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NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

After the excitement of the previous month, November was a relatively quiet month which saw our Society hold its 2014 annual general meeting and, of great importance, saw the first of our five Band Councils approve our business plan and commit to providing its portion of the annual operating subsidy we will need for our proposed facility to function. Details of the various ongoing activities are set out below.

1. THE SOCIETY'S 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held in Williams Lake on November 21st and the election of officers and directors for the next year took place. The results of the election were as follows:

President: Irene Gilbert of the Canim Lake Band

Vice President: Chief Patrick Harry of the Canoe Creek Indian Band

Treasurer: Councilor Jane Paul of the Esketemc First Nation

Secretary: Graham Leslie of the 100 Mile House & District Historical Society

Directors at Large: Miriam Schilling of the Soda Creek Indian Band and

Councilor Chris Wycotte of the Williams Lake Indian Band

It should be noted here that the Society's bylaws require each of its six participating organizations to be represented on the six-person board of directors. It should also be noted that the board of directors has only met on three occasions during the Society's 8½ years of existence, as almost all business has been conducted by the full membership during that time.

2. CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP

The Society was saddened by the resignations of two of its long-serving members during the last quarter of the year. Irvine Johnson resigned his membership as a representative of the Esketemc First Nation, and was replaced by former Chief Andy Chelsea whose wife, Dr. Phyllis Chelsea, had formerly been an invaluable member of the Society. Phyllis Rosette resigned her position as a representative of the Canoe Creek Band, and has been replaced by Councilor Harold Duncan. Miriam Schilling continues to be an invaluable member from the Soda Creek Band, which will hopefully appoint its alternate member in the near future.

3. BUSINESS PLAN

As mentioned in our introduction, the Canoe Creek Band Council has already approved our business plan, and has agreed to the 5-year commitment to its share of the annual operating subsidy the proposed facility will need in order to function.

The other four Band Councils are set to consider our request for the subsidy at meetings to be held in the very near future. Applications to outside bodies to fund the construction of our proposed facility, require us to demonstrate our financial capacity to operate it.

4. OUR BRIDGE BUILDING PROJECT

In late November, we received an estimate from Celtic Engineering of Williams Lake of the cost of building a bridge across Sucker Creek to connect the Government's rest area to our site.

The bridge is intended not only to be functional in order to carry snowmobiles and ATVs as well as pedestrians accessing our site, but also to be aesthetically pleasing in order to complement the landscaping and the building that will eventually occupy the site. As a consequence, it will be more expensive to build than a simply functional structure.

Nevertheless we were surprised and dismayed by the amount of the estimate which is significantly higher than we had envisaged, and would cost considerably more than the amount we have so far raised from the extremely generous contributions of the business communities of 100 Mile House and Williams Lake. Those sponsors and donors are permanently recognized on our website and have been thanked publicly in advertisements appearing in both the *100 Mile Free Press* and the *Williams Lake Tribune*.

Our reaction to the estimate has been four-fold. First, we appointed a sub-committee to examine ways of scaling back the estimate by means of such steps as substituting local contractors and labour for those emanating from Williams Lake. Second, we will seek to take advantage of offers from local suppliers – some already made – to provide discounts on materials. Third, we plan to make application to the *New Pathways to Gold Society* for a grant that would – please excuse the pun – bridge the gap between the projected final cost and the amount we are able to raise. And fourth, we plan to approach those businesses in 100 Mile House and Williams Lake that have not yet contributed to the project, some of which still have our initial request under active consideration.

We continue to plan for construction of the bridge by no later than May 2015.

5. THE OVERALL PROJECT

As soon as we have received the approvals of all five member Band Councils for our requested operating subsidy, we will be in position to start the search for the funding to construct our proposed facility. Hopefully, by the start of the New Year, we will be able to go to work on that phase of the overall project. The goal remains to start construction in 2016 and to open our doors to the general public by May 2017.



Feather gift made by Irene Gilbert and presented by her to Al Richmond



Representatives of the 5 member Bands surrounding the newly-unveiled sign marking the site.

NOTES TO THE READER

- 1.. If you would like to forward this Newsletter to friends or colleagues, please feel completely free to do so.
2. If you are not on our direct emailing list, but would like to be added to it, please notify us by email addressed to grahamleslie@shaw.ca