

Fort Selkirk

HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

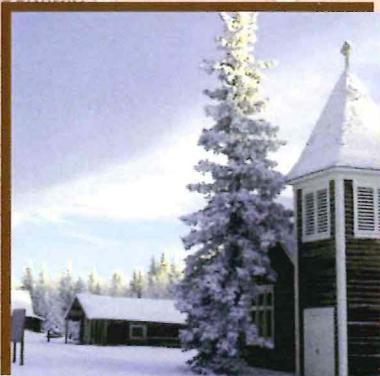
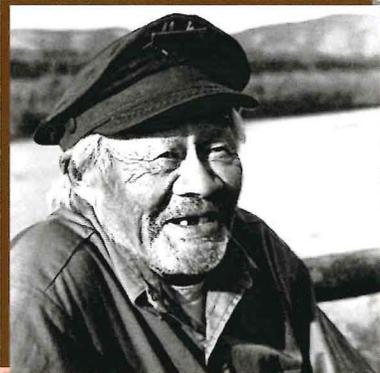


**Selkirk First Nation
Government of Yukon**

May 2000

Inukshuk Planning & Development

in association with
**Midnight Arts
K-L Services**





Selkirk First Nation



Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan

We, the undersigned, accept this Plan as a framework for cooperative management of the Fort Selkirk Historic Site.

Chief, Selkirk First Nation

Date

Minister, Department of Tourism, Yukon Government

Date

Fort Selkirk

HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Selkirk First Nation
Government of Yukon, Heritage Branch**

May 2000

Prepared by:

Inukshuk Planning & Development

In association with

**Midnights Arts
K-L Services**



Official symbol of the Fort Selkirk Historic Site:

- The concentric circles represent 'Big Headed Star Man',
- The waves represent the Yukon and Pelly Rivers

In 1990, the Yukon government & the Selkirk First Nation agreed:

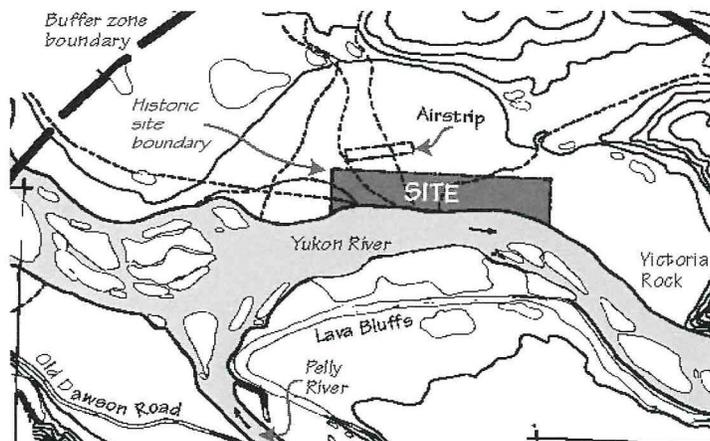
“Fort Selkirk should be preserved, protected & developed as a living cultural heritage site.”

Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan

Executive Summary

Introduction

Fort Selkirk is one of the Yukon's most important heritage sites, a place of great cultural and natural significance. For the past 17 years, the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon government have worked together to research, preserve, restore and interpret the historic townsite. Located near the confluence of the Pelly and Yukon rivers, the site was a traditional fishing, trading camp and meeting place for generations of First Nations people. Its present name is the name of the trading post established here in 1852 by Robert Campbell of the Hudson's Bay Company, immediately after the establishment rival Tlingit traders forced the closure of the post. In 1889, an American trader tried again. This time, the post evolved into a permanent settlement that was occupied for over 60 years. During the Gold Rush, Fort Selkirk became a major supply and service centre.



Fort Selkirk Historic Site boundary

Why Update the Management Plan Now?

Over the past decade Fort Selkirk has been co-operatively managed using a management plan developed in 1990. Important changes have occurred in the intervening years including settlement of the Selkirk First Nation land claim. Under the terms of its final agreement, Fort Selkirk is now jointly owned and managed by the Government of Yukon and the Selkirk First Nation and will be designated a territorial historic site.

The 1990 management plan has proven very effective and the original vision statement still applies. Now, after 9 years, the plan needs to be updated to reflect current conditions, set new priorities and meet the requirements of the final agreement. In August 1999, Inukshuk Planning and Development, Midnight Arts and K-L Services were contracted to update the management plan.

*Defining the
“Limits of
Acceptable
Change”:*

*What changes
resulting from site
maintenance,
building
preservation,
interpretation and
visitor use activities
need to be
monitored to ensure
they do not
compromise the
heritage values at
Fort Selkirk?*

Where We Are Now

Over the past 20 years, most of the townsite’s structures have been stabilized, the buildings repaired to the point where they are sealed to the weather and no longer in danger of collapse. Emphasis can turn now to building maintenance and preparing buildings for interpretive, cultural and possible commercial use.

Over years of abandonment, many of Fort Selkirk’s artefacts disappeared. Some of the remaining items have been stored in the Stone House shed – but this is only a temporary measure until more suitable storage can be found.

During the past 5 years, the Fort Selkirk Management Group has been using the 1994 *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan*. Many of the recommendations of the Plan have been implemented, including the installation of interpretive signage, the establishment of a First Nations heritage centre and the hiring of two seasonal interpreters.

Fort Selkirk visits are steadily increasing. In 1991, 650 visitors signed the guest book. By 1998, that number had reached 1,600. Almost all river travellers stop for a visit, and most choose to camp overnight. The Yukon government maintains the campground but does not charge for its use.

