



**Yukon Historical &
Museums Association**



**heritage
yukon**
Step in to our story

Yukon Historical & Museums Association
Strengthening heritage in the Yukon

2020-21
ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21 Highlights

Committed over \$19,000 in grants through the Yukon Heritage Training Fund

Long-term capacity of our heritage sector grew through 8 training projects.

Recognized achievement through the 2020 Heritage Awards

Valerie Graham, David Neufeld, Carolyn Harris, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Elders, and Derek Crowe and Jane Koepke received awards for their contributions to Yukon heritage.

Increased knowledge and skills through a series of risk management workshops

In partnership with Skills Canada Yukon, YHMA offered three free risk management workshops in response to concerns from the community.

Fostered discussion on advocacy through the Yukon Heritage Symposium.

Our virtual edition of the Yukon Heritage Symposium focused on the purpose of advocacy and strategies for effective advocacy.

Advocated for Yukon's heritage and heritage community

YHMA was active regarding a variety of advocacy issues relating to the Yukon heritage community, including the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

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.

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.

Enhanced Lepage Park as a community space to connect with heritage

A new rubber surface in Lepage Park has created a more welcoming and accessible space, and is the first phase in revitalization of Lepage Park.

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A message from The President



Cathy Hines
President

This past year has certainly been different, and at times challenging. Still, we have persevered and have made some great accomplishments in the past year.

Last summer we completed Phase I of a Lepage Park revitalization project. The old, deteriorated boardwalk was torn up, leveled, and replaced with a more comfortable recycled rubber surface. The patchy grass and dirt surface in front of the stage was also replaced with rubber. We thank all our funders, donors, and sponsors for their support on this project.

In September, we helped celebrate the tenth year of Culture Days. We held our annual Heritage Highlights Scavenger Hunt, as well as an online contest to encourage the public to engage the with heritage. A special thank you to our summer student, Kailee Oates, for securing such wonderful prize donations.

Our 2020 Heritage Awards took place on Zoom this year, with over 40 participants from Whitehorse, the communities, Vancouver, and as far away as New Zealand. It was a wonderful celebration of the contributions to Yukon heritage and history made by some incredible people.

In terms of advocacy, YHMA has continued to speak up on heritage issues. We sit on many boards and committees that represent heritage and cultural interests, and keep informed of local, territorial, and national heritage policies and events. We are always open to questions, concerns and comments from our members, so please feel free to get in touch at any time.

I would like to thank all of our staff, directors, volunteers, members, donors, and partners. We really appreciate all that you do.

A message from

The Executive Director



Lianne Maitland
Executive Director

Lianne Maitland

When the time inevitably comes to compile our annual report, I am always surprised by how much we have to share with you, our members and stakeholders. While we are a small organization, we work hard to support the Yukon heritage sector, and this year was no different, despite circumstances being very different now than they were just a year and a half ago.

Throughout the year, we undertook a number of initiatives in leadership and advocacy. Some highlights include partnering with the national and provincial museum associations to make federal relief funding more flexible; contributing to two national project related to public perceptions of museums and heritage; and embarking on a strategic digital needs assessment of Yukon museums and cultural centres. We also continued to work on education and awareness. In addition to our ongoing programs such as the Yukon Heritage Training Fund and Yukon Heritage Awards, among other things, we also organized a series of risk management workshops and held a very successful Heritage Day colouring Contest. More details of our activities can be found in the following pages.

I would like to extend my deep gratitude to all our board members for their hard work and ongoing support. While I love what I do, I could not do it without them. Thank you also to our wonderful 2020 summer student, Kailee Oates, who adapted quickly to working remotely and helped ensure YHMA continued to deliver our core programs and services, as well as a few extras.

Finally, thank you to our members, donors, sponsors, volunteers, partners, and other supporters. You are our community, and it is to you that I submit this annual report for your consideration.

2020-21 Board of Directors

Cathy Hines, President
Judy Hartling, Vice-President
Nora Hehemann, Secretary-Treasurer
Kaitlin Normandin, Past President
Allison Belshaw

Georgianna Low
Janna Swales
Nancy Oakley
Sally Robinson
Sylvie Binette

2020-21 Staff

Lianne Maitland
Executive Director

Kailee Oates
Community Relations Coordinator

Committees

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

Lease and 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.

