



Yukon Historical & Museums Association Inspiring and sharing a passion for Yukon heritage

2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19 Highlights

Committed over \$35,000 in grants through the Yukon Heritage Training Fund

The long-term capacity of the Yukon heritage sector grew through 20 training projects including more than 40 participants.

Celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair

A new partnership and new logo helped launch the 20th annual Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair, which saw over 150 participants throughout the day.

Fostered a learning environment for heritage through the Yukon Heritage Symposium

Yukon heritage professionals came together to learn from their peers at the Symposium, and participate in a workshop on public programs.

Recognized achievement through the 2018 Heritage Awards

Murray Lundberg, Gordon Mervin Toole, Bruce Barrett, Association francoyukonnaise, and Yukon Church Heritage Society were recognized for their contributions to Yukon heritage.

Began planning for the 150th Anniversary of the Kohklux Map

A special talk on northern mapping during Culture Days kicked off a multi-year project to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux Map.

Strengthened the Yukon heritage community network

Through communication tools like our website and e-bulletin, YHMA reinforced the network that connects the Yukon heritage community with Yukoners, visitors, and the global heritage community.

Advocated for Yukon's heritage and heritage community

YHMA was active regarding several issues of concern to the Yukon heritage community, including the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy.

Raised awareness and knowledge of the Yukon's heritage

Through activities and public events, YHMA worked to raise awareness and knowledge of the special places, stories, and groups that contribute to the Yukon's rich and diverse heritage.

Supported initiatives to protect and celebrate Yukon heritage

By providing advice, resources, contacts, letters of support and more, YHMA continued to assist both groups and individuals in heritage-related projects.

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A message from

The President



Kaitlin Normandin President



It's hard to believe a year as president has gone by so quickly! It's been a busy one for the Yukon Historical and Museums Association, but when in forty-one years has it not been busy? True to our roots, we are still an organization made up of a passionate core of volunteers and staff working with a vibrant heritage community to identify, protect, conserve, and interpret Yukon heritage.

As we look to the future, we continue to expand and improve our offerings. Details can be found in this report. Highlights include celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Yukon/Stikine Heritage Fair, and a Culture Days talk on Early Mapping in the North, held in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux Map. Keep an eye out for further celebrations this summer and fall.

In terms of advocacy work, YHMA sat on several committees to represent heritage interests, and actively submitted feedback on various proposals. From an operational perspective, we are implementing our new strategic plan and updating our policies accordingly.

Thank you to our capable and hard-working Executive Director Lianne Maitland, summer student Emma Cumming, as well as out-going directors Angela Drainville, Corin Noble, Dev Manning, Katie Newman, and Sarah Langlois. To our volunteers, members, donors, partners, and sponsors - we couldn't do it without you, truly.

Finally - I'd like to dedicate this report to Brent Slobodin: former president, board member, and volunteer for the YHMA. He was a determined advocate for Yukon heritage and the heritage community is much poorer for his loss. Thanks for everything, Brent.

A message from

The Executive Director



Lianne Maitland
Executive Director



As I look back over the previous year, from Culture Days to the Heritage Symposium and more, I am struck by the work and accomplishments that YHMA has achieved in such a relatively short timespan within its now 41-year history. It is my pleasure to share them with you in this Annual Report.

These achievements are thanks to YHMA's many supporters, including our Board of Directors, members, volunteers, funders, sponsors, and partners, both past and present. To them, I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude.

In order to better serve this amazing community that inspires YHMA as an organization, we began a strategic planning process in early 2018 to lay down a roadmap for the next five years. We look forward to launching this plan in 2018-19, and to continuing our work on behalf of Yukon heritage. I hope you will join us.

Thank you, mashi cho and gunalchéesh!

2018-19 Board of Directors

Kaitlin Normandin, President Katie Newman, Vice-President Cathy Hines, Secretary Baladev Manning, Treasurer Angela Drainville Corin Noble Judy Hartling Sarah Langlois Sylvie Binette

Committees

Membership Committee: This committee is responsible for monitoring member satisfaction and reviewing YHMA's membership program.