Where We Are Going

If Fort Selkirk is to meet its goal as a “living cultural heritage site”, there must be direction and limits to its growth and development. The site already has a good balance of stabilization, restoration and naturalness. Together, this creates a sense of place not apparent elsewhere in the Yukon. The “limits of acceptable change” must be established.

Implementation Strategy – the 2000 Management Plan

The 1990 Site Management Plan has been updated to reflect current conditions (see **Figure 7**, page 64 and **Map 1**, page 66). Four site management zones are proposed:

- ❖ **Natural Area Zone** – manage and direct any proposed development activities so that natural features and heritage sites are protected and aesthetic quality of landscapes remain unaffected.
- ❖ **Preservation Area “A”** – preserve the context of and provide a buffer for major archaeological sites and buildings; no new temporary or permanent structures permitted excepting interpretive signage; screen necessary facilities such as garbage containers.
- ❖ **Preservation Area “B”** – allow construction of seasonal and permanent lodging consistent with site history and design guidelines; seasonal camp facilities and traditional use activities acceptable.
- ❖ **Visitor Services & Maintenance Areas** – concentrate visitor and staff services to enable shared use of services and facilities; expand campground.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

Action Required	Priority	Order of Magnitude	Responsibility
Continue work camp building replacement, improve boat landings & construct stairs	1	2*	YTG Tourism/SFN
Expand & rotate campground, screen & relocate outhouses & garbage cans as required	1	1	YTG Parks
Complete outstanding Preservation Plan recording & stabilization projects	1	4	YTG Tourism/SFN
Complete site artefact inventory & store artefacts safely	1	3	YTG Tourism/SFN
Train crew member as on-site technician to inspect buildings seasonally, determine stabilization & maintenance needs & act as artefact curator	1	2	YTG Tourism/SFN
Restore exteriors of selected buildings & partially restore & refurbish selected interiors as resources are available	3	4	YTG Tourism
Complete outstanding Interpretive Plan projects & update oral history collection	2	3	YTG Tourism/SFN
Hire at least 1 trainee interpreter annually	1	1*	YTG Tourism/SFN
Develop training/skills development program for maintenance & service staff	1	2*	SFN/YTG Tourism
Coordinate a minimum of 1 elder/student on-site visit & special cultural event at Fort Selkirk per year	1	1*	SFN/ School Council
Prepare information & interpretive material for off-site use & reference in curriculum development	2	2	YTG Tourism/SFN
Establish links with other First Nations heritage centres & consider using Fort Selkirk as a training site (on a cost recovery basis)	3	1*	SFN/YTG Tourism
Encourage private sector development of regular boat service from Pelly Crossing to encourage day use & complement existing service from Minto Resorts	1	1	SFN
Administer river & highway traveller survey for at least one more year to confirm support for specific service improvements & obtain additional data to assess user fee options	2	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Prepare marketing plan to actively promote site awareness & visitor use opportunities	3	2	YTG Tourism/SFN
Examine feasibility of off-season use of work camp facilities (on a cost recovery basis)	2	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Develop suitable land use policies for buffer zone & incorporate into regional land use plan	3	1	YTG Tourism
Complete historic site designation & mining claim withdrawal processes	1	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Examine feasibility of additional on-site commercial concessions to meet visitor needs (on a cost recovery basis)	3	1	SFN
Investigate the feasibility of creating a "Friends of Ft. Selkirk" non profit society	3	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Develop new off-site visitor opportunities such as by brushing out a trail to Victoria Rock to offer visitors more varied opportunities	3	2	SFN

Key for Order of Magnitude (Cdn \$): 1~ 0- 10,000, 2~ 10,000- 50,000, 3~ 50,000- 100,000, 4~100,000- 500,000
 (* denotes ongoing or annual costs)

Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan

Acknowledgements

The Project Team would like to thank the following people for their time and assistance with the preparation of past and present versions of the Plan:

Fort Selkirk Management Steering Committee:

Jerry Alfred –Selkirk First Nation
Roger Alfred - Selkirk First Nation
Lois Joe—Selkirk First Nation
Lucy McGinty—Selkirk First Nation
Bruce Barrett – Government of Yukon
Peter Frankish – Government of Yukon
Ruth Gotthardt – Government of Yukon
Darin Issac – Selkirk First Nation
David Johnny – Selkirk First Nation
Doug Olynyk – Government of Yukon

Pelly Crossing Community:

Emma Alfred	Tommy McGinty
Scott Berwell	Danny Roberts
Teddy Charlie	Franklin Roberts
Linch Curry	Jean Roberts
Johnson Edwards	Edward Simon
Victoria Edwards	Johnny Simon
Lizzie Hall	Lori Sims
Alec Joe	Sharon Sims
Betty Joe	Kathleen Thorpe
Danny Joe	Rachel Tom Tom
Charlie Johnson	Audrey Trudeau
Dorothy Johnson	Dan Van Bibber
Lew Johnson	Jean Van Bibber
Milly Johnson	Maria Van Bibber
Stanley Jonathan	Marilyn Van Bibber
Chief Harry McGinty	Pat Van Bibber
Mary McGinty	Robert Van Bibber

Recognition is also due the consultants who worked on previous versions of the plan, including Helene Dobrowolsky and Rob Ingram of Midnight Arts, Juri Peepre of Juri Peepre & Associates and John Keay, Architect.

Many thanks to Bonnie Roberts of Pelly Crossing, our local team member, for her valuable help in obtaining the input of Elders and residents.