Mission

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

Values

Vibrancy
Fun
Passion
Partnerships
Encouragement
Inspiration
Sharing

YHMA at the heart of the heritage community:

25+ volunteers

52 members

450+ participants in YHMA programs and services

Strengthening YHMA, Strengthening Community

YHMA serves to connect, engage, and share information among members of the Yukon heritage sector, and to raise awareness of 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.

We did this in a number of ways:

- Produced a **virtual edition of the Yukon Heritage Symposium** focusing on **advocacy in the cultural heritage sector**.
- Partnered with Skills Canada Yukon to offer a series of **risk management workshops** for Yukon nonprofits, including heritage organizations, which the YHMA Executive Director attended.
- Embarked on a **Strategic Digital Needs Assessment of Yukon museums and cultural centres** in partnership with the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association, with funding support from the Yukon Department of Education. This project will help identify ways in which YHMA can support museums and cultural centres in relation to the digital.
- Collaborated on **two major, ongoing national initiatives regarding public attitudes towards and perceptions of museums, cultural centres, and historic sites**, with the goal of supporting effective advocacy and awareness campaigns.
- Raised awareness of YHMA and Yukon heritage among youth and families with our largest-ever **Heritage Day Colouring Contest**, garnering over 85 entries from all across the territory.
- **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, share timely heritage news and information, and maintain our national and territorial networks.
- Ran a **series of vintage, antiques, and collectibles sales and community garbage clean ups** as fundraisers, forging new connections with heritage enthusiasts.

Growing an Audience

1400+ social media followers

400+ e-bulletin subscribers

Leadership & 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 Director Kaitlin Normandin, and later Allison Belshaw, acted as YHMA's representative on the TIAY Board of Directors. In this role they supported research and advocacy efforts regarding the pandemic's impact on the tourism sector.

Furthermore, YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland participated in ongoing meetings with her counterparts at TIAY and the other DOs to discuss sector-related issues and initiatives. The DOs also met several times with Department of Tourism and Culture representatives to provide feedback on sectoral marketing campaigns and pandemic recovery initiatives.

National Conference and Meeting Attendance

In mid-April, YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended the Canadian Museum Association's (CMA) Museums Together virtual conference. Together with her colleagues at the national and provincial museum associations, she took part in a pre-recorded virtual roundtable with Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault that aired during the conference. Museum association representatives posed questions to the Minister regarding pandemic relief and recovery, as well as ongoing areas of concern such as the need for a new national museums policy and updated, streamlined funding programs. We continue to advocate for these important initiatives.

Lianne also attended the National Trust for Canada National Conference in October 2020, collecting ideas and resources to support heritage, and continued to represent YHMA in the Trust's National Council meetings.

Museums and Cultural Centres Roundtable

YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland attended the Yukon Museums and Cultural Centres Roundtable hosted by the Museums Unit, Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon in December 2020 as an observer.

The 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.

COVID-19 Response

YHMA continued to respond to the pandemic throughout the year, including advocating at both the territorial and federal levels for support for museums, cultural centres, and other parts of the heritage community. Two online surveys of museums and cultural centres, as well as follow up one-on-one conversations later in the year, helped to inform this advocacy.

Of note is a collaborative effort with the national and provincial museum associations to advise Canadian Heritage on the development of museum relief funding, ensuring that support would be accessible to small organizations, many of whom had no other sources of relief, as well as larger institutions. We also highlighted the need for an easy, streamlined application process.

YHMA continued to collect and shared resources related to the pandemic and recovery through the e-bulletin and on our website. A collaboration with the Museums Association of Saskatchewan and others produced guides on supporting seasonal staff and using social media during the pandemic.

Acting on behalf of membership and in partnership with heritage-related stakeholders, YHMA will advocate on significant and relevant heritage-

Klondike National Historic Sites Advisory Committee

Sally Robinson continued to represent YHMA on the Klondike National Historic Sites Advisory Committee. The goal of the twice-yearly meetings is to find appropriate uses for some historic buildings currently owned by Parks Canada. The community has a need for housing and small office space. Parks Canada needs to find owners or tenants for some of the buildings that are beyond their budget to support in the future. YHMA is pleased to be part of this process, to advocate for a protection-based approach to built heritage and for more attention to be given to the extensive artefact collection.

