After two years of labour, our summer youth crews are about to finish Dawson’s newest trail. This two-kilometre loop overlooks the Yukon and Klondike rivers, on the road down to Sunnydale. This trail has been called the “Steamboat Slough Trail” for the prominent waterway visible from the trail’s two viewpoints. But it offers far more than an overview of the slough once used by the steamship companies as winter quarters for their many steamboats plying the Yukon River. Hikers will also see the Spotted Orchid (Cypripedium guttatum), which, while considered rare in most of the Yukon, grows in such abundance on these slopes that the site is
deemed ecologically significant. Some locals may already know this site by the name “Orchid Acres.”

The trail also showcases the Yukon and Klondike rivers, its communities, and the region’s rich cultural and natural heritage. At the first viewpoint, which overlooks the Tr’ochëk National Historic Site and the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike rivers, interpretive signs will tell the story of the site—from its beginnings as an important fish camp for the Hän people, to growing into the thriving Klondike City during the Gold Rush, to its return to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in as a site of deep historical and cultural significance.

The second viewpoint, also overlooking the Yukon River, will speak to the importance of the river as a transportation corridor and the use of the slough for over-wintering boats to protect them from ice damage during breakup.

This trail should become a popular choice for locals and visitors seeking a short, moderately easy walk near town that offers beautiful flowers and forest landscapes, stunning river views, and a look at Tr’ondëk and Dawson City from a very different perspective. Interpretive signs along the trail will help build a greater understanding and appreciation of the region’s rich cultural and natural heritage.

This new trail was made possible through funding support from the Yukon Government’s Community Development Fund and built in partnership with the Yukon Government’s Heritage Sites Department and the Environment Yukon’s Wildlife Viewing Program.

Robert Service School also played a role in this project by allowing those of our youth workers enrolled in their Applied Skills Course to gain school credits for the work they did on the built structures (i.e. staircase, viewing platforms) along the trail.
A hide tanning project in 1979 at the Dawson City Museum brought Ida Jonas and Sally Robinson into the same realm of work. Sally had moved to Dawson around 1974 and found work at the museum in various capacities. She was revamping and designing the exhibits and the hide tanning project was one of a few projects on the go. Both Annie Henry and Joe Henry (parents of Ida) were also working on museum-related projects. Sally knew Annie and Joe well; Sally had a vehicle and the opportunity to drive them to Wolf Creek on a number of occasions and visit with them there.

Knowing of Ida’s talents as a result of their work together at the museum, Sally wanted a pair of mukluks and asked Ida to make some for her. As these things go during busy times, the mukluks went on the “to-do” list. Sally eventually asked Annie if she knew if Ida was still planning to make them, and Annie simply produced this beautiful pair of mukluks for Sally to purchase, which Sally promptly did for $80.

This gorgeous pair of mukluks sport wolverine fur and, therefore, were likely made for a man. They have an incredible number and variety of beads, as well. Traditionally, this is indicative of the wealth of the wearer—one would need resources to acquire these mukluks. Ironically, that was not necessarily the case for Sally.

The number and variety of beads are also indicative of the skill and expertise of the beader. We all know Annie Henry’s reputation, but if we didn’t know she made these mukluks, we could still understand a little bit about the person who created them. The beader would not have such a vast array of raw materials if they were not creating this type of item frequently. That means their skill was sought after. This is not to be confused with a boastful beader, however. Note the pale-blue bead and the light-green bead Annie purposefully placed among the white beaded outline on each mukluk toe. To make something not quite perfect showed the respectable characteristic of modesty. It allows room to always strive to improve yourself, to not be overtly boastful. These mukluks show Annie’s characteristic white background and also tell us a little bit about the era they were made; the 1970’s influence in colour and style is unmistakable.

Much appreciation to Sally Robinson for taking such great care of these fantastic mukluks and her generosity in sharing them with the community. If you wish to see them, feel free to stop by the TH Admin building. You might want to compare them with Annie’s beadwork currently on exhibit at DZCC’s Crafting Wisdom exhibit. You can also see Anne and Joe Henry’s work from the 1970’s project with the Dawson City Museum, currently on exhibit at the museum in the south gallery.
World Heritage Project Update

by Paula Hassard

We’re very excited to be bringing up a World Heritage expert who successfully managed the UNESCO nomination of Grand Pré, Nova Scotia. Christophe Rivet is helping us refine the Outstanding Universal Value of the heritage sites, cultural landscapes and river corridors in the proposed Tr’ondëk-Klondike World Heritage site. We also started a working group with Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in representatives and the mining industry to give input on the draft boundaries.

At the upcoming TH General Assembly, there will be World Heritage resolution put forward to proceed with a Tr’ondëk-Klondike nomination. Please plan to attend!

Did you know?

• Designation would celebrate the shared past and strength of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in heritage, which continues today; Gold Rush/mining heritage, which continues today; and Dawson community history, which continues today.

