



PO Box 553  
108 Mile Ranch, B.C. V0K 2Z0  
tel: 250.791.7267  
E-mail: [grahamleslie@shaw.ca](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca)

<http://www.nsculturalsociety.ca/>

## NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

### 1. BUSINESS PLAN

It is clear that the Soda Creek Band Council is preoccupied with several major projects that make it inopportune for its members to meet with us at this time in order to review the ongoing relationship between the Band and the Society. We look forward, however, to the time – hopefully early in the New Year – when it will be possible to have that meeting.

### 2. OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 2015 Annual General Meeting was held on November 20<sup>th</sup>, and the following members were elected to hold office for the ensuing year.

President – Irene Gilbert of the Canim Lake Band

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

Treasurer – Chris Wycotte of the Williams Lake Indian Band

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

Director – Andy Chelsea of the Esketemc First Nation

The other Director position is held vacant pending the appointment of members from the Soda Creek Indian Band.

### 3. PROJECT DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

The Annual General Meeting was attended by Craig Duffield and Andrew Carnochan of McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. who provided the members with an outline of the design development phase of the project. This phase which has been made possible by the generosity of CN, Aboriginal Tourism BC, and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, is planned to be completed by the end of March 2016. The architects will meet with our members in late January 2016 in order to provide an update and to obtain feedback on their work to that time.

#### 4. THE EARTHEN MONUMENT

As reported in our October 2015 Newsletter, our applications to the Canada 150 Fund of the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage and to the Northern Development Initiative Trust have been submitted for the funding required to design, engineer and construct the earthen monument that will honour the victims of the residential school system, assist in educating both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities about the history and legacy of that shameful system, and most hopefully play a significant role in moving down the path to reconciliation. We don't anticipate hearing the results of our applications until well into 2016.

#### 5. PREPARATIONS FOR FUNDRAISING

As mentioned in previous editions, we won't commence the search for funds to support the main construction phase of the project until we have solved the dilemma of the operational funding shortfall that results from the Soda Creek Band's inability to contribute its share at this time.

We are, however, continuing to establish links with various agencies and individuals who might in due course be willing to contribute funding or to support the project in other ways. In June 2015, President Irene Gilbert, Vice President Patrick Harry and Secretary Graham Leslie had a very productive meeting with MP Cathy McLeod who undertook to help us with her support of the project to the fullest extent she could, and although her party has been reduced to Opposition status in the House of Commons, we are delighted to learn that she has been appointed to be her party's critic for Indigenous Affairs. We look forward to a further meeting with her in order to discuss ways and mean by which she might continue to assist us in our quest for future funding.

#### NOTES TO THE READER

1. If you would prefer not to receive future monthly Newsletters, please notify us by email addressed to [grahamleslie@shaw.ca](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca).
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](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca)