Territorial Election Advocacy

Leading up to the 2021 territorial election, YHMA wrote to all parties and independent candidates posing a number of questions related to museums, cultural centres, and heritage sites and properties. All responses were shared on the YHMA website and weekly e-bulletin. We also encouraged Yukoners to raise heritage issues with their local candidate through a newspaper ad. This served to draw attention to heritage issues and secure a number of commitments from political parties on which YHMA will continue to follow up.

Strategic Digital Needs Assessment

YHMA partnered with the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association of Yukon to begin a strategic digital needs assessment of Yukon museums and cultural centres, with funding support from the Yukon Department of Education. The goal of this project is to build a stronger, more cohesive heritage sector while exploring opportunities to use digital tools to share the history of Yukon and its First Nations more widely. An initial kick-off meeting took place in March 2021; work on this project continues.

Museums for Me Initiative

Begun in 2019, Museums for Me is a joint initiative undertaken by a consortium of museum associations across Canada, including YHMA and led by the Alberta Museums Association (AMA). This initiative seeks to understand the value of museums to Canadians, and will produce tools and resources related to advocacy and public engagement for museums and related organizations.

Museums for Me activities for 2020 included a national survey and series of

roundtables to engage Canadians from diverse backgrounds. YHMA assisted in promoting these engagement opportunities to encourage participation from the Yukon, and will be continuing to work with AMA and other museum associations on this project.

National Trust for Canada Collaborative Initiative

As a member of the National Trust for Canada's National Council, YHMA committed to supporting the Trust's upcoming "Understanding How Canadians Connect with Heritage: A National Collaborative Initiative," including helping to identify areas of study for a national public opinion poll as a lead up to this project. The "Understanding How Canadians Connect with Heritage" initiative will collect data to inform effective advocacy and culminate in a national public awareness campaign for heritage places.

Yukon Climate Change Assessment

YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland participated in three online meetings and one online survey as part of the Government of Yukon's Climate Risk Assessment initiative, providing information and perspectives on current and potential impacts of climate change on heritage. Prior to attending the first session, Lianne spoke with Yukon museums and cultural centres to collect their insights on this important topic and inform her contributions to this initiative.

Nonprofit Sector Supplement

At the request of the Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture, YHMA administered the Nonprofit Sector Supplement COVID-19 relief funding program for tourism and culture nonprofits. Input from YHMA led to early revisions to the program allowing greater flexibility. With the assistance of a contracted fund administrator, YHMA distributed \$79,676.90 to five organizations.

Yukon Nonprofit Advisory Council

The Yukon Nonprofit Advisory Council was formed in May 2020 to bring together nonprofit leaders from multiple sub-sectors to use their diverse knowledge, skills, and perspectives to help support the non-profit sector's needs, initiatives, and progress throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. YHMA Executive Director Lianne Maitland joined the Council as a founding member to provide a perspective from the heritage sector.

Over the course of the year, the Council investigated a variety of issues, on which they provided feedback to government. Topics addressed included collecting data about the impacts of COVID-19 on the nonprofit sector, risk management, online gaming fundraisers, and relief and recovery supports.

Memberships

YHMA maintains paid or reciprocal memberships with a variety of other heritage-related organizations in the Yukon and nationally. These memberships help YHMA to stay up-to-date on important issues within Yukon and across the country, promote Yukon heritage, and make valuable connections.

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.

Education and Awareness

Yukon Heritage Training Fund

YHMA administers the Yukon Heritage Training Fund (YHTF), which supports opportunities for Yukon residents to increase their skills and knowledge in the heritage sector. Although uptake was lower than usual as a result of the pandemic, the YHTF continued to provide much-needed assistance to a number of projects.

Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020, over \$19,000 in funding was committed to 8 different training projects,

several of which are still underway. 8 individuals directly benefitted as participants in funded training projects, with more to come.



In addition, we conducted a stakeholder survey to collect input on how the fund could better serve the Yukon heritage community. Feedback was incorporated into an updated fund policy released in March 2021. The new policy allows for greater flexibility in types of training and eligible expenses.