• The continuation of these living traditions would be part of the Outstanding Universal Value of the proposed site.

• This would help fulfill the cultural and economic objectives of the TH Final Agreement.

• Designation would provide jobs and private business opportunities for TH citizens.

• Designation would cause a modest increase of visitors at Forty Mile, Tr’ochëk, Tombstone and Dânojâ Zho Cultural Centre, helping pay for new heritage programs, research and conservation.

• Protected areas would stay protected.

• TH would decide how many—and when—places are open to the public.

• Management would be formalized to ensure protection and respect for privacy/property.

• The community remains in control, not UNESCO.

• TH and placer miners will be involved in determining the details of the buffer zones and geographic boundaries.

• Planning and development would occur within existing land-use regulations.

• TH would continue in their leadership role on the project.

• A legal opinion will be obtained to confirm there would be no impact on TH rights, prior to designation.

• Designation would help sustain the local tourism industry and increase the well-being of TH and all Dawsonites.

If you have questions, I’d love to talk to you! Feel welcome to drop by to see me at Madame Tremblay’s. Or visit our website: tkwhstatus.ca. Mähsi cho!

Percy Henry, with Jody Beaumont, shares stories, ideas, and wisdom with visitors to the Cultural Centre.
At the beginning of July I went to Chase, B.C. and took the second part to Total Physical Response (TPR) training, called Total Physical Response Storytelling (TPRS). I stayed with the billet I stayed with last summer and on the reservation. I attended Chief Atham School which is a school that is fully immersed in native language.

Total Physical Response is focused on building comprehension. Total Physical Response Storytelling focuses on developing speech. In TPR level 1, I teach one-word actions and objects, just like how a baby would learn, and that is usually how the student will speak at first. Total Physical Response Storytelling uses a combination of total physical response words and short narrative to practice speaking. Through TPRS I’m able to teach using action, speech, and cards to form stories with students. And the students will be able to understand what they are speaking, which helps them remember.

**Our Voices: Yukon First Nations Emerging Leaders Gathering**

From Aug. 7–10 I was in Brook’s Brook, Teslin Lake, attending the “Our Voices” youth gathering. Over the four days, I learned many lessons and feel inspired and refreshed. There were several amazing speeches from Yukon First Nation leaders, Elders, and negotiators.

Wab Kinew shared information about his First Nation’s culture and how they have sundance ceremonies. He proposed to his wife in the center of a sundance ceremony, with his and her family surrounding them. In his culture, it’s traditional to ask and do things in the center of everyone and not to be shy. It’s called “Standing in the Light.”

There was a talk with former Yukon First Nation Leaders that participated in “Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow.” The former leaders were Sam Johnston, Shirley Adamson, Pat Van Bibber, and Mark Wedge. They talked about starting the Yukon Native Brotherhood and Yukon Association of Non-Status Indians. Some closing words of inspiration shared were “Maintain your ability to maintain your independance” (Pat Van Bibber); “Live sober, live clean, live healthy” (Shirley Adamson); and “Find the spiritual side of your life” (Sam Johnston).

Jeff Copenace spoke to us about what it takes to be a leader. Jeff is an Ojibway person from Onigaming First Nation who worked as AFN Deputy Chief and advisor to a former Prime Minister. Victoria Fred spoke about the self-government agreements. She’s a lawyer and citizen of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. It was great for the youth to get educated on the Yukon First Nations Agreements. When I was younger, my mom always taught me about this important document, and I have always known who the Grand Chief was and even former Grand Chiefs were.

David Rattray, from the Tahltan First Nation, spoke about “Nourishing Our Spirit.” He has been a youth counsellor for 16 years. He talked about embracing our traditional knowledge and embracing modern lifestyles. It would be amazing if David came to our community to speak with youth.

This event was the best youth gathering I’ve been to. It brought youth from around the Yukon and inspired me to live healthier and more traditionally. At the next Yukon First Nations Gathering, I hope to see more Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in youth attend. It would inspire them as much as it inspired all of us.
Dänojà Zho hosted many programs and tours this summer that supported our ongoing assignment to share and celebrate Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in heritage. The Dänojà Zho staff takes turns attending the programs throughout the summer to learn from each other and collect new information for tours and cultural activities. This is part of the job: building knowledge and creating understanding not just for others, but for yourself, as well.

Wild and Rosie Apothecary and Of Land and Sky are two summer programs that explore the symbiotic relationship we have with nature. Self care and care of others and the planet are part of the messaging in these two popular programs. Visitors enjoy up-close-and-personal activities and a different perspective on the land and the people.

This summer a new partnership with Parks Canada opened the opportunity to explore food that keeps you strong and vigorous for the challenging trails ahead. The Bannock and Sourdough program brought dry meat, bannock, sourdough bread, peaches, wild berry juices and jams, and campfire tea and coffee to the table for guests to try. No matter if it was gold rush tucker or traditional grub, one thing was for certain: you need good food to keep your stomach off your back!