Property Management Committee: This committee assists the Executive Director in property management issues.

Fundraising Committee: This committee meets as necessary to coordinate special fundraising efforts for the Association.

Heritage Training Fund Committee: This committee meets quarterly to review, select, and approve funding applications, ensure compliance with the Community Training Fund Operating Procedures for Regional and Sectoral Training Funds, and reviews and updates the HTF Training Fund Policy, including application guidelines and criteria, on a regular basis.

Heritage Fair Committee: This committee meets as necessary to assist in the planning and coordination of the annual Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair.

Awards Committee: This committee convenes annually to accept and review nominations for the Yukon Heritage Awards.

Conference Committee: A conference committee is struck as necessary to organize YHMA's conferences and symposiums.

Ad Hoc Committees: Ad hoc committees are struck as necessary to address special projects or issues that arise.

About YHMA

The Yukon Historical & Museums Association was established in 1977 by a group of concerned and passionate individuals to create a united voice for understanding and promoting heritage and history in the Yukon. Today, YHMA is a territorially-incorporated Society and a registered charitable organization whose membership reflects the scope and diversity of the Yukon heritage community, comprising heritage organizations, heritage sector workers, and others actively involved in the heritage sector or who have an interest in heritage.

We keep apprised of issues and advocate on behalf of the Yukon's heritage and heritage sector. We continue to build a learning environment for history and culture and the development of skills and best practices in the heritage sector. We share knowledge with the Yukon heritage community and support each other in protection and conservation projects.

Vision

Yukoners encounter and celebrate their heritage daily.

YHMA at the heart of the heritage community:

60+ volunteers

60 members

300+ participants in YHMA programs and services

Mission

YHMA will strengthen heritage in the Yukon through leadership, advocacy and education.

Values



Strengthening YHMA, **Strengthening Community**

YHMA serves to connect, engage, and share information among members of the Yukon heritage sector, and to raise awareness and support for the territory's unique and diverse heritage. No easy feat for a community scattered across over 480.000 km²!

Over the past year, YHMA has undertaken a wide variety of activities aimed at strengthening the organization and improving our ability to support Yukon heritage and the heritage community, including activating the Yukon heritage network to nurture a positive environment which encourages knowledge-sharing and collaboration among practitioners.

We did this in a number of ways:

Growing an Audience

1250+ social media followers 375+ e-bulletin subscribers

- Launched a new strategic plan focusing on strengthening YHMA's organizational structure, role, and influence; effective and compelling advocacy; and rebranding YHMA to reflect its current role.
- Continued to share timely heritage news and information through our e-bulletin, website, and social media channels.
- Assisted heritage professionals, organizations, and members of the public in finding contacts and resources, both financial and informational, for their heritage-related projects.
- Continued to deliver our core programs and services, advocate on behalf of Yukon heritage, and maintain our national and territorial networks.
- Ran a series of vintage, antiques, and collectibles sales as fundraisers, forging new connections with heritage enthusiasts.
- Supported our Executive Director in pursuing additional training in human resources, digital image management and preservation, website design, and media communications.
- Formed a Property Management Committee to enhance YHMA's stewardship of Lepage Park and the surrounding designated heritage buildings: Donnenworth House, Smith House, and Captain Martin House.
- Began event planning efforts to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux Map in collaboration with the Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center and others.

Education

Yukon Heritage Training Fund

YHMA administers the Yukon Heritage Training Fund (YHTF), which supports opportunities for Yukon residents

opportunities for Yukon residents to increase their skills and knowledge in the heritage sector. Over \$35,000 in funding was committed between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019 for 20 different projects. Over 40 participants directly benefitted as participants in funded training projects.



