



ALASKA HIGHWAY HERITAGE

Alaska Highway Community Society
Newsletter

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Heritage Places in your
Community

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ALASKA HIGHWAY COMMUNITY SOCIETY

The Alaska Highway Community Society is supported by local governments. The society focuses on the history, heritage and tourism potential of the Alaska Highway Corridor.

HMP 300, Fort Nelson,
BC (NRRM, 2012)



Aishihik River Bridge, YK (Yukon Government Photo)

SHARING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HERITAGE PLACES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

HERITAGE VALUES WORKSHOPS, MARCH 2013

There's still room in the workshops! Book your place now.

It's not a mystery. Heritage resources are the places that matter to a community because they connect us to experiences that have cultural significance today. Heritage helps make communities distinctive with a strong sense of place, but there are also many direct benefits to heritage – bringing tourist dollars into the community; encouraging friends and families to stay a little longer to enjoy and learn about the places we love; giving students a chance to learn from the places they know rather than through books; and creating opportunities for life-long learning.

Understanding how to collect, share and document places, their stories and their significance is an important step in making heritage meaningful to communities. We will be learning more about community heritage through the Heritage Values Workshops led by the BC Heritage Branch in collaboration with the Alaska Highway Community Society

(AHCS) in Fort Nelson (March 4-5), Dawson Creek (March 6-7) and Fort St. John (March 7-8).

The AHCS is pleased to welcome two staff from the BC Heritage Branch – Pamela Copley and Ursula Pfahler – as the facilitators for these popular workshops. Each workshop is tailored to the needs of the community, which means that each workshop has a section set aside specifically to discuss the Alaska Highway Corridor project.

BC Heritage Branch and AHCS invited people from every town, city, district, and First Nation in the region to the workshops. We are anticipating great discussions on many topics of mutual interest to all groups, including related topics such as land use, archaeology and paleontology. The response to the workshops has been very positive. Some of the participants will have years of experience working on promoting and protecting heritage in our communities; others want to begin their contribution through the workshops.

WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

HIGHWAY BUILDERS STORIES

The Alaska Highway Community Society (AHCS) launched a website in Fall 2012 to keep people informed and involved in all activities related to the heritage of the highway. A new section "Highway Builders" was recently updated in the Stories section. The topics are: In Command; Choosing the Route; Construction Crews; African American Regiments; The Problem with Permafrost; the PRA's 1943 Road; Working and Living Conditions; The Construction Camp; the Canadian Army Takes Over; and the Alaska Highway Today.

Go to www.ouralaskahighway.com and click on the Stories tab.



HERITAGE MATTERS

Cultural Landscapes

The places that immediately come to mind when we talk about the heritage of the Alaska Highway Corridor are often bridges and sections of the old road. As soon as we speak to people who know the highway well, we begin to talk about the broader landscape. If the nomination of the Alaska Highway Corridor as a National Historic Site of Canada is successful, the corridor will be listed as a "cultural landscape".

So what is a cultural landscape?

The definition in use by both the BC Heritage Branch and Parks Canada is "Any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people." Many kinds of places can be categorized as cultural landscapes – historic rural districts, archaeological sites, canals, planned communities, settlement patterns and Aboriginal landscapes. Some cultural landscapes are formally recognized as having heritage value. Some of the ways that cultural landscapes can become recognized as being of value are Local Government heritage designations, land-use studies conducted as part of development applications – First Nations lands, and commemorations by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Examples of cultural landscapes recognized as being of national historic significance include:

- **Walled Landscape of Grates Cove National Historic Site of Canada (NHS),**
Grates Cove, Newfoundland and Labrador
- **Grand-Pré Rural Historic District National Historic Site of Canada (NHS),**
Grand Pré, Nova Scotia
- **Buxton Settlement National Historic Site of Canada (NHS),** *Buxton, Ontario*
- **Nagwichoonyjik (Mackenzie River) National Historic Site of Canada (NHS),**
Tsiigehtchic, Northwest Territories
- **Wolastoq National Historic Site of Canada (NHS),** *Saint John River, New Brunswick*

Some of the nationally significant landscapes are single places; others, like Wolastoq, have key cultural resources within the broader landscape that are identified for protection.

The Alaska Highway Corridor fits the definition of a cultural landscape. The Heritage Values Workshops in March will bring the AHCS a step closer to understanding the heritage significance of the Alaska Highway Corridor to local communities and the key places that have potential for conservation.

ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

The Fort St. John office of Northern British Columbia Tourism Association (NBCTA), a not-for-profit society, administers the affairs of the Alaska Highway Community Society. NBCTA is governed by a private sector board of directors representing business and community tourism interests within the Northern Tourism Region. This region is one of six official tourism regions in Super, Natural British Columbia which encompasses the top 54% of British Columbia and includes Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands).

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bud Powell
<i>(City of Dawson Creek)</i> ■ Larry Fynn
<i>(Village of Pouce Coupe)</i> ■ Fred Jarvis
<i>(District of Taylor)</i> ■ Laura Weisgerber
<i>(District of Chetwynd)</i> ■ Bob Nicholson
<i>(District of Chetwynd)</i> ■ Trish Jacques
<i>(District of Mackenzie)</i> ■ Vacant
<i>(District of Tumbler Ridge)</i> ■ Roger Gregoire
<i>(City of Fort St. John)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Darryl Johnson
<i>(District of Hudson's Hope)</i> ■ Nicole Gillis
<i>(District of Hudson's Hope)</i> ■ Doug McKee
<i>(Northern Rockies Regional Municipality)</i> ■ Karen Goodings
<i>(Peace River Regional District)</i> ■ Wayne Hiebert
<i>(Peace River Regional District)</i> ■ Audrey Sam
<i>(NENAS)</i> ■ Pauline Cassleman
<i>(Peace Liard Regional Arts Council)</i> |
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SPREADING THE WORD

How You Can Help the Nomination Project

Are you interested in contributing to the Nomination of the Alaska Highway Corridor as a National Historic Site of Canada? You can do so by going out into your community and collecting information on heritage resources of importance to the history of the Alaska Highway Corridor. The information you collect and share with us will be added to our Alaska Highway Heritage Survey Database. This database will ultimately feed into a Cultural Resource Inventory that will allow us to report on tangible heritage – structures, relics, artifacts, and landscape elements – that are likely to contribute to the identification of boundaries and to understanding the Alaska Highway's significance as a historic place.

We are interested in hearing about any sites or resources you feel have heritage value!

If you are unsure about what "heritage" is, you can visit the BC Heritage website to learn more:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/heritage/index.htm.

For an idea about what sort of information to collect, please visit our website:

www.ouralaskahighway.com and check out the tips available on the Experience and Learn page.



Liard Hot Springs, BC (AHCS)



Historic Fort Nelson Warden Building, BC (NRRM)



Stretch of the old Alaska Highway, YK (AHCS)

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