



ALASKA HIGHWAY HERITAGE

Alaska Highway Community Society
Newsletter

MAY 2013

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2013, Dawson Creek, BC Workshop (AHCS)

VOICING HERITAGE VALUES:

MARCH 2013 COMMUNITY HERITAGE VALUES WORKSHOPS

The BC Heritage Branch in partnership with the Alaska Highway Community Society (AHCS) held a series of workshops from March 4th to March 8th in Fort Nelson, Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, BC. The Fort Nelson workshop was attended by 13 participants, including a large turnout from the Fort Nelson First Nation as well as numerous local heritage keepers. The Dawson Creek workshop had 24 participants with strong representation from the nearby communities of Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge. The last workshop, in Fort St. John, enjoyed a tremendous turnout of 41 participants, including a large number of representatives from Fort St. John, Taylor, and other surrounding communities, as well as individuals from Treaty 8, Doig River, Halfway River and Prophet River First Nations.

The workshops allowed communities to explore what they value about their community's heritage and identify significant historic places of value to their communities. Participants also gained an understanding of some of the most frequently used heritage conservation tools, learned about initiatives already underway in the area, and exchanged ideas about additional ways of celebrating local heritage.

The workshops also served as an opportunity to update communities on the Alaska Highway Heritage Project and to seek input on themes and places of significance. People were very supportive of the nomination project. Ideas came forward about names for cultural landscapes, the importance of the shared First Nation and settler histories, opportunities for tourism, places that need protection, and ways to engage visitors and residents. There was also a very strong interest in bringing local history into schools.

COME AND MEET US!

MEET BUD POWELL AND APRIL MOI AT THE TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE YUKON SPRING CONFERENCE, MAY 2ND TO 4TH

Bud Powell was born and raised in the Yukon. As Chair of the AHCS, and even before, he has been a strong advocate for protecting and celebrating the history and heritage of the Alaska Highway. April Moi works for the Northern BC Tourism Association (NBCTA) and administers the Alaska Highway Project on behalf of the AHCS. She has long-standing personal and professional interests in the Alaska Highway's cultural heritage and tourism opportunities.



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)

FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

The AHCS recognizes that individual First Nations need to have a voice in the nomination project. The Society has been reaching out to First Nations directly by speaking to cultural and lands advisors to understand more about an appropriate engagement strategy. We have also been encouraged by First Nations individuals who have participated in the March 2013 workshops and other forums for discussion. The workshops were specifically attended by individuals from Treaty 8, and Fort Nelson, Doig River, Halfway River, and Prophet River First Nations. The North East Native Advancing Society (NENAS), an organization that works on human resource development and training for all Aboriginal people living in northeast BC, is represented on the AHCS board and worked in partnership with the AHCS and NBCTA to fund the Alaska Highway First Nation Story Collection Project as a Job Creation Program.

For the purposes of the nomination, however, more work is required on First Nations engagement in both BC and Yukon. The nomination project is using a “bottom up” approach. Communities are telling us what is important to them. After information and opinions have been collected, the AHCS will be able to assess whether the nomination should proceed. Local support is critical.

In spring 2013, April Moi, Bud Powell and consultant, Julie Harris will be meeting with or presenting to numerous organizations, including Treaty 8 members, Fort Nelson First Nation, Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon, Yukon First Nations Tourism Association, Aboriginal Tourism BC, local senators, Yukon local governments, and members of Yukon museums.



Brian Wolf (Prophet River FN), April Moi (NBCTA), Robin Tsakoza (Prophet River FN), Bud Powell (AHCS)

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).

- **Bud Powell**
(City of Dawson Creek)
- **Larry Fynn**
(Village of Pouce Coupe)
- **Fred Jarvis**
(District of Taylor)
- **Laura Weisgerber**
(District of Chetwynd)
- **Bob Nicholson**
(District of Chetwynd)
- **Trish Jacques**
(District of Mackenzie)
- **Vacant**
(District of Tumbler Ridge)
- **Roger Gregoire**
(City of Fort St. John)
- **Darryl Johnson**
(District of Hudson's Hope)
- **Kelly Miller**
(District of Hudson's Hope)
- **Doug McKee**
(Northern Rockies Regional Municipality)
- **Karen Goodings**
(Peace River Regional District)
- **Wayne Hiebert**
(Peace River Regional District)
- **Audrey Sam**
(NENAS)
- **Pauline Cassleman**
(Peace Liard Regional Arts Council)

OUR NEXT STEPS

The Alaska Highway Corridor crosses the BC-Yukon boundary. Approval from all parties (landowners, local governments and First Nations) affected by the nomination is needed for it to be considered by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its administrative body, Parks Canada. The AHCS represents BC organizations and local governments only. In addition to engaging First Nation groups, Yukon involvement will be needed prior to completing the nomination. This will include continuing support from the Yukon Historic Sites, Cultural Services Branch of the Yukon government. Yukon engagement, and continuing BC engagement, is critical to learning more about the themes and places of importance within the Alaska Highway Corridor, contributing to the boundaries and values of the Corridor's cultural landscape, and identifying ways to make the nomination beneficial to a broad range of cultural and tourism concerns.

In addition to bringing Yukon more directly into the project, the AHCS will continue working on:

- Mapping the scope of the Alaska Highway Corridor's cultural landscape and character;
- Meeting with people in BC and Yukon who can advise on the nomination in general and on specific resources of heritage value;
- Communicating with the general public and stakeholders; and
- Investigating options to make the nomination's heritage and tourism goals more likely to succeed.

**ALASKA HIGHWAY
COMMUNITY SOCIETY**
PO BOX 6850
FORT ST. JOHN, BC V1J 4J3
PHONE: (250) 785-2544
FAX: (250) 785-4424
E-MAIL: info@ouralaskahighway.com