YHTF is funded by the Government of Yukon Department of Education, Labour Post-Secondary and Labour Market unit. All training approved through this fund supports objectives to increase the employability of Yukon's heritage workers and provide Yukon heritage employers with a better-trained workforce.

YHMA will support education and provide training opportunities for heritage professionals and non-professional members. In doing so, we will help encourage a deeper commitment to Yukon history and heritage and improve the tools and practices that are used in interpreting and conserving Yukon heritage.

YHMA is dedicated to leveraging the impact of YHTF to develop the capacity and long-term sustainability of the heritage sector. This is achieved by increasing the number of people with the skills necessary to obtain and maintain work in the heritage sector, increasing job satisfaction and labour market competitiveness, and by providing human resources that enable the Yukon to develop its heritage resources at a world-class, professional level.

Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair

The annual Heritage Fair is an educational initiative that encourages

students to explore Canadian heritage in a dynamic and captivating learning environment. Students use the media of their choice to share their learning about Canadian heroes and legends, milestones and achievements in Canadian history, or their own family or community history, and then proudly present their research at a public exhibition. These fairs give students a voice to tell their stories in their own ways.

2018 marked the Fair's 20th anniversary, as well as the launch of a new partnership with Yukon College and a new logo reflecting the many facets of Yukon heritage. The Fair itself was held on May 3, 2018 in the Yukon College gymnasium in Whitehorse. 52 students from 11 schools across the Yukon and northern B.C. showcased their research to 33 volunteer judges, as well as their peers and the public. Over 150 people attended the day's event.

As part of our partnership with Yukon College, students also enjoyed fun, educational activities organized and delivered by College staff. These activities

took place in various departments throughout the school, offering students the opportunity to explore the College and learn about available programs.

Participating students represented grades 4-8 and the communities of Carmacks, Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Pelly Crossing, Whitehorse, and Atlin, BC. The



Heritage Fair student presenters. Credit: HPJ Photography

44 projects topics ranged from personal histories of students' ancestors, to Yukon icons such as Skookum Jim and the Alaska Highway, to national events and figures such as Vimy Ridge and Emily Carr. In total, nine grade-specific awards, eight special awards, and three People's Choice awards were distributed to deserving projects.



The goals of the Fair include creating an engaging learning environment for students to strengthen their appreciation for Canadian heritage and developing students' roots in their communities and cultures to inspire them to participate in shaping Canada's future. The students' enthusiasm, creativity, and passion make heritage fairs a highlight of the school year.

Yukon Heritage Symposium

Approximately 25 Yukon heritage professionals gathered at the Yukon Transportation Museum in Whitehorse on October 24 for the 2018 Yukon Heritage Symposium. The theme for the day, "heritage and lifelong learning," was selected to reflect the importance of ongoing learning for heritage professionals, as well as the value and enjoyment that comes from engaging with heritage from childhood through adulthood.

The day's seven pechakucha presentations addressed a wide variety of relevant topics, from theories of lifelong learning, to creating resources connected to the school curriculum, to informal learning. An afternoon workshop lead by Rhoda Merkel focused on ways to develop and deliver fun, educational, interactive programs with a focus on First Nation ways of doing and knowing. Thank you to all the presenters for sharing their knowledge and insights.

The Symposium provides an opportunity to meet and connect with others actively involved in heritage conservation across the territory—from those working in museums and cultural centres, to heritage planners, historians and others. It's a chance to meet new colleagues and catch up with old ones, be inspired by new ideas and trends from outside of the territory, and share knowledge and best practices on what works in the Yukon.

Networking and Advocacy

Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIA)

As a Designated Organization (DO), YHMA maintains a permanent seat on the TIA Yukon Board of Directors. Through this position, we continued to share the interests and concerns of the heritage community with the broader tourism sector and to play an important connecting role between these groups.