Our deepest gratitude is owed to the staff of Fort Selkirk Historic Site, especially Elders Danny Roberts, Fort Selkirk's caretaker, and Maria Van Bibber, site interpreter. It is their warmth and willingness to share their personal knowledge that makes the experience of Fort Selkirk memorable for so many.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Why Update the 1990 Management Plan Now?	2
1.2	Plan Update Process	2
1.3	Plan Area Boundaries	4
2.0	DEVELOPMENT HISTORY.....	5
3.0	SETTING & SITE RESOURCES.....	6
3.1	The Setting.....	6
3.2	Heritage Resources	7
3.3	Natural Resources	14
4.0	SITE USE & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT	19
4.1	Visitor Use History & Trends	19
4.2	Community Consultation.....	22
5.0	MANAGEMENT PLAN VISION.....	29
5.1	Management Plan Goal	29
5.2	Objectives:	29
5.3	Plan Performance Measures	32
6.0	LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE.....	33
6.1	Heritage Preservation	33
6.2	Interpretation & Education	35
6.3	Visitor Use & Area Development	36
7.0	HERITAGE RESOURCE PRESERVATION	38
7.1	Heritage Structures and Sites	39
7.2	Cemeteries and Grave Sites	44
7.3	Heritage Trails.....	44
7.4	Heritage Landscape Features.....	45
7.5	Oral Traditions	46
7.6	Archaeology	47
7.7	Palaeontology	48
7.8	Artefacts.....	48
7.9	Documentary Sources & Research Issues	49

8.0	INTERPRETATION & EDUCATION	51
8.1	What is Interpretation?	51
8.2	1994 Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan	51
8.3	The Situation Today	53
8.4	Outreach & Making Connections	55
8.5	On Site Opportunities.....	57
8.6	Off Site Opportunities.....	59
8.7	Interpretation and Education Conclusions	59
9.0	VISITOR USE, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES & SERVICES.....	60
9.1	Site Information, Marketing & Promotion	60
9.2	Onsite Infrastructure Improvements.....	62
10.0	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	64
10.1	2000 Management Plan.....	64
10.2	Site Management Organization	65
10.3	Implementation Priorities	67

APPENDICES

1.0 Introduction

Fort Selkirk is one of the Yukon's most important heritage sites, a place of great cultural and natural significance. For the past 17 years, the Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and Yukon Government (YTG) have worked together to research, preserve, restore and interpret the historic townsite. Located near the confluence of the Pelly and Yukon rivers, the site was a traditional fishing, trading camp and meeting place for generations of First Nations people. Its present name is the name of the trading post established here in 1852 by Robert Campbell of the Hudson's Bay Company, immediately after the establishment rival Tlingit traders forced the closure of the post. In 1889, an American trader tried again. This time the post evolved into a permanent settlement that was continuously occupied for over 60 years.



Selkirk Trading Post, Schofield and Zimmerlee (Photo: Yukon Government)

*“Fort Selkirk
should be
preserved,
protected and
developed as a
living cultural
heritage site.”*

- 1990 Management Plan

The settlement was gradually abandoned starting in the late 1950s and early 1960s with completion of the Klondike Highway and the end of regular sternwheeler boat traffic. During the next 20 years, there was a growing realization that the heritage values present at Fort Selkirk were quickly being lost. In the 1980s, the Government of Yukon began to actively pursue a range of research and heritage preservation initiatives to protect the remaining heritage resources at Fort Selkirk. These projects included archaeological field studies, collection of oral history, sponsorship of education programs, building stabilization and the development of a government campground, along with some initial interpretive signage. Although the First Nation was consulted and members directly involved in the projects undertaken, it was not until around 1984 that the notion of full-scale collaboration began to evolve, leading to the formation of a bi-partisan management body in 1989.

Completed in 1990, the first Management Plan set out a shared vision for the historic site. The plan was commissioned by the Government of Yukon in cooperation with the Selkirk First Nation and prepared under the direction of a joint steering committee.

1.1 Why Update the 1990 Management Plan Now?

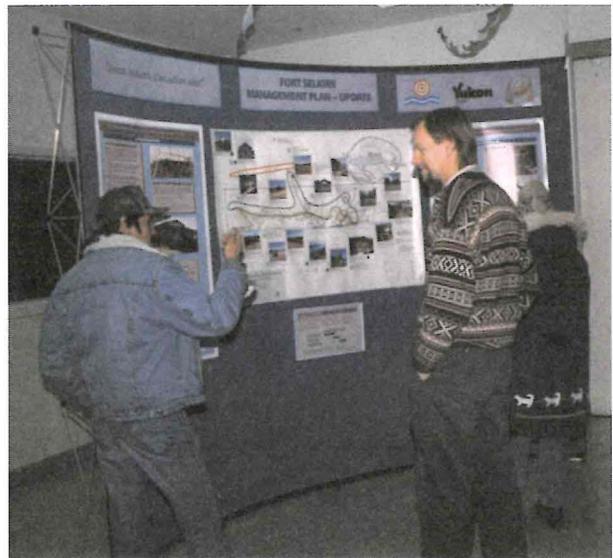
Important changes have occurred in the intervening years, including settlement of the Selkirk First Nation land claim. Under the terms of its final agreement, Fort Selkirk is now jointly owned and managed by the Yukon government and Selkirk First Nation. It is to be designated a territorial historic site under the *Historic Resources Act*. The 1990 Fort Selkirk Management Plan has been very useful. It has served as a reference guide for setting annual work plan priorities and a frame of reference for site management decision-making.

Now, after nine years, the plan needs to be updated to reflect current conditions and set new priorities for the next five years. The management plan also needs to be updated to meet the requirements of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. This is the purpose of the management plan review.

1.2 Plan Update Process

A joint steering committee was established to oversee preparation of the plan update. The Heritage and Parks & Outdoor Recreation Branches represented the Yukon government. The Selkirk First Nation participants included representatives from the Lands & Resources Branch, the seasonal work crew site manager and others who had either worked at the site or been involved in heritage protection matters over the years. A number of the participants had been involved in preparation of the original plan and this provided some unique continuity.

