

Heritage GA Report 2013

This has been an interesting and productive year. Ongoing work on traditional routes has continued and a new focus on language fluency in addition to our work in research, data management, film training and cultural education.

Van Tat Gwich'in Navigation Systems Project

- third year
- directed by the VG Heritage Committee and
- focuses on trails, burial sites and place name information.
- The size of the project depends on funding
- Research area Chuu Tl'it (Whitestone Village) and Gindèhchik (Rampart House) areas, Crow River, helicopter research
- 2014 final year planning

Educational Materials and Tr'ahtsii Manuals

- educational booklets are developed: Van Tat; What Was Life Like At Kâachik; How Did the Shanaghan Help Her People; Who Were Shahvyah, Cheewalti', Shahnuti'; Who Were the Dagoo; and Ch'ijuhdlàii.
- Manuals: funeral protocol two "How To" manuals called: Aih Tr'ahtsii and Tr'ih Tr'ahtsii.
- Tr'ahtsii manuals: passing this information to the next generation

Gwich'in Language

- focus on fluency among younger speakers, especially pre-school ages
- language documentation currently focuses on verb conjugations
- Adult speakers supported through information and fluency aids.
- Language Coordinator position evaluated 6 months into the program

John Tizya Centre

- Many visitors over the past year
- Rampart House tour development
- photo exhibit in honor of the 25th anniversary of the lobbying to protect the calving grounds
- Temporary Exhibits training
- Canadian Conservation Institute assessment and report

Chapter 13

- Heritage Manual Drafting Committee mandated by the Implementation Working Group
- model heritage legislation by Tr'ondek Hwech'in and decision guidelines for heritage management

Researchers and Media

- Research and Media applications concerning people reviewed by the VGG Heritage Committee. Research agreements are developed by the Lands Manager for land related projects
- Examples of 2012-13 research projects: Craig Mischler and Kenneth Frank from the University of Alaska Fairbanks on Gwich'in caribou anatomy, Nick Grzybowski from University of Victoria on landuse planning, Jeremy Bramer from McGill University on traditional use of muskrats and environmental impacts in Crow Flats, Bob Cameron of the Yukon Transportation Museum removed a crashed helicopter from the Fishing Branch area for display purposes, David Andrews and Gwich'in Peter Loovers from University of Aberdeen are working on an international project called Arctic Domas to study dogs, fish and caribou use in Old Crow and other northern communities, Shirley Robrun from Concordia University is studying the use of storytelling in the Porcupine Caribou lobby efforts, Eric Huggard from University of Northern BC is studying aboriginal perspectives on the correctional system, Chief Zzeh Gittlit School high school students researched storytelling and beadwork, the Old Crow H.pylori project continues and David Natcher of University of Saskatchewan returned to Old Crow this summer for a very interesting presentation on his cross-border trade research.
- Examples of recent media projects include Up Here magazine article by Genesee Keevil on Why Old Crow Works and photographer Peter Mather will continue to take photos for his planned book "People of the Caribou" and Allan Code is developing a film about Yukon First Nations languages with his daughter Angela Code. Japanese film makers NHK continue to gather information about filming the caribou migration and author Bob Hayes is writing a young adult adventure novel set in the Old Crow area 8 thousand years ago and continues to submit chapters for Heritage Committee members input.
- Crow Flats bird survey
- Community involvement in research

Rampart House

- jointly managed and funded by the Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments
- reconstruction of the Rectory, starting on the Church, site enhancements
- Thanks to the Border Boys

Collections

- archival collection of interviews, transcripts, indexes, photos, video footage, cultural items and palaeontological items.
- Translation, transcription, indexing done by Mary Jane Moses
- added an interview collection from Shirley Roburn in addition to Heritage tr'ahtsii and navigation systems interview, video and photo collections.

Local Films

- "Our World" film production: youth animated films
- Dawson City Short Film Festival "*Direct Wind*" won in the Made in the Yukon Youth category
- Janelle Shafer and Melayna Kaye's film "*How Bear Got a Short Tail*" selected for screening at a film festival in Montreal

Mahsi' Choo