YHMA President Kaitlin Normandin attended TIA Yukon's 2018 Fall Conference, where she, along with YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland, gave a presentation on the value of heritage attractions to the tourism sector. To increase audience engagement and highlight the joy of discovery that heritage attractions offer, participants were invited to interact with a selection of artifacts loaned by institutions across the territory, and try to guess what they were. Thank you to Dawson City Museum, MacBride Museum, Old Log Church Museum, Parks Canada, and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation for loaning collection pieces to be used for this presentation.

National Conference and Meeting Attendance

YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended to the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and National Trust for Canada national conferences, helping to maintain the profile of the Yukon's heritage and heritage sector as well as

YHMA will strengthen the ties of the heritage community through the facilitation of interaction among all stakeholders with an interest in Yukon heritage. This will be accomplished through fun and memorable events and activities that encourage learning and sharing.

making new connections, collecting ideas and resources, and contributing to national heritage initiatives.

At the CMA conference, Lianne participated in a meeting with representatives of the CMA and other provincial/territorial museum associations to discuss issues and initiatives of mutual interest. At the National Trust conference, Lianne participated in a National Council meeting and Rural Heritage Roundtable, which explored issues related to the preservation of rural heritage. Prior to the roundtable, Lianne provided feedback to

the National Trust as they developed a national survey on rural heritage that informed the topics of discussion at the roundtable.

Museums Roundtable

YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended the Museums Roundtable hosted by the Museums Unit, Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon in October 2018 as an observer.

The Museums Roundtable provides Museums Unit clients the opportunity to come together to connect, discuss matters of mutual interest, and set shared goals. Participating as an observer allows YHMA to stay connected with the museum community and apprised of current activities, issues, and initiatives.

Canadian Heritage Meeting and Roundtable

YHMA participated in a meeting between the national and provincial/territorial museum associations, Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI), and Canadian

Heritage Information (CHIN) to discuss and provide feedback on CCI and CHIN's current and upcoming projects and institutional focuses. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to share a Yukon perspective to help strengthen federal heritage programs.

This was followed by a meeting of the national and provincial/territorial museum associations, which provided the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the country to discuss matters of shared interest and

Acting on behalf of membership and in partnership with heritagerelated stakeholders. YHMA will advocate on significant and relevant

heritage-related issues.

keep a finger on the pulse of the national heritage community.

In addition, YHMA was invited to send a representative to a national roundtable on museums and reconciliation held by Canadian Heritage in June 2018. YHMA arranged for Lisa Dewhurst of the Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre to attend.

United Keno Hill Mines Reclamation Project

YHMA submitted feedback to YESAB regarding the proposed United Keno Hill Mines Reclamation Project, commenting on and providing recommendations for the Heritage Management Plan and other heritage-related aspects of the project.

Yukon Tourism Development Strategy

YHMA continued to hold a seat on the Yukon Tourism Development Strategy Steering Committee, filled by Vice-President Katie Newman. The Steering Committee formally recommended the final strategy to Minister of Tourism and Culture Jeanie Dendys in November 2018. The Government of Yukon officially endorsed the strategy in March 2019, at which time the Steering Committee transitioned to an Implementation Committee. YHMA maintains a seat on this committee, held by Executive Director Lianne Maitland.

Klondike National Historic Sites Advisory Committee

YHMA Director Sally Robinson joined the newly formed Klondike National Historic Sites Advisory Committee as a representative of YHMA and attended the committee's inaugural meeting.

City of Whitehorse Official Community Plan

YHMA staff and directors met with City of Whitehorse representatives as part the initial stage of development for a new Official Community Plan. YHMA representatives provided input on how to ensure heritage is incorporated and respected in the plan, as well as challenges and opportunities related to heritage.

Memberships

YHMA maintains paid or reciprocal memberships with a variety of other heritage-related organizations in the Yukon and nationally.

Partnerships and Awareness

Culture Days

YHMA continued to hold a seat on the Culture Days Yukon steering committee, led by the Yukon Arts Centre. Culture Days is a nationwide festival that aims to foster appreciation, support of, and participation in the cultural lives of communities amongst all citizens through free or low-cost activities.