Bruce Barrett of Heritage Branch speaks with residents at the Draft Plan Open House held in Pelly Crossing (Photo: I. Robertson)



A consulting team was hired to undertake the legwork to prepare the plan update and conduct a public consultation process. The consulting team included a local researcher in Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse based consultants with expertise in heritage preservation and interpretation as well as regional tourism planning. All members of the study team had some previous experience with Fort Selkirk.

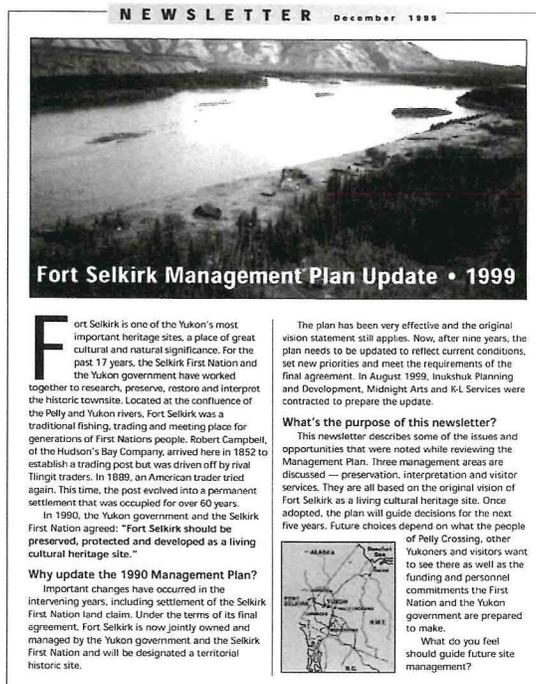
At the outset, it was determined the original vision statement was still applicable and the need is to update rather than overhaul the existing plan. This is a testament to the effectiveness of the original plan.

The planning process was divided into three phases. The first phase involved issue identification, interviews with a range of stakeholders and the development of two questionnaires, one geared to highway travellers stopping in Pelly Crossing and the other, to river travellers stopping at the site. A situation analysis was prepared and reviewed with the Steering Committee.

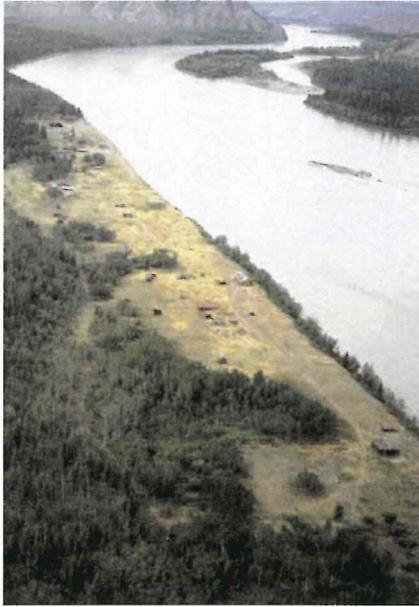
Phase Two involved preparing a newsletter and public information display. The newsletter outlined the changes that had occurred, identified potential issues and put forward suggested resolutions to be incorporated into the new plan. Public open houses were then held in Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse to obtain feedback. The results were reviewed with the Steering Committee and direction provided to the consultant on the content of the draft plan.

Phase Three involved preparation of the draft plan update with an implementation plan outlining the priorities for the next five years. The draft plan was reviewed by the Steering Committee and briefings provided to the ministers' of Tourism and Renewable Resources as well as Chief and Council of the Selkirk First Nation. After final revisions, the Fort Selkirk Management Plan will be officially signed off and adopted by both parties in accordance with the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement (Chapter 13, Schedule A section 3.3).

The underlying goal of this update is to ensure Fort Selkirk retains the opportunity to be a living cultural heritage site. There is a desire to find a balance between serving the growing recreational/tourism demands and protection of the heritage values that make this site unique.



