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MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

At the time of writing this month's Newsletter, we are poised on the brink of some major decisions that will be made in the next very few weeks.

The most significant of those decisions will revolve around Suzanne Denbak's draft final report on our Business Plan that will be presented to our full membership on Friday, June 6th. Once her final report has been adopted by our membership, it will be submitted to our 5 Band Councils as soon as possible afterwards and, hopefully, will be approved by them.

In the meantime we plan to launch a community fundraising effort that will be based on the following assumptions.

Firstly, no potential contributor to the approximately \$2.5 million needed for the construction of our facility, will be willing to donate to the project without knowing that our Society has the financial capacity to operate it at least in the medium term.

Agencies that we intend to approach for substantial amounts of funding for the construction phase, include the Northern Development Initiative Trust, the federal departments of Canadian Heritage and Western Economic Diversification, the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition and the Vancouver Foundation.

Secondly, we believe that not only will it be necessary for our 5 member Bands to demonstrate their commitment to the project by making substantial contributions to the operation of the facility themselves, but it will also be extremely valuable to be able to provide evidence of widespread support from within the Regional District and the communities of Williams Lake and 100 Mile House in the form of financial donations, however small they may be relative to the overall cost of the project.

We have in mind a handful of relatively small ancillary projects that we would like to fund with the financial support of individuals and small businesses operating within the Regional District and the two municipalities. More details of these projects are already available on our website as well as guidelines as to the means by which charitable donations may be made from within that website.

The progress being made on our other tasks, are reported on the following page.

1. SUBDIVISION AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE VARIOUS PARCELS

The final arrangements for the transfer of title by Telus are being completed, and Nigel Hemingway of Cariboo Geographic Systems has completed the field work for his survey of the consolidated lot. Larry McCrea's law firm is carrying out the legal work in connection with all of the above. We anticipate the subdivision process and assumption of title to the various parcels by the CRD being completed during June.

2. LEASE AGREEMENT

Approval of a 99-year lease agreement was previously given by the CRD Board and by our membership. It will be executed as soon as the CRD has assumed title.

3. SCHEMATIC DESIGN REPORT

The report that had previously been approved by the Band Councils of the Canim Lake, Canoe Creek, Soda Creek and Williams Lake Bands, is still under consideration by the Esketemc First Nation's recently elected Band Council.

4. BUSINESS PLAN

Suzanne Denbak of Cadence Strategies is scheduled to meet with the Society's full membership on Friday, June 6th in order to present the draft of her final report and receive feedback from our members prior to completing her assignment. Suzanne has recently been working with the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association and with Aboriginal Tourism B.C. on a number of projects that will feed into and inform the work she is doing for us. She was also responsible for the marketing strategy contained in the Busby Perkins + Will feasibility study of 2008/2009.

5. FUNDRAISING

As mentioned on the previous page, we are anticipating that in the near future we will receive the green light from our 5 member Band Councils to proceed with our fundraising. By way of support for our applications to the major potential funding agencies, we are in the process of seeking formal resolutions or letters of support from the Board of the Cariboo Regional District and from the Councils of the City of Williams Lake and the District of 100 Mile House. For the same reason we have also approached the South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce in 100 Mile House and the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Rotary Clubs of 100 Mile House and Williams Lake. We then plan to approach the business communities and individuals operating and residing in the South and Central Cariboo for small donations that will testify to community support for our project.

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.

Site view heading south



Photo McFarland Marceau