Over the Culture Days weekend, YHMA ran its first Heritage Highlights Scavenger Hunt. This self-guided activity gave participants the opportunity to explore downtown Whitehorse while discovering interesting facts about its heritage, with prizes donated by the Yukon Arts Centre and Parks Canada. Additional information was provided by the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, Old Log Church Museum, Riverside Grocery, and Department of Tourism and Cultural, Government of Yukon



Guests enjoy Early Mapping in the North. Credit: Linda Johnson

In addition, with funding support from

Culture Quest, YHMA hosted Early Mapping in the North at the Yukon Archives. This event brought together Indigenous speakers, heritage professionals, linguists, and about 40 members of the public for a discussion on early Indigenous and non-Indigenous maps of the north: how and why maps were created, what they represent, how they were used, and why and how they are important today, to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Speakers included Ta'an Kwäch'än elder Frances Woolsey, Teslin Tlingit elder Bessie Cooley, historian Linda Johnson, linguist Doug Hitch, archaeologist

Recognizing that everyone can have a role to play, YHMA will develop long-lasting, respectful and innovative partnerships for the promotion, protection and preservation of Yukon heritage.

Anastasia Wiley of Klukwan, Tlingit linguist Marsha Hotch of Klukwan, and Sheila Greer, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Heritage Manager.

Kohklux Map 150th Anniversary

2019 will mark the 150th anniversary of the Kohklux Map, drawn by Chilkat Tlingit leader Kohklux and his wives at Klukwan, Alaska for American scientist George Davidson. The map details an Indigenous trade route between southwest Alaska and southeast Yukon, and is oldest surviving map of southern Yukon and the oldest preserved map of this region drawn on paper by Indigenous people.

In the fall, YHMA, in partnership with the Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center (JKHC) in Klukwan, struck a planning committee for the development of commemorative activities around this event, including a genealogical gathering,

conference, and display for October 2019. The committee also includes First Nation Elders, representatives of other relevant organizations, and independent volunteers. Planning for the commemoration is continuing in 2019-20.

2018 Yukon Heritage Awards

Over 30 guests joined YHMA on February 28, 2019 at the Yukon Archives to celebrate the recipients of the 2018 Yukon Heritage Awards and mark national Heritage Week. In honour of Heritage Week, JJ, Dustyn, and Joshua Van Bibber gave a special presentation on their great grandfather, JJ Van Bibber (1920-2012). Van Bibber was a prominent First Nations hunter, trapper, photographer, and storyteller. Following this engaging presentation, awards were presented to the following recipients:

 Murray Lundberg (Annual Heritage Award), for his decades of work promoting, preserving, and sharing Yukon heritage. Murray has traveled far and wide throughout the territory visiting the sites of many historical features, taking pictures, and documenting them, then sharing the information with the public through



JJ, Dustyn, and Joshua Van Bibber. Credit: Tony Gonda

- sharing the information with the public through a variety of resources. He is the author of three books featuring Yukon history; creator of the ExploreNorth website, which consists of almost 7,000 pages of information and more than 40,000 files on Yukon and Alaska History; and founder of the immensely popular Yukon History and Abandoned Places Facebook group.
- Gordon Mervin Toole (Posthumous History Maker Award), for his contributions to meteorology, aviation, wilderness tourism, big game outfitting, trapping, and farming that helped make Yukon what it is today. Gordon is perhaps best known for recording the lowest official temperature ever measured in North America, -81.4°F (-63°C), on February 3, 1947 at Snag, Yukon, in his role as meteorologist. He later became a founding partner and pilot for the Watson Lake Flying Service; owner/operator of Thunderbird Fishing camp, then the only registered fly-fishing camp in the Yukon; a big game outfitter; owner/operator of several traplines and a farm near Watson Lake; and Justice of the Peace and Coroner for Watson Lake.
- Bruce Barrett (Helen Couch Volunteer of the Year Award), for his continuing volunteer work in the Yukon heritage sector. He has acted as photographer for YHMA, chronicling many of the organization's special events over the years. In addition, Bruce spent time volunteering with ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Canada, sharing northern perspectives with the national heritage community. Bruce has also been an avid participant in the Yukon music and theatrical scenes, and in 2017 loaned his acting talents to an interactive performance fundraiser for the Old Log Church Museum.
- Association franco-yukonnaise (Innovation, Education, and Community Engagement Award), for their special project *De fil en histoires: les*