Radio Zho: Live by the Riverside blew out the airwaves again this summer. This program provides the opportunity for DZCC interpreters to share stories and music with guests and onlookers. We also grow our audience and foster an appreciation for Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in locally (via CFYT 106.9 FM) and through internet radio. Research skills, charm and ability to think and respond quickly to the unexpected are part of the fun of this program.

A highlight this summer was Shinidasha: Good Company, tales and tidbits of stories and fun with Elder Percy Henry. Guests sat with Percy and his sidekick Jody Beaumont (TH Heritage Department) twice a week and heard what was on Percy’s mind. Stories were recalled, as were memories of fun and hard times and a few ideas for people to think about. This program had a benefit for the staff as well as the guests, and many people came to DZCC specifically to provide good company.

Mähsti cho to the staff for a great season.
Mähsi to Victor Henry for jumping in, lending a hand and keeping an eye on the young ones. Your daily visits and assistance are appreciated by all of us. Happy hunting and gathering season everyone!

Fran Morberg-Green
This summer was short and sweet. It seems we’ve only begun. I was able to get out and collect more plants than in previous years and able to make tinctures, oils, juices and syrups from this summer’s harvest. This year there was a perfect combination of sunny days mixed with plenty of rain; everything was lush and beautiful. When I was in the mountaintops picking the biggest berries I’ve seen, I looked out over the mountain tops and valleys in awe. What beautiful a world we truly live in. Mähsi cho, K’ahothat.

Allison Anderson
Drin hozo, my fellow moose-meat eaters. This summer feels like it went by so fast—that’s how fun it was. I have many happy memories. I love working at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre because it gives me the opportunity to meet new people. I can teach and share the history of our culture and traditions. Some of the highlights are making dry meat, doing Radio Zho, eating bannock and sourdough, and getting the chance to learn from the programs Aunty Fran and Nicole would host. I hope to continue working at the Cultural Centre for as long as I can, but I’m also looking forward to getting back into jigging again. So I will most definitely be here and there and everywhere else this winter. Mähsi cho, Cousins!

Nicole Cook
Change. I was in need of a change. I decided to take the summer off at Tr’inke Zho daycare and start a new journey at Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre. I got to express who I am and what I love to do by working with Fran. She taught me SO much about the plants and their properties. I even got to have my own program, Wild ’n Rosie, which allowed me to make my home remedies using traditional plants. I made things from bath bombs, lotions, and scrubs to pine crackers and rose shortbread cookies. The thing that really made my summer here at Dänojà Zho was the amazing staff. They taught me so much, and strong friendships were made. I’m sad to leave my Zho family behind, but the knowledge I gained will better me in my future and work. I’m so excited to go back to my kids and my other family at Tr’inke Zho daycare and teach them what I gained through the summer. Mähsi cho.
Summer students make DZCC a better place.

The summer flies by quickly—all the more so for our summer students experiencing new things and hopefully saving something in the bank for the long year ahead.

This was our second year engaging Robert Service School students at Dänojà Zho. Our DZ student crew included Jamie Thomas, Ryan Titus and, in his second term at the Zho, Sam Taylor. The summer students learn the basics of day-to-day employment as well as public speaking, event and program preparations, hospitality, and customer service. We were surprised (and delighted!) when Ryan asked to be placed on the gallery tour roster one Saturday afternoon. We had no idea he was planning a tour, and he did a great job of it. Confidence is a funny thing. It grows silently, slowly nurtured by positive experiences and examples. Our end goal for the summer students is confidence and an understanding of your place within the story. The youth succeeded and made us proud. Mӓhsi cho Ryan, Sammy and Jamie, and have a great winter. Mӓhsi cho to Melissa Atkinson and the HR Team for finding funding and supporting the students. Much appreciated!

Ryan Titus

This summer sure did go by fast! Probably because of the rain. My summer at Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre was definitely excellent. There were many highlights: Wild & Rosie and Land & Sky programs, Radio Zho, and Bannock, the Tr’ochëk trip, the parades, the trip I made to Yukomicon and, of course, the time I scared Jamie and Sam! But I’d say my favourite thing was working with an amazing crew and boss. I’ve learned so much since I started and will be leaving a much better young man, thankful I got to work here.

Jamie Thomas

I enjoyed working at the Cultural Centre this summer because it was a big learning experience. I helped Fran with her Land & Sky program and learned about plants and their benefits. I also introduced the Welcome Film. I really liked the programs and working at the DZCC. Thank you for the opportunity. I loved all the staff, and we have a great boss!

Sammy Taylor

I had a great time at the Cultural Centre. I worked here last year and liked it, so I came back and I’m happy with my choice. Working at the Cultural Centre, you learn a lot and meet a lot of people. Working lights for the show was good just like last year. Overall, my summer was excellent.