



JULY 2014 NEWSLETTER

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The month of July saw steady progress on several fronts, chief among which was the start of a community business fundraising campaign, which is described in detail in this issue.

1. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS

We encountered a slight glitch in our dealings with the Approving Officer, but they were subsequently resolved at an onsite meeting between him and our agent Nigel Hemingway of Cariboo Geographic Systems. As a consequence, Nigel will have to submit new drawings, but the process ought to be concluded during the month of August.

2. LEASE AGREEMENT

We are still contemplating a form of ceremony to mark the signing of the 99-year lease between our Society and the Cariboo Regional District, almost certainly at the site. The most likely time for this to take place is in early to mid-September. Once a date has been set, invitations will be sent to various dignitaries and to those who have played a significant role in our progress to date.

3. BUSINESS PLAN

The Business Plan prepared by Cadence Strategies received formal approval from the Society's membership in mid-July, having already been introduced to the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council's Leadership Council on July 2nd. Arrangements are currently being made to approach the five constituent Band Councils for their commitment to fund the anticipated operating deficit during the Centre's first five years of operation.

4. FUNDRAISING

Our approach to the major private and governmental agencies that we hope will agree to contribute to the approximately \$3.25 million total cost of construction, landscaping and exhibitry, awaits the agreement of our five member Bands to cover the anticipated annual operating deficit.

In the meantime, in an effort to gain the support of the communities of 100 Mile House and Williams Lake, we embarked on a mailed fundraising campaign in late June which is being followed up by telephone and in-person visits. The goal is to raise \$10,000 in cash sponsorships from what we have arbitrarily considered to be medium-sized businesses in 100 Mile House and Williams Lake, and as we get ready to publish this July Newsletter, we have secured commitments approaching \$3,500 in cash and more than \$1,000 in-kind.

In early August, we will learn whether or not we have qualified to receive matching funding from an organization called *Business for the Arts*, and if so, we will commission our architects McFarland Marceau to start the design and engineering work for a bridge to cross Sucker Creek and provide pedestrian access from the MOTI rest area to our site.

A secondary purpose of the bridge which has formed the basis for our approach to local businesses and individuals, will be to deter the irresponsible drivers of snowmobiles and ATVs from fording Sucker Creek at a location close to the site of our planned bridge and to encourage them to cross the Creek by means of the bridge.

Those who have forded the Creek in the past, have caused significant – but hopefully repairable – damage to its banks and its bed, and were recently observed driving through the Creek while fish were in the process of spawning at that very spot.



Damaged portion of the Creek.

The designing of a bridge that will be of a standard to carry snowmobiles and ATVs in addition to pedestrians, and the construction of fencing and/or hedging that will carry vehicles alongside the Creek and over the bridge, will stand as a contribution to the local community by our Society and – equally importantly – as a testament to the ongoing partnership between the First Nations that comprise the Society and the local communities of 100 Mile House and Williams Lake.

While we hope to be able to acknowledge many more sponsors and donors to this project in due course – and there are several that have our request under active consideration – we take pleasure in expressing our thanks to those who have already made a commitment to help fund it. At this time of writing they are (in alphabetical order):

BMO, 100 Mile House; Heartland Toyota, Williams Lake; Home Hardware, Williams Lake; Hub International Barton Insurance, 100 Mile House; OK Tire and Auto Service, Williams Lake; Pharmasave, 100 Mile House; Sandman Inn, Williams Lake; Save-On-Foods, 100 Mile House & Williams Lake; Sitka Log Homes, 100 Mile House; Sunrise Ford, 100 Mile House; West Fraser Mills, Williams Lake; Williams Lake & District Credit Union, 100 Mile House & Williams Lake; and Windsor Plywood, Williams Lake.

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.