personnages d'un territoire/Stiches in Time: Yukon History Makers. Through this project, AFY paid tribute to the Francophones who helped shape the Yukon, reconnecting participants and the public with both the territory's Francophone history and the traditional craft of dollmaking. Led by local artist Cécile Girard, 19 community members created a total of 21 handcrafted dolls representing real French-speaking Yukoners, past and present. The dolls and their stories were then highlighted through three bilingual exhibitions, in Dawson City, Haines Junction, and Whitehorse, as well as a bilingual website, video, and printed catalogue.

 Yukon Church Heritage Society (Heritage Conservation Project of the Year Award), for the conservation of the Old Log Church and Rectory.

constructed in 1900 and 1901 respectively. The YCHS has shown great stewardship of the buildings through respectful use, care, and maintenance, and through various conservation projects. Work completed by the YCHS has followed the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada and will ensure that the historic value and architectural integrity of the Old Log Church and Rectory are preserved. This award is sponsored by the Department of Tourism and Culture. Government of Yukon.



L-R: Murray Lundberg, Jeanne Beaudoin for AFY, Bruce Barrett, Jaime Toole for Gordon Toole, and Len Beecroft and Marjorie Copp for Yukon Church Heritage Society. Credit: Tony Gonda

The Yukon Heritage Awards honour individuals, organizations, and businesses that have made a special contribution to the conservation or interpretation of some aspect of Yukon's heritage. Nominations are invited from the public and are reviewed by the Awards Committee, which selects the recipients.

Engaging New Canadians

A gift to new Canadians for the first year of their citizenship, the Cultural Access Pass, now known as Canoo as of May 2019, provides complimentary admission to more than 1,000 of Canada's cultural treasures from coast-to-coast. The Cultural Access Pass encourages Canada's newest citizens to discover our rich cultural history, world-renowned artworks, historical figures, and stunning parks.

As part of its awareness-raising activities, YHMA distributed approximately 10 Cultural Access Passes to new Canadians in the Yukon during the 2018-19 fiscal year.

YHMA will inspire a passion for heritage by raising awareness. YHMA will raise awareness both within and outside of the Yukon, and in doing so, we will encourage people to see history and heritage as fun, interesting and vibrant.

Thank You | Supporters Circle

The Yukon Historical & Museums Association is pleased to recognize the support of our members, the Yukon community, businesses, and government partners who support us. Our work helps to safeguard, conserve and share the Yukon's rich and diverse heritage with Yukoners and visitors from around the world. Your ongoing support ensures this heritage enriches the lives of current and future generations.

Thank you...

- To the dozens of volunteers who commit hundreds of volunteer hours to our programs and activities, year after year.
- To our generous individual donors, community organizations, and corporate partners who support our activities through sponsorship and donations.
- To our local, territorial, and federal government funders for their continued support of important heritage initiatives.

Best Western Gold Rush Hotel Canada's History City of Whitehorse David Stinson eNvision Research and Consulting Government of Canada David Stinson **Dawson City Museum** Ellen Johnson Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center Government of Yukon Karl Gurcke Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre Lianne Maitland Linda Johnson MacBride Museum Maggie Leary Max Fraser Michael Gates Midnight Arts Old Log Church Museum Parks Canada Patricia Halladay Graphic Design Riverside Grocery Ron Veale Su Omura Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Yukon Archives Yukon Arts Centre Yukon College Yukon Heritage Resources Board

Yukon Transportation Museum