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MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

May was a month that ended with several disappointments, the first of which was that after having waited patiently since the previous September for a decision from the Federal Minister for *Canadian Heritage* regarding our *Canada 150* application to fund the earthen monument, we learned on May 26th that it had not been approved.

In view of that decision, our application for the complementary funding from the *Northern Development Initiative Trust* will not be submitted, and unless we can find an alternate source of outside funding in the meantime, the monument will probably form a part of the overall construction, as originally conceived by our architects.

The second disappointment arose in connection with our application to the *BC Rural Dividend Program* to help fund the construction documentation phase of the work of our architects, *McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd.* Our application which was strongly supported by the *Cariboo Regional District*, the *District of 100 Mile House* and the *City of Williams Lake* through the agency of its *Central Cariboo Economic Development Corporation*, was submitted during the last week of May and appeared to be strong in every respect except for one aspect which was its failure to include an audited financial statement. Like most small not-for-profit societies that are not required to conduct audits of their annual financial statements and that are unable to afford the approximately \$10,000 auditing fees, we have never conducted them.

The good news is that although the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has not been willing to relax the auditing requirement for the first intake of applications, it is planning to review the requirement and to consider relaxing it prior to the second intake in October 2016. We will certainly be applying again.

In the meantime we have received the hard copies of McFarland Marceau's Design Development Report, and copies have already been distributed to our members.

We met with the Canoe Creek Band Council during May so as to provide an update on our progress, and we hope to meet with our other member Band Councils soon.

We also need to acknowledge the incredibly generous gesture made by District of 100 Mile House Chief Administrative Officer, Roy Scott, who when he learned of our need for an audit, offered to carry out a review of our financials on his own time during the last weekend of May and without charge. Unfortunately his offer did not satisfy the Ministry, but Roy's gesture stands as an inspiration to us all.



Gift exchange at lease-signing ceremony 2014

NOTES TO THE READER

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