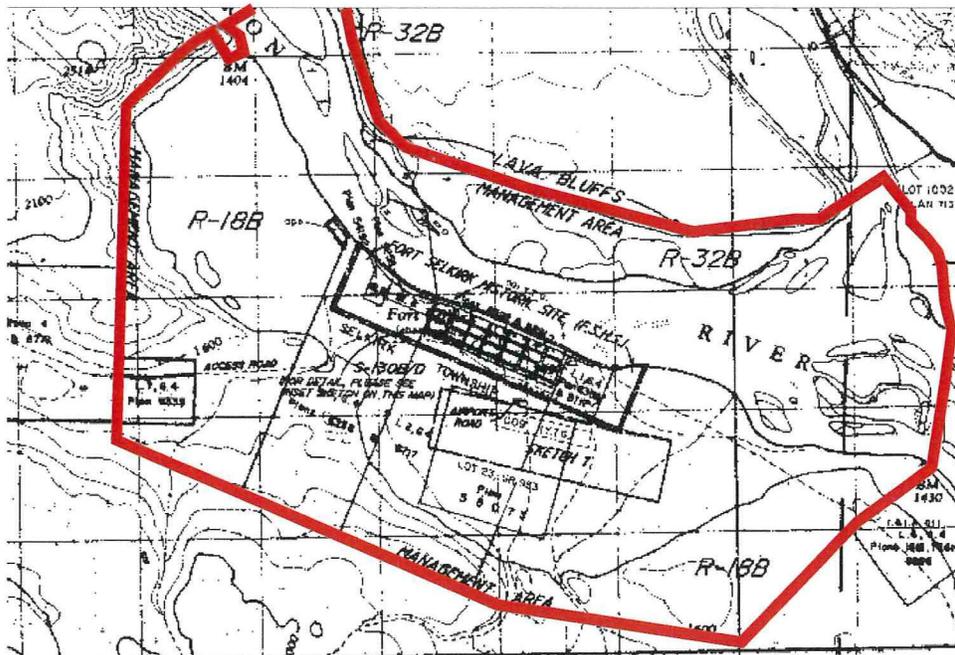
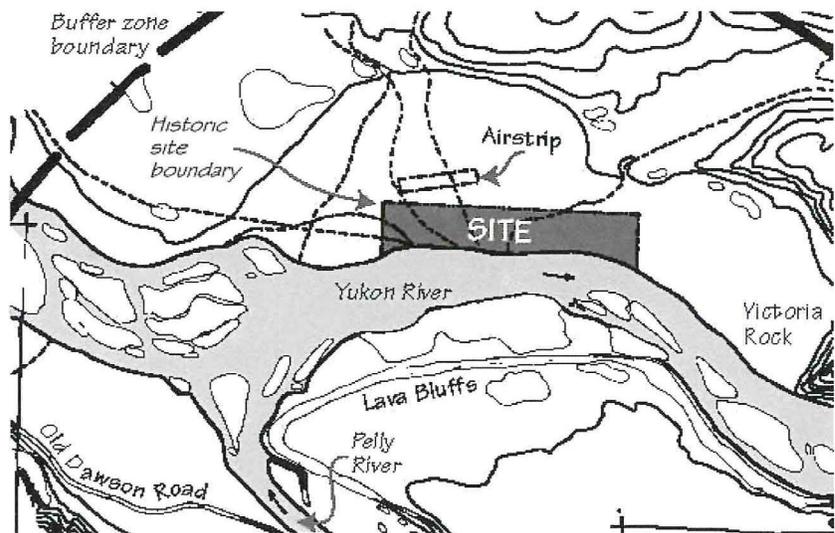
Front cover of newsletter, December 1999



Fort Selkirk from the air
(Photo: Yukon Government)

1.3 Plan Area Boundaries

This plan covers the area of the immediate townsite and the immediate vicinity as shown in **Figure 1**. The boundary takes into account lands visible from the historic townsite (i.e. Victoria Rock, the lava bluffs across the Yukon River, forested ridges and the confluence of the Pelly River) that are an essential part of the setting as well as those lands required to “buffer” the site and control access. It is intended that the land use policies outlined in this updated management plan for the buffer zone will be treated as guidelines and an interim measure until a regional land use plan is completed. **Figure 2** defines the boundaries of the Fort Selkirk Management Area as set out in the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.



(above)
Figure 1:
Fort Selkirk
Historic Site
boundary

(left)
Figure 2:
Fort Selkirk
Management
Area boundary

2.0 Development History

Developments since the 1990 Management Plan:

- *Co-management agreement between First Nation & Heritage Branch working successfully;*
- *Preservation Plan completed, guiding building stabilization and maintenance;*
- *Interpretation Plan completed, new signage installed, video, visitor guide & archaeology booklets produced;*
- *Two seasonal interpreters hired;*
- *Campground & work camp upgraded;*
- *Visitation levels have increased;*
- *Fire risk reduction measures implemented;*
- *Links to Pelly Crossing & Minto Landing improved.*

Significant progress has been made on the initial plan recommendations. Several themes have provided the foundation for subsequent action. The main theme is reflected in the goal statement of Fort Selkirk as “a living cultural heritage site.” Underlying this main theme are the key concepts of Fort Selkirk as a place of spiritual learning and cultural renewal as well as shared history. From this context the idea of co-management and a community development approach evolved into the shared ownership principle ratified in the 1997 Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. The 1990 Plan placed priority on protection of the heritage resources making Fort Selkirk a cultural focus for the Selkirk First Nation.

Increased visitation would follow with the scale, pace and timing of any future tourism promotion or economic development initiatives determined by the joint Management Committee.

The following is a summary of the main results achieved since preparation of the 1990 Plan. More detail is provided in the respective report sections:

- The co-management process is working successfully. First Nation participation in site management as well as operations and maintenance has been consistent with First Nation objectives and land claim commitments to employment and training.
- A Preservation Plan was completed in 1992 and for the most part, the main building stabilization recommendations have been followed.
- An Interpretation Plan was prepared in 1994. New site interpretive signage has been installed, a video prepared, visitor guide and archaeology booklets published and two seasonal interpreters hired. Progress has also been made in adapting the Stone House for use as a visitor centre and in the construction of displays for the Stone House and Big Jonathan’s House.
- The campground has been upgraded and two new wells drilled. Improvements have also been made to the work camp and a quieter, “environmentally friendly” power system installed.
- Visitation levels have increased and visitors are satisfied that the level of facility development and restoration has not compromised the heritage values of the site.
- Fire risk reduction measures have been implemented.
- Links to Pelly Crossing and Minto Landing have been established with the creation of the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre, a replica of Big Jonathan’s House at Fort Selkirk and the commercial boat tour operated by Big River Enterprises.

3.0 Setting & Site Resources

The original Fort Selkirk Management Plan noted in fair detail the heritage resources available at Fort Selkirk. Following is a reprise of that section with some additional material that was included during the preparation of the 1994 *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan*.

3.1 The Setting

Selkirk has an abundance of resources, representing a broad spectrum of natural and cultural history. The natural elements of the river confluence and rugged basalt bluffs complement the string of historic structures set on a nearly perfect natural townsite. When we step back from the site and look beyond foreground scenery, the network of trails and volcanic features become apparent.

