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JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

June was a quiet month as four of our member Bands resumed their negotiations for a final treaty – a process that some predict will take up to three years to complete, given the extraordinarily slow pace of the previous negotiating stages. Our fifth member Band has pulled out of the treaty process, a decision not shared by the others, but perfectly understandable in view of the manner in which Canada and British Columbia have approached treaty negotiations during the past two decades.

Our members have not held a meeting since receiving the disappointing news that we recorded in our May 2016 Newsletter, and with summer having arrived, it is unlikely that they will meet prior to the Fall. When they do meet, it is hoped that the B.C. Government will have decided to relax the requirement for audited financial statements that acted as a barrier to our application – and those of many other small non profit societies – for funding from the B.C. Rural Dividend Program, in which case we will re-apply in October to supplement the contributions that our member Bands have already made in order to help fund the construction documentation phase of the work of our architects, *McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd.*

One bizarre event occurred during the past few weeks. Your editor occasionally walks his dog in the vicinity of our beautiful bridge near the 108 Heritage Site, and a few weeks ago he noticed that the plaque honouring the donors who made possible the construction of the bridge, had been pried loose from its stand and removed. Thinking it likely that somebody had stolen it in the belief that it was valuable as scrap metal, he contacted the manufacturer and learned that its thin stainless steel contents had a scrap metal value of less than one dollar. He then reported the theft to the RCMP in 100 Mile House who undertook to contact the local scrap metal dealers in case the thief had approached them. A subsequent call from the RCMP confirmed that no such approach had been made to any of them.

Then, on another walk with his dog, your editor saw from a distance that the plaque had been returned, and on closer inspection was able to see that it had been fairly carefully replaced, and attached to its stand. The adhesive used to re-attach it was not very strong and will need to be strengthened in the near future. This incident gives us an excuse to reproduce Jeffrey Newman's photograph of the plaque, and to recognize and thank our generous donors one more time. We all love our bridge.

See full page version of the plaque on following page.

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.
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

THIS BRIDGE WAS COMPLETED IN JUNE 2015 FOR THE
NORTHERN SECWEPENC CULTURAL SOCIETY

ARCHITECTS: **McFARLAND MARCEAU ARCHITECTS LTD.**

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: **FAST + EPP**

DESIGNED AND BUILT BY **CELTIC ENGINEERING LTD.**

AND MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
NEW PATHWAYS TO GOLD SOCIETY

AND THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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MANY OF WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MATCHED BY **ARTSVEST BC**

AND THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

100 MILE SNOWMOBILE CLUB
JOHN AND BARBARA HOOPER
DOLORES HUSTWAIT
GRAHAM AND LISA LESLIE
BRENT RUTHERFORD