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September 2021 Newsletter

1. Hope Springs Eternal

As suggested in last month's edition of our Newsletter, our Society hasn't given up hope about finding the funding required in order to build our cultural centre.

Of course we were curious to learn why the project we always believed was so worthy of support, did not receive the main Canada Infrastructure Program grant for which we had applied and, courtesy of Provincial officials involved in the decision making, we learned that the lowest priority was accorded non-profit organizations like ours. Most of the funding was allocated to municipalities, regional districts and for-profit groups. Not that it completely compensated for our disappointment, we learned that our project was rated very highly for its overall quality, but those high marks were somewhat offset by the view that what we had considered to be a very large contingency amount built into our budget, was judged to be too small, thus placing our project at some risk of not being completed.

Where we stand now is that the Northern Trust (NDIT) has set aside \$300,000 for our project until May or June of next year, and we have reason to be optimistic that the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund of the federal Department of Canadian Heritage will be able to provide a substantial amount of the balance. That leaves us still in search of close to \$3 million, but the newly created Pacific Economic Development Canada – an offshoot of Western Economic Diversification Canada – is reported to have funding available for our kind of infrastructure project, and we have already reached out to establish contact with officials in that new agency.

It's impossible to exaggerate the boost to its morale that our Society members received from the two member Bands – Canim Lake and SXFN – whose Chiefs and Councils expressed their confidence in, and support of our long-standing project by each approving \$150,000 towards the overall cost of our project. We will be doing all we can to obtain the full amount of our required funding from other sources, thereby leaving the two Bands to divert those funds to other important community priorities.

2. The Exhibit Design Project

David Jensen with his team members Debra Bodner and Kathy Curry has got the next phase of his work with the Canim Lake Band off to a flying start, thanks to the amazing organizational work and support received from Irene Gilbert, our Society's Vice President and the team's major liaison person.



The team spent three days in late August at Canim Lake, and met with numerous groups of Band members who provided a wealth of information and opinions regarding what our Centre ought best to be presenting by way of stories, artifacts and programs. Almost a dozen individuals were identified with whom David Jensen's team will be conducting follow-up interviews via Zoom during the month of September, and there are exciting possibilities of possible future research into the Band's past history that were identified by an amazing group of young Band members. Those possibilities will be enabled by the rich store of archival materials that has been accumulated by the Band over time, and that have been curated and organized by Irene Gilbert.

Our understanding is that David Jensen's team was thrilled with the contributions it received during its August visit to the Band, and is looking forward to this upcoming phase of Zoom interviews which we'll look forward to reporting on in next month's edition.

Although the planning has not yet been commenced, David's team is very conscious of next year's project with the SXFN for which the funding is already in place.

3. The Impact of Climate Change and Other Disasters

It's hard for most of us to feel sorry for ourselves as the result of the Covid-19 pandemic and wildfires, when we watch the news of catastrophes afflicting our neighbours to the South. Mercifully most of our readers seem to have escaped the worst of the wildfire season to this point, and can only be thankful that we aren't living in California, Oregon, Louisiana, Mississippi or the North-Eastern United States. However, the year has left some of us mourning the loss of loved ones, and we may know some of the unfortunate British Columbians who lost their homes to the wildfires. To those you know who were less fortunate than the rest of us, our thoughts and prayers remain with them and their loved ones. We can only hope that the worst is over, and our Society members wish all our readers the best of health, happiness and good fortune going forward.



Notes to the Reader

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