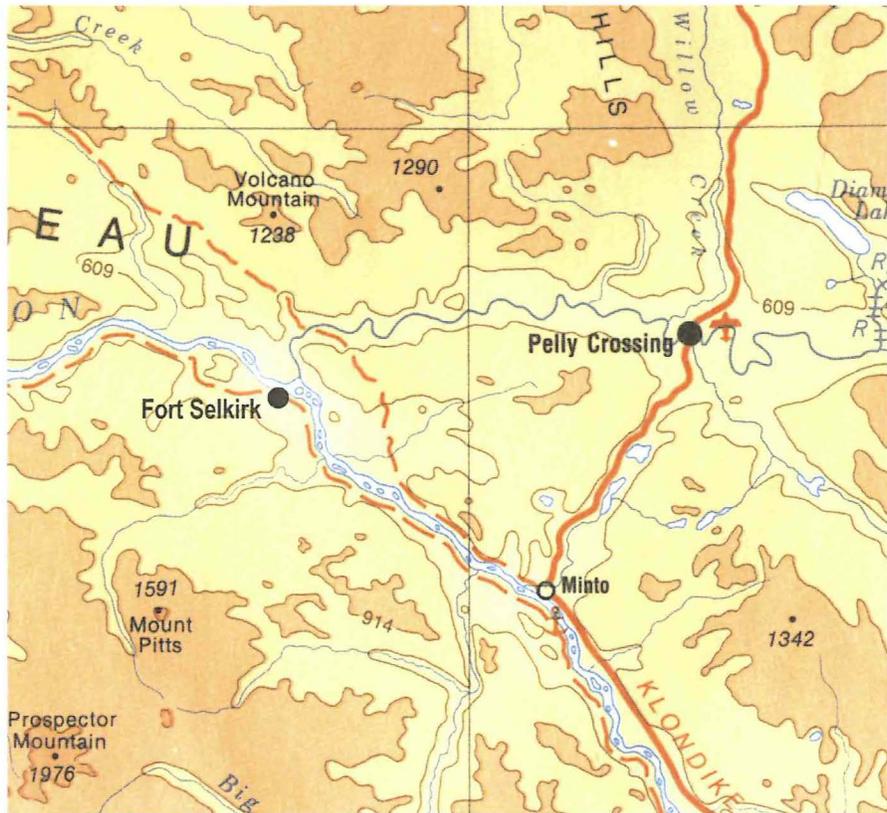


Figure 3 Location map

Hidden in the forests and waters are the resources which sustained the Selkirk people. We can listen to the stories of the Northern Tutchone about how they live on this land, stories that go back hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. There is a great wealth of stories to be told about Fort Selkirk and there are also a significant number of resources to illustrate them.

Recorded oral histories from people who have lived in the area all their lives are an increasingly important source of information about Fort Selkirk.

3.2 Heritage Resources

3.2.1 Oral Traditions

Fort Selkirk has a rich fabric of oral traditions tied to the surrounding landscape, natural resources, cultures, people and events of the region. Selkirk First Nation Elders relate traditional stories about the creation of the world, people, and animals. Events from the more recent past such as volcanic eruptions (500 years B.P.), Tlingit /Tutchone trade practices, and the Tlingit expulsion of the Hudson's Bay Company traders are part of their oral traditions as well. Likewise they heard about the gold rush, missionaries, and other visitors from their grandparents and parents. Having lived in the area all their lives, Elders have a keen sense of changes that have taken place in their environment. They know the Northern Tutchone (and some Tlingit) names for landforms, special places, animals, plants, traditional tools, and technology. Family and personal names, kinship relationships and ties to Indian people throughout the Yukon are key threads in the history of Selkirk people.

Although the most important sources for this knowledge are still the Elders themselves, oral history recording programs conducted by the Selkirk First Nation have created a collection of tapes, transcripts, and reports for some of this information. Some stories have been published in books such as *My Stories are My Wealth* and *Part of the Land, Part of the Water*. The Council for Yukon First Nations (Curriculum Development Branch) and the Yukon Native Language Centre also have tapes pertaining to Selkirk people. The Yukon Heritage Branch has tapes and transcripts of recordings made at the site with Elders (*Fort Selkirk Oral History Project 1984, Fort Selkirk Elders Oral History Project, 1985*).



Elder Tommy McGinty interviewed by Sharon Sims for 1985 Fort Selkirk Oral History Project (Photo: Yukon Government)

Other former residents and people with knowledge of Fort Selkirk have been recorded as well. These sources generally offer information about post-gold rush events, personalities, and activities related to community life, riverboat technology, telegraph line operation, police work, trapping, store operations, etc. In 1978, the Yukon River Aural History Project conducted a series of recordings on Yukon River history. Included are interviews with Henry Breaden, G. I. Cameron, Martha Cameron, George Dawson, and others. Brief summaries as well as the tapes are available at the Yukon Archives (81/32). The Yukon Archives has several other tape series on people and places in the region (e.g. May Menzies Collection).

Archaeological evidence suggests that the region surrounding Fort Selkirk has been continuously occupied for thousands of years.

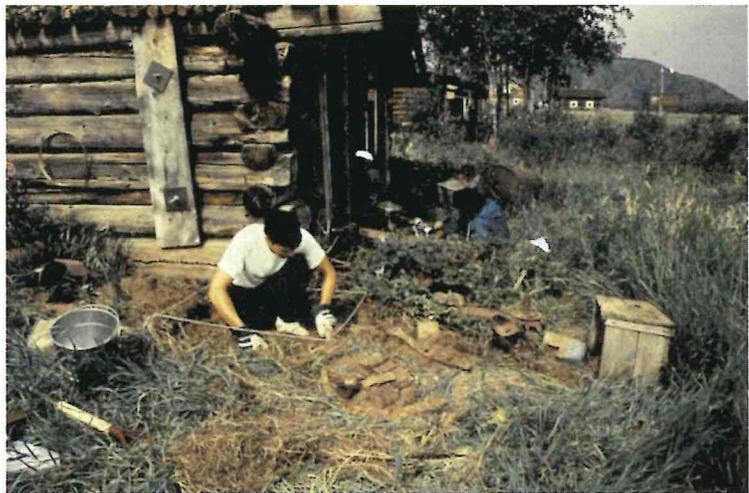
3.2.2 Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites

Fort Selkirk Archaeological Sites

Three sites have received Borden designations at Fort Selkirk. (These are official designation numbers assigned by the Archaeological Survey of Canada.). KeVe-2 is located at the upriver end of the site, extending from the traditional chum (dog) salmon fishing camp there down to the vicinity of Danny Robert's cabin. It has yielded artefacts dating from historic times to about 2000 years ago.