YHTF is funded by the Government of Yukon Department of Education, 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 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 Heritage Symposium

Pivoting to an online format, the 2020 Yukon Heritage Symposium was held in December. The event was led by consultant Judy Oberlander and focused on

advocacy in the cultural heritage sector, including the purpose of advocacy and strategies for effective advocacy. Break out group discussions offered the opportunity for attendees to explore and share ideas and issues.

The Symposium provides an opportunity to meet and connect with others

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.

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

Risk Management Workshops

YHMA partnered with Skills Canada Yukon to offer three risk management workshops in early 2021 with the support of NGO Training Fund. The need for training in risk management was identified by the Yukon Nonprofit Advisory Council and topics were selected based on a survey of nonprofits. Over 50 individuals from a wide variety of organizations, including members of YHMA, attended these learning sessions and received tools and resources to apply in their own organizations.

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. To enhance accessibility under abnormal circumstances, the 2020 festival ran for one month instead of just one extended weekend, from September 25 to October 25.

YHMA ran our third annual Heritage Highlights Scavenger Hunt for the Culture Days festival, from September 25-27. Once again, the scavenger hunt was met with an enthusiastic response. Participants had to explore downtown Whitehorse to find the answers to 15 trivia questions related to Yukon heritage. This year was a tough one, with only a handful of participants finding all the correct answers! Two winners were randomly drawn from amongst the completed entries.

Over the following week, we also ran a Picture Puzzle social media contest. For five days, close-up photos of various heritage-related locations around Whitehorse were posted on Facebook, with clues as to their identity. Participants who correctly identified each location were entered into a draw to select a winner.

A big thank you goes to our prize pack sponsors, who responded with enthusiasm despite it being a challenging time for many businesses, as well as to the Old Log Church Museum, Historical Guest House Bed & Breakfast, and Klondike Rib & Salmon for hosting scavenger hunt clues.



This photo of the signpost outside Klondike Rib & Salmon was correctly identified by four contest participants. Credit: Kailee Oates

2020 Yukon Heritage Awards

Although this year was different than usual, the YHMA was honoured to recognize the contributions of some remarkable people and organizations with an awards ceremony taking place over Zoom. These award recipients have enriched our community immensely through their work to preserve and share Yukon heritage in a variety of ways.

Instead of granting an Annual Heritage Award, the YHMA was pleased to present two deserving individuals with a History Maker Award. Also presented were the Helen Couch Volunteer of the Year Award; Innovation, Education, and Community Engagement Award; and Heritage Conservation Project of the Year Award.



Valerie Graham. Credit: Mike & Kathy Gates Collection

Valerie Graham (History Maker Award):

Valerie (Val) Graham was an active, committed, and influential contributor in the Yukon heritage community for many years from the 1970s through the 1990s, a period of dynamic development. Val was at the forefront of this development, quietly and steadily working first as a volunteer and later as YHMA Executive Director to envision much needed changes, shaping and implementing activities to support the preservation and celebration of Yukon heritage. Serving as a board member of MacBride Museum, Val saw first-hand the many needs confronting Yukon museums. This led her to play a key role in the formation of the Yukon Historical and Museums Association (YHMA) and to join its first board. During her time with YHMA, she managed the successful restoration of the Donnenworth, Smith, and Captain Martin

Houses; applied her superb accounting skills to the YHMA budget; helped to organize multiple conferences in various Yukon communities; produced the hugely popular annual Heritage Teas in LePage park; and much more. Her unique ability to build bridges across generations meant that YHMA events included Elders, long time seniors, and younger newcomers to the territory. Val's dedication supported crucial transitions from the primarily volunteer heritage community of earlier years, when there were very few federal or territorial government heritage programs, to the robust and expanded community and programs that exist today. She now lives in British Columbia.

David Neufeld (Posthumous History Maker Award): David Neufeld came to the Yukon as the Yukon and Western Arctic Historian with Parks Canada in January 1986, a position that included protected area planning, commemorations, historical research and writing, and partnership projects with Yukon First Nations. David's particular interests were in environmental history and the intersection of knowledge and practice in Indigenous and settler ways of life. He was instrumental in the designation of several Indigenous national historic sites in the Yukon. After retiring from Parks Canada in 2012, David formed a consulting business and, with continued enthusiasm, followed his interests in archival research and community oral histories. In 2019, he was

chosen as the Yukon representative to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. David was also a talented and inspired teacher, known for his patience and good humour. He taught northern history and protected area management at Yukon College, and acted as a cultural interpretation guide for hiking and canoe groups in southern Yukon. In 2004, David was a member of a team awarded the National Council of Public History's Robert Kelly Memorial Award, which honours significant achievements in making history relevant to people outside of academia. David's enthusiasm for Yukon heritage inspired many, and his passing was a great loss for our community.



