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SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

1. BUSINESS PLAN

While we are still examining possible ways and means of compensating for the lack of the Soda Creek Band's share of the operational funding, and have not yet had an opportunity to meet with its Band Council, we've made significant progress towards the carrying out of some of our mini projects.

The first major success has been in raising the funds required to commission our architects – McFarland Marceau – to undertake the design development phase of their work. We had already received grants from CN and Aboriginal Tourism BC, and were recently approved for a grant from the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition for the balance of what was required. We are extremely grateful to all three entities for their support. We should point out that this is the second time the Beetle Action Coalition has granted us funding at crucial times along our journey.



2. THE EARTHEN MONUMENT

During the past month we completed an application to the Canada 150 Fund of the federal department of Canadian Heritage for the bulk of the funding required to design, engineer and construct the earthen monument that will honour the victims of the residential school system, assist in educating both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities about the history and legacy of that shameful system, and most hopefully play a significant role in moving down the path to reconciliation. We are also applying to the Northern Development Initiative Trust for a contribution to the overall cost of this mini project.

We don't anticipate learning the outcome of our Canadian Heritage application until the early spring of 2016, and don't expect to learn the outcome of the Northern Trust application for some time. If both applications are successful, we plan to carry out during 2016 the detailed design of the monument and, with as much input as possible from our member Bands, the signage that will contain the story they wish to share. With the required funding in place, we expect to be able to complete construction during early 2017, and aim to open the monument to the public on July 1, 2017 in concert with Canada Day celebrations at the 108 Heritage Site.

3. OUR WEBSITE

Our new page dedicated to the Bridge project was posted during August, and we invite all our readers, but especially our generous sponsors and donors, to read it. Our website address is set out at the head of this Newsletter.

4. OUR CONTINUING OPTIMISM

Our members continue with their mood of optimism regarding the future. Each of the mini projects will move us one more step along the road to completion of the overall project, and will give us the time to find the solution to our operational funding shortfall.

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