The earlier occupation (circa 2,000 B.P. – before present) appears to have been a small camp. Artefacts from the occupation around 200 - 300 B.P. show that the area may have been a trade rendezvous. The second Hudson's Bay post located in front of Danny Robert's cabin is designated as KeVe-1. Some prehistoric and historic artefacts, as well as extensive structural remains of the post have been found in test pits dug there. KeVe-10 located on the Swinehart Farm road just behind the townsite was a prehistoric campsite where some scattered stone flakes were found. Charcoal from an old campfire at this site has dated the camp occupation to 3,000 years ago.

David Grennan & Bernice Johnny excavating at Alex Coward's machine shop, 1989
(Photo: Yukon Government)



Other Related Sites in the Vicinity

Other sites in the immediate area have a bearing on interpreting the regional archaeological context of Fort Selkirk and in providing visitors with a sense of the setting and meaning to landmarks such as Victoria Rock or the Pelly River confluence.

These include *Nju Yen Tlek* ("It [the river] cuts through here"), (KeVf-1), also known as Three-Way Channel. This was a traditional fishing site probably used in the mid- to late 19th century. Four fish baskets along with other fishing technology were discovered during the archaeological project sponsored by the Selkirk First Nation and the Heritage Branch in 1988 and 1989. Also recovered at the fishing site were three hammerstones and a bow. A campsite associated with the fishing site is located on the upriver end of the island.

Tthi Ts'ach'an or Victoria Rock (KeVe-7) is another traditional fish camp where a canvas canoe frame was found. MacNeish excavated KfVd-2 at Pelly Farm in 1960. This site revealed five occupation levels spanning several thousand years. Another MacNeish site is KeVd-3, three miles upriver from Fort Selkirk where microblades were found. This prehistoric site is of some concern since it is washing out and it represents an interesting example of an early riverside camp, older than 5,000 years. KfVe-3 is a small lookout southwest of Volcano Mountain.

Victoria Rock dominates the winter skyline at Fort Selkirk (Photo: Yukon Government)



Another fish camp (KeVd-7) behind Robert Campbell's first post produced a skin scraper, various bone and stone fragments, plus hearth material dated 1350 +/- 70 B.P. The original post site itself (KeVd-8) also yielded some prehistoric material as well as remains of the post buildings. At Wolverine Creek (KeVd-6) there are three cremation sites and two fenced graves. More than 1,500 stone flakes, in association with charcoal dated at 1470 +/- 80 B.P. were also recovered from here, near a moose lookout that is used to this day.

Palaeontology

Important palaeontological remains have been found at two sites along the basalt cliffs, about 5.5 km northwest, across the Yukon River from Fort Selkirk. In the early 1990s, during geological studies of the area, to date the rocks of the cliff, a caribou bone was discovered *under* the upper basalt, between layers formed by two different lava flows, within fine-grained (loess) deposits. This was dated to the early Pleistocene, about 1.6 million years old, and is considered to be the oldest caribou bone-discovered in the world. This raises the possibility of other such finds in the area.

Geologist Lionel Jackson named the two sites studied "Cave" (YG locality 115/14-0002) and "Fossil" (YG locality 115/14-0001). At the *Fossil* site, geologists found an ancient limb bone of a caribou and remains of a rabbit or hare. These are currently housed at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. During later investigations some vole teeth were collected at "Cave".

During subsequent visits to these sites in 1998, Dr. John Storer, the palaeontologist at Heritage Branch, uncovered some microvertebrate material - mostly remains of voles - and plant fossils. Although it is too soon to say how significant these discoveries are, he plans to spend more time exploring and assessing these sites. This study may yield valuable information as to the climate and vegetation of the region in the Pleistocene Epoch.

3.2.3 Heritage Structures and Sites

The arrangement of buildings at Fort Selkirk is linear, that is, it is a long narrow settlement along the bank of the Yukon River. The structures are almost all oriented to the Yukon River, which runs straight at this point in its course. While the site was surveyed, and some of the buildings were actually built on, or were moved to formal lots, most of the buildings in town are situated to be close to the river without falling prey to its eroding banks. The mixture of municipal orderliness, as depicted by the survey plan, and the rather haphazard arrangement of most buildings despite the survey, says much about the attitudes of the site's builders and occupants. Fort Selkirk's architecture could be said to depict equally the commercial and civic optimism of the newcomers and the organic practicality of those used to living off the land.

The surveyed lots and large permanent structures of the non-natives contrast to the use of buildings by the Tutchone people. Brush shelters and later, tents, were traditional accommodation. Log buildings were adopted when non-native peoples arrived. Tutchone buildings were generally smaller to suit their seasonal and part time occupancy. On the death of an owner, they were often burnt, while abandoned structures were frequently dismantled for firewood. At this stage, the relatively limited number of these buildings enhances their importance from both the architectural and interpretive points of view.