David Neufeld. Credit: Mike & Kathy Gates Collection

Carolyn Harris (Helen Couch Volunteer of the Year Award):

As an ongoing, active Director of the Yukon Council of Archives (YCA), Carolyn Harris cultivates a strong and supported Yukon archives and record management community. She has served terms as both Vice President and President and continues to participate in several YCA committees, assisting in the successful Community Archivist Project and Professional Development and Education Committee activities. As President of YCA, Carolyn led the highly acclaimed Yukon Summit on Archives in 2018, which gathered representatives from First Nations and other heritage organizations throughout the Yukon to discuss issues, develop future goals, and launch initiatives for preserving and

making available Yukon's diverse and dispersed documentary heritage. She also helped to organize a First Nations Records Management conference in the Yukon, in association with ARMA Vancouver. Carolyn's commitment to recorded information management as Records Manager for Kwanlin Dün First Nation ensures that vital records will be available for all present and future generations. She generously shares her knowledge and experience on archives and records management issues as part of a collaborative project with the Teslin Tlingit Council to assist other First Nations with their programs. Her steady, welcoming, and kind leadership has encouraged many newcomers to join the YCA and to serve on its board and committees.



Carolyn Harris. Credit: Carolyn Harris

Kwanlin Dün First Nation and KDFN Elders (Innovation, Education, and Community Engagement Award): Kwanlin Dün First Nation's (KDFN) recent publication, "*Kwanlin Dün Dă kwāndur ghày ghakwadindur: Our Stories in Our Words,*" is a superb addition to the literature available to citizens, schools, and the public on the history, language, and culture of KDFN. It provides an essential foundation of knowledge for KDFN's ongoing self-determination, 15



Kwanlin Dün Dã kwändur ghày ghakwadindur:
Our Stories in Our Words Credit: Kwanlin Dün
First Nation

years after the First Nation's final and self-government agreements came into effect. The content was formed by KDFN Citizens under the guidance of Elders and is organized in a seasonal round, beginning with a long-ago springtime when the world began, moving through a full year cycle, and ending in the late summer of today where KDFN continues to realize the vision of its agreements. The book is a treasure trove of Elders' stories told in their languages, sharing their worldviews and personal reflections on the land, the resources that help them survive, and the values they

cherish to make a good life for their families now and for all generations to come. Their accounts of events before, during, and after the arrival of newcomers, along with the tremendous efforts made to reclaim their lands and lives through the negotiation of KDFN's agreements, are truly inspiring. KDFN has provided a free copy of the publication to every citizen over the age of 16, ensuring that the wisdom, courage, and resiliency of their ancestors are shared throughout the community. The book can also be purchased through local booksellers and the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Derek Crowe and Jane Koepke (Heritage Conservation Project of the Year Award): This award is presented to Derek Crowe and Jane Koepke for the conservation of the Blacksmith Shop in Carcross, Yukon. While the history of this unassuming building is not fully known, its design and materials give an idea of its role within the development of the community and its connection to the history of the region. Built with full dimension rough sawn joists, the wide rough sawn plank subfloor and blackened interior provide clues to the building's age and use. Retired RCMP member Bill Pringle acquired the Blacksmith Shop during the 1960s. The Pringles used the Blacksmith Shop as a residence while they constructed their new home on an adjacent lot. For years afterwards, the Blacksmith Shop was used for storage, and a meat-hanging shed and greenhouse were added to the structure. Bill called the building the Conrad Blacksmith Shop, as he believed it had been transported to Carcross over the ice from Conrad. However, it may also have served as the White Pass and Yukon Route blacksmith shop in Carcross. Since



The Blacksmith Shop, with work in progress. Credit: Derek Crowe

the building was partially constructed with lumber from other buildings, it is also possible that the Blacksmith Shop was built in Carcross from whatever materials were readily at hand. Derek Crowe and Jane Koepke recently

acquired the Blacksmith Shop and undertook a project to rehabilitate the building for use as a part-time residence. Derek and Jane followed the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, while completing structural upgrades such as a new foundation and reinforcement of gable end walls, the removal of non-historic additions and roof replacement. This project will help ensure the longevity of the building by giving it a new use and appreciation within the community of Carcross. This award is sponsored by the Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon.

