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FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

This is the second of our monthly newsletters, updating the progress we are making towards the goal of constructing a cultural centre and museum at the 108 Mile Lake.

CURRENT SOCIETY MEMBERS



The current Society members meeting with our architect during the Fall of 2013 – clockwise from bottom left: Phyllis Rosette and Vice President Patrick Harry, Canoe Creek; Treasurer JoAnne Moiese, Williams Lake; Secretary Graham Leslie; President Irene Gilbert, Canim Lake; Director Miriam Schilling, Soda Creek; Marie-Odile Marceau of McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd.; Alana Dixon, Canim Lake; Director Jane Paul and Irvine Johnson, Esketemc. [Absent: Chris Wycotte, Williams Lake]

All recipients are urged to read the footnotes set out at the end of this Newsletter

1. PURCHASE OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION (MOTI) LAND

In order to permit the Society to control the land on which it plans to build a footbridge connecting the existing MOTI parking area with the Site, the Ministry has agreed to cede a small additional parcel of its land at no added cost to the Society.

2. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS

The subdivision process has been delayed in order to permit the additional portion of the MOTI property to be added to the parcel that has already been purchased. It will also be necessary for the weather to improve in order for a survey of the consolidated parcel to be carried out. It is anticipated that the subdivision process and the registration of title in the name of the Cariboo Regional District will be completed by the end of April.

3. LEASE AGREEMENT

Execution of the lease agreement continues to await completion of the subdivision process. Consideration is being given to holding a signing ceremony in due course – perhaps at the Site.

4. WELL CLOSURE

Jerry Weston of Weston Water Wells of Lone Butte who has been commissioned to do this work, made a preliminary assessment of the task on January 30th, and has provided a firm estimate of the cost which has been accepted. The task will be carried out as soon as the weather permits Jerry to access the site with his truck.

5. SOIL TESTING

A further condition of the subdivision approval is that the NSCS must demonstrate by the end of June 2014 that the consolidated property can support a type 1 septic system. Although the NSCS expects to install a type 2 system in due course, it has commissioned Grassroots Septic of Eagle Creek to carry out the soil testing as soon as weather permits. Peter Butterworth of Grassroots Septic will commence work as soon as he determines that the ground is not frozen.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A further condition of the subdivision approval is that an environmental assessment must be carried out by the end of June 2014. North West Environmental has been engaged to conduct this assessment and any remedial work that the NSCS may have inherited from the neighbouring Telus property. Eric Gunderson's report is now expected by March 7th.

7. WEBSITE

Our website continues to be updated as we progress, and provides access to these monthly Newsletters for anyone not already on our mailing list.

8. SCHEMATIC DESIGN REPORT

As earlier mentioned, the final Schematic Design Report prepared by McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. was received prior to Christmas 2013. Its findings and conclusions were presented to the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council's Leadership Council on February 5th, and are still in the process of being presented to the Society's five constituent Band Councils. The Report has been approved by the Band Councils of Canim Lake, Canoe Creek and Williams Lake, is on the Soda Creek Band Council's agenda for March 4th, and will be submitted to the Esketemc Band Council following its Band Council elections, which take place on March 6th.

9. BUSINESS PLAN

Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies has started to convert the previous work of our Society's members into a complete plan that is expected to be finalized by the end of May 2014 at which time its conclusions will be presented to the five constituent Band Councils, hopefully for their approval. Suzanne's task will require important input from the five Bands, and Miriam Schilling, Soda Creek's Community Economic Development Coordinator, will coordinate this input.

10. OUTSIDE GRANTS

We once again wish to acknowledge the generous financial support we have received during the past 10 years, not only from our five constituent Northern Secwepemc Bands, but also from the following other bodies: Cariboo Regional District; Northern Initiative Development Trust; Heritage Canada; Western Economic Diversification Canada; Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition; and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.