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## JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER

As suggested in our June 2016 Newsletter, the summer months are very quiet for our Society, and unless something remarkable occurs to prompt an earlier edition, we don't plan another issue until October.

One notable event, however, that has occurred very recently is the decision of our esteemed elder statesman, Chris Wycotte, to resign from his membership in the Society and from his position as our Treasurer.

When in early 2003 your editor was assigned the task of approaching the five Northern Secwepemc Bands by the then Board of the 100 Mile House & District Historical Society, the first contact he made was with the Canim Lake Band's Elizabeth Pete. At her suggestion the next contact was with the Williams Lake Indian Band in the person of Amy Sandy, and when your editor went to meet Amy for the first time, we met in the Band's Treaty Office with Chris Wycotte present.

Those meetings quickly led to the formation of an Informal Working Group that almost immediately included representatives of the Canoe Creek Indian Band, in addition to those from the Canim Lake and Williams Lake Indian Bands, and a while later those from the Soda Creek Indian Band and the Esketemc First Nation.

Chris was instrumental in the early work of the Working Group and was a founding member of the Society when it was incorporated in July 2006. He served on the Board of Directors for almost all of the past 10 years, and for much of the time was our Vice President. Typical of this modest and unassuming man was his steadfast refusal to accept a nomination for the presidency.

Nevertheless Chris Wycotte was throughout the past 13 years a passionate advocate for our project but at the same time a highly respected voice of reason and common sense. He will be sorely missed in our future deliberations, but has reminded us that he won't be far away. We anticipate Chris remaining as a strong advocate within his community for the project he and others have striven for so long to bring to fruition.

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