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.



Colouring contest entries from our three first place winners: Joseph S. (Ages 4 & under), April F. (Ages 5-8), Julia S. (Ages 9 & up)

Heritage Day Colouring Contest

Held on the Friday preceding the last Sunday of February, Yukon Heritage Day coincides with the Yukon Rendezvous. Following the success of presenting our Heritage Day colouring Contest at Rendezvous KidsFest in 2019, we once again set up at the winter festival for in-person participation in the contest, following COVID-19 protocols. The contest was also made available online for those who could not participate at Rendezvous.

Kids had the opportunity to colour an original line drawing commissioned from Champagne & Aishihik First Nations artist Cole Pauls, featuring a high cache, howling wolf, flying raven, and northern lights. Out of over 85 official entries from communities all across the territory—a record level of participation—we selected three winners in each of three age categories.

Thank you to Parks Canada for donating the prizes, to our volunteers for helping to run the contest, and to Yukon Rendezvous for hosting us.

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.

#OurStoriesOurVoices

This year, the Yukon/Stikine Regional Heritage Fair did not take place due to the pandemic. However, YHMA supported Canada's History in the rollout of a new, multi-year national youth program called #OurStoriesOurVoices by sharing and promoting the program information with Yukon schools to encourage participation from across the territory. This program gives students aged 9 to 18 the opportunity to explore a story that is important in their community's past and to share the people, places, events, and things that illuminate our diverse past.



Lepage Park's new surface. Credit: Lianne Maitland

Lepage Park Resurfacing

Over summer 2020, YHMA had a new, recycled rubber surfacing installed in Lepage Park to replace the aging wooden boardwalk. The rubber surfacing option was selected to improve the accessibility of the park and the comfort of park users. Lepage Park is a unique event and recreation venue that allows users to be surrounded by heritage while enjoying an open, public space in the heart of downtown Whitehorse. The new surfacing will encourage more Yukoners and visitors to engage with the park.



A vendor shows off her collection. Credit: Kailee Oates

This project was made possible with funding support from Lotteries Yukon, the Yukon Foundation's Jan Montgomery Project Fund, Northern Front Studio, Ronald Daniels, Boreal Clinic, Builders Supplyland, and donors.

Vintage & Antique Sales

Following the park resurfacing, YHMA hosted two vintage and antique sales in the park which attracted dozens of curious visitors and vintage enthusiasts. A wide variety of books, antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing,

and more were available for sale from YHMA and other vendors, with YHMA's table filled with over 100 items generously donated by community members.

The sales provided an opportunity for YHMA to share our passion for all things historic with members of the public, and spread awareness of the organization and the importance of heritage conservation.

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 community. Every year, dozens of individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments help us to safeguard, conserve, and share the Yukon's rich and diverse heritage, whether as members, volunteers, donors, partners, sponsors, funders, or otherwise. Your ongoing support ensures Yukon 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.

Angellina's Toy Boutique
Annette Sinclair
Bruce Barrett
Canadian Museums Association
CHON FM
David Neufeld
Diedre Davidson
Dominos Pizza
Government of Canada
Government of Yukon
Historical Guest House B&B
Ian McKenzie
Itsy-Bitsy Yarn Store
Joanne Moore
Jonas Vasseur
Judy Oberlander
Kaitlin Normandin
Karl Gurcke
Klondike Rib & Salmon
Lake Laberge Lions Club
Linda Johnson
Lotteries Yukon
Max Fraser

Melanie Needham
Murdoch's Gem Shop
Michael Gates
North End Gallery
Northern Front Studio
Old Log Church Museum
Paradise Alley Gifts
Parks Canada
Petrus Lommerse
Rachel Grantham
Rambles
Real Canadian Superstore
Ronald Daniels
Sally Robinson
Su Omura
Sylvie Leonard
Tony Gonda
Volunteer Bénévoles Yukon
Warehouse One
Wayne Emery
Yukon Foundation
Yukon Quest
Yukon Rendezvous



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