First Nation
(867) 537-3331
heritagemanager@selkirkfn.com

Historic Sites Planner
Government of Yukon
(867) 393-6291
heritage.planning@yukon.ca
yukonheritage.com



Yukon

