



P.O. Box 553  
108 Mile Ranch, B.C. V0K 2Z0  
tel: 250.791.7267  
fax: 250.791.7297  
email: [grahamleslie@shaw.ca](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca)

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

## **APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER**

In last month's Newsletter we recognized the many people who were instrumental in the early development of the project prior to the Society's incorporation in July 2006, and those who have served as representatives of their Bands since that time.

In this edition it seems equally appropriate to recognize and express our gratitude to the several entities that have provided grant money to us along the way, and without which we could not possibly have reached the position we occupy today. They are, in the order in which they provided their grants,

Cariboo Regional District  
Northern Development Initiative Trust  
Western Economic Diversification Canada  
Heritage Canada  
Union of B.C. Municipalities (via Cariboo Regional District)  
Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition  
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

Every one of these grants enabled our Society to attain the next rung on the ladder towards our eventual goal of building and operating a cultural centre and museum near the 108 Mile Lake, and it goes without saying that in the absence of any one of these grants, the project would have stalled or even died. We are extremely grateful.

We continue to report our progress on the various tasks that we are undertaking in preparation for the fundraising stage that we hope to begin by early this summer.

### **1. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS**

The weather has now improved to the extent that Nigel Hemingway of Cariboo Geographic Systems has been able to start the field work in connection with his survey of the consolidated parcel. Once his task has been finalized, it will be possible to complete the subdivision process and the registration of title in the name of the Cariboo Regional District.

## **2. LEASE AGREEMENT**

Execution of the lease agreement continues to await completion of the subdivision process. In the meantime and in anticipation of the actual signing, Darron Campbell has prepared two copies that have been given to our Secretary for a final proofread and initialing of the pages. Consideration is still being given to holding a signing ceremony in due course – perhaps at the Site.

## **3. WELL CLOSURE**

The melting of the snow and the improved weather made it possible for Jerry Weston of Weston Water Wells of Lone Butte to decommission the well in mid-April, and the appropriate documentation has also been completed to the satisfaction of Interior Health and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

## **4. SOIL TESTING**

We have been relieved of the requirement to test the soil as a precondition of the subdivision, and have decided to wait until later in the process when we will be able to test the soil for various other purposes in addition to septic disposal.

## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

As reported in the March edition, Eric Gunderson's report on behalf of North West Environmental was delivered on March 27<sup>th</sup>, concluding that the few environmental risks that have been identified, are low, recommending that a phase 2 investigation is not required, and making a number of additional recommendations relating to the subsequent development of the site, none of which are at all onerous.

## **6. SCHEMATIC DESIGN REPORT**

We earlier reported that four of our member Band Councils have approved the Schematic Design Report prepared by McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. in December 2013. The Esketemc Band Council which had deferred consideration until its new Councilors had settled into office following the Band's March 6<sup>th</sup> elections, are now scheduled to deal with the matter in May.

## **7. BUSINESS PLAN**

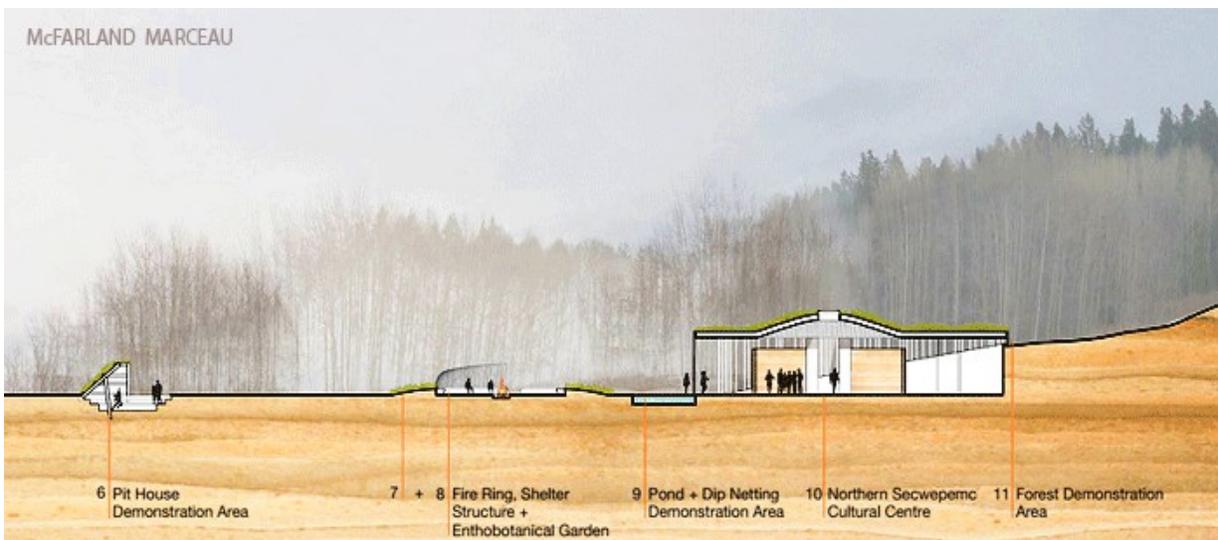
Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies continues to work on her assignment, met with Miriam Schilling in mid-April, and is scheduled to meet with our members on June 6<sup>th</sup> at which time she will submit her final draft report for comment. As soon as possible after that meeting, we will present her findings to the five Band Councils in the hope of getting approval to proceed to the fundraising stage of our project.

## 8. FUNDRAISING

Although we won't be in a position to make applications for external funding until our Business Plan has been completed and approved by our five member Bands, we have begun making tentative approaches to several of the potential sources of major funding. As well, we will soon be considering the establishment of two separate funds, one dedicated to the approximately \$2.5 million needed for construction, and the other one dedicated to a likely equivalent amount needed to help support the operation and maintenance of the facility. We will be approaching the five Band Councils in the near future in order to ensure that our fundraising efforts don't overlap with those they are mounting for their many other worthy objectives.

### NOTES TO THE READER

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CONCEPTUAL DESIGN