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MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

While steady progress is being made towards the completion of a Business Plan that will enable the Society's five constituent Bands to decide whether or not to support the Society in proceeding to the fundraising stage of the project, the Business Plan isn't expected to be ready for presentation to our Band Councils until June.

In the meantime, work is progressing on several fronts as reported in this edition of our Newsletter.

During the interval between now and June, it seems an appropriate time to recognize the numerous people who were instrumental in the early development of the project prior to the Society's incorporation in July 2006, as well as those who have served as member representatives of their Bands since that time.

They are listed in alphabetical order according to their respective Band affiliations.

Canim Lake: Floyd Dick, Alana Dixon, Irene Gilbert and Elizabeth Pete;

Canoe Creek: Loretta Billy, Dora Demers, Charlotte Gilbert, Patrick Harry, Agness Jack, Phyllis Rosette and Phyllis (Jack) Webstad;

Esketemc: Pat Chelsea, Phyllis Chelsea, Robert A. Chelsea, Lucy Dick, Darlene Hunter, Irvine Johnson, Jane Paul and Thomas Sampson;

Soda Creek: Cheryl Chapman, Donna Dixon, Rhonda (Shackelly) Phillips, Miriam Schilling, Chief Bev Sellars and Teena Sellars;

Williams Lake: Robin Gilbert, Irvine Johnson, JoAnne Moiese, Amy Sandy, the late Joan Sellars and Christopher Wycotte;

100 Mile House & District Historical Society: Beat d'Aujourd'hui and Graham Leslie.

1. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS

As the weather appears likely to improve over the next few weeks, we expect that Nigel Hemingway of Cariboo Geographic Systems will be able to carry out a survey of the consolidated parcel, leading to completion of the subdivision process and the registration of title in the name of the Cariboo Regional District by the end of April.

2. LEASE AGREEMENT

Execution of the lease agreement continues to await completion of the subdivision process. Consideration is being given to holding a signing ceremony in due course – perhaps at the Site.

3. WELL CLOSURE

The melting of the snow and the prospects of improved weather make it likely that Jerry Weston of Weston Water Wells of Lone Butte will be able to carry out this task in the very near future.

4. SOIL TESTING

The Society has signed a contract with Grassroots Septic of Eagle Creek to carry out the soil testing as soon as weather permits. Peter Butterworth of Grassroots Septic will commence work as soon as he determines that the ground is not frozen. We hope to gain the permission of Telus for Peter to access the forested back portion of our soon-to-be consolidated lot via its remaining property, allowing him to dig holes with his equipment while disturbing the meadowlands to the least extent possible.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A further condition of the subdivision approval is that a phase 1 environmental site assessment had to be carried out by the end of June 2014. North West Environmental was retained to conduct this assessment and any remedial work that the NSCS may have inherited from the neighbouring Telus property, and Eric Gunderson's report was delivered on March 27th. The report concludes that the few environmental risks that have been identified, are low, recommends that a phase 2 investigation is not required, and makes a number of additional recommendations relating to the subsequent development of the site, none of which are at all onerous. No remedial work on the Telus property will be required.

6. SCHEMATIC DESIGN REPORT

The Schematic Design Report prepared by McFarland Marceau Architects Ltd. in December 2013, has now been approved by the Band Councils of Canim Lake, Canoe Creek, Soda Creek and Williams Lake, and will be submitted to the Esketemc Band Council in early April following Band Council elections that took place on March 6th.

7. BUSINESS PLAN

Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies met with the Society's members on March 28th in order to report on her progress and obtain further input from them. She is still aiming to have her report finalized by early June, and will be meeting again with our members on June 6th to submit her final draft report for comment. We are encouraged to learn that on the basis of her considerable work to date, Suzanne is confident that our project is feasible from a financial point of view. She is also of the opinion that our timing is fortuitously perfect in that visitors to B.C. are increasingly seeking authentic First Nations experiences, while their opportunities to find them are currently relatively limited.

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 three separate funds, one dedicated to the approximately \$2.5 million needed for construction, one dedicated to a likely equivalent amount needed to help support the operation and maintenance of the facility, and a third one that would be available to support either the construction or the operations. 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.

