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## JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



### 1. A FURTHER COMMENT ON OUR BRIDGE

We have reproduced Jeffrey Newman's fine photograph of our Sucker Creek bridge in the winter snow, in order to be able to add the comment that one of the reasons for building it prematurely, i.e. ahead of the main construction phase, was to deter ATVers and snowmobilers from damaging the creek by fording it to the south. That goal has been accomplished as the result of blocking the area to the south with large boulders. We thank the 108 Greenbelt Commission for reporting the success of the strategy. We also wish to reiterate our gratitude and appreciation for the support we have received from the 100 Mile Snowmobile Club whose members were never among those who created the damage that the creek previously sustained.

## **2. THE UPS AND DOWNS OF OUR DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE**

As we reported in our December 2015 edition, our architects commenced their work on the design development phase of our overall project last Fall. However, in the process of organizing the various contractors and consultants whose input was required for this phase, they were confronted by the fact that all of those entities were substantially increasing the amounts they had previously bid for their work.

Upon learning of this dilemma, we immediately sought additional funding from outside sources but were unsuccessful in that effort. McFarland Marceau has now modified the scope of its work in order to manage within our original budget while we continue to search for the additional funding that would enable us to achieve the full scope that was initially conceived.

The meeting that we had arranged for January 29<sup>th</sup> in order to receive a progress report from the architects, was necessarily postponed, but will now take place on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **3. THE EARTHEN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS MONUMENT**

As we have reported in previous editions, our application for the major portion of the funding required to design and construct the proposed monument, was submitted to the federal *Department of Canadian Heritage* in September, 2015 and our application to the *Northern Development Initiative Trust* for the balance is in its final draft form and will be submitted in February. We continue to expect to learn the outcome of those two applications by late March or early April, and if successful, we plan to utilize the balance of 2016 in designing the monument and its related signage, leading to construction of the monument in early 2017 and its grand opening on July 1, 2017. We will be depending heavily on the input and ideas of our five member Bands in order to achieve results with the signage that will seek to convey the history of the residential school system, its impact on the First Nations people of our five member Bands, and the hope for a true understanding among all residents of the south and central Cariboo as a path to reconciliation.

## **4. THE TREATY PROCESS**

Four of our five participating member Bands – all except the Esketemc First Nation that has been negotiating with Canada and B.C. independently – will on February 11<sup>th</sup> conduct a vote on the terms of an Agreement in Principle that has been many years in the making. The result should be known fairly soon after voting day.

### **NOTES TO THE READER**

1. If you would like to forward this Newsletter to friends or colleagues, please feel 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](mailto:grahamleslie@shaw.ca)