Anglican Church,
Fort Selkirk
(Photo: I. Robertson)



The buildings of Fort Selkirk show an interesting spectrum of design and construction methods. They range in functional type from simple, single person dwellings through a typical rural store to a complex of structures representing the role of the Anglican mission in the community. While modest in scale and finish, the structures also vary considerably in crafting. This too reflects the attitude of the builders.

*Traditional
Northern
Tutchone
architecture was
portable - and
recyclable.*

The Northern Tutchone people had developed a portable and disposable architecture over countless generations of living the seasonal round. Their buildings, for the most part, were simple, easy to heat, and were often burned or recycled after the owner's death. This contrasts with the Anglican mission house, for example, with its two stories and dovetail notches. This house, with an arrangement of rooms reminiscent of southern living, was built to last which represents stability and faith in the future.

There are also two formal cemeteries located on the site. At the east end of the townsite is the Yukon Field Force cemetery where three soldiers and non-native residents of the town were buried. It is worth noting that a number of Fort Selkirk's citizens are also buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in Whitehorse. At the west or downstream end of the site, behind the Catholic Church, is the First Nations graveyard, replete with grave fences and spirit houses. In addition to these two formal sites, there are graves scattered throughout the area, including the present campground. Some of these date from the time when the Catholic Church was closer to the river but some predate the buildings of the town.

One other feature of note is the Swinehart Farm. There is little remaining but foundations of this place that once provided some vegetables and hay for the townsite.

The buildings and features of the townsite make a statement about Fort Selkirk's multifaceted role as a service and trade center. They should be considered as interpretive resources both individually and as a built landscape. The community itself is also significant as one of the few pre Klondike Gold Rush settlements in the Yukon. Two buildings, the school and the Mission House, represent this period.

3.2.4 Artefacts

Prehistoric artefacts recovered at Fort Selkirk range in age from about 2000 years to the time of contact about 150 years ago. They consist mainly of numerous types of stone flakes and microblades. One copper point and one biface scraper were found, but these items were not located within a context that allowed them to be helpful in dating the site. Other items collected were ceramic shards, glass beads, and a piece of a clay pipe. These specimens are useful mainly for research purposes, although casts and/or originals of some items might be used in interpretive displays both on and off site. Most of these artefacts are located at the Heritage Branch, Department of Tourism pending deposition with the Archaeological Survey of Canada, Canadian Museum of Civilization, at the completion of analysis.

Ethnographic objects like the hammer stones, fish baskets, and bows recently collected in the region are useful for interpreting traditional lifestyles of Northern Tutchone people.

*A small collection
of artefacts
previously held
by Heritage
Branch has been
returned to the
Fort Selkirk site.*

Although located off-site at present (in Selkirk First Nation office at Pelly Crossing and Yukon Archaeologist's office in Whitehorse), these items might be used for replication projects (replication means to make a copy of something), or in some circumstances, for display at Fort Selkirk. Some Selkirk First Nation members may have similar objects, or things like old style skin clothing, which they might be prepared to have photographed for display purposes. In some cases these items might also be suitable for replication to produce display items.

Historic artefacts are widely scattered throughout the site, in and outside of buildings. At least two preliminary inventories of these items have been done (Porter 1981; Fort Selkirk Town Site: Preliminary Artefact Inventory 1989). Both lists include a wide variety of small wooden, glass and metal objects such as boxes, bottles, tin cans, nails and bolts. Some medium-size objects of more significance include traps, saw blades, barrel stoves, and furnishings. There are a few larger items like a buzz saw, car, and a wooden sleigh. Some artefacts have been collected in the Stone Shed for storage.

There was also a small collection of artefacts in the Heritage Branch Marwell Storage Centre but these items have been returned to the site. While few of these artefacts are unique or highly significant, most have a useful role to play in giving "life" to the site for interpretive purposes. They were/are the stuff of everyday existence and visitors can gain an appreciation for what was available and what was adapted to various purposes by residents.



**Carved gambling pin used in stick-gambling games, Fort Selkirk
(Photo: Yukon Government)**

When Fort Selkirk residents moved to Minto and Pelly Crossing in the late 1940s and 1950s, many of them left furnishings and other belongings in their homes and caches. Apparently other people removed some of these things over the years, but it is not known whether any of this material still remains in the territory. It is possible that museums or private individuals in the Yukon also hold other Fort Selkirk items. Efforts should be made to identify, locate

and if possible to collect these materials for interpretive purposes. The Umbrella Final Agreement states that where practicable, Government should assist First Nations repatriate "Moveable and Documentary Heritage Resources relating to the culture and history of Yukon Indian People."

Documentary Sources

The Yukon Archives has extensive documentation on Fort Selkirk. The Heritage Branch produced a *Fort Selkirk Bibliography* (Dobrowolsky, 1988), which lists Yukon Archives references for published sources, corporate records (Anglican Church records), films, government records, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and tape recordings.

The Heritage Branch holds the Yukon Waterways Sites Survey, a collection of maps, photos and drawings produced in 1973 by Parks Canada. The branch has also produced useful and attractive booklets on the history, buildings, and archaeology of Fort Selkirk. In 1997, the Selkirk Development Corporation, Heritage Branch and Department of Education co-sponsored the video: *Fort Selkirk: Voices of the Past*.

Fort Selkirk material is located at several other repositories too, notably the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg, the National Archives of Canada at Ottawa, and at the Selkirk First Nation office. The Hudson's Bay Company Library has published accounts of the fur trade and the HBC Archives holds original post records and correspondence series for Fort Selkirk. One post journal is located at the National Archives of Canada, as well as photos and field journals for the Yukon Expedition of 1887. Llewellyn Johnson has produced transcripts of Campbell's post journals and correspondence for Heritage Branch and the Northern Research Institute.

*A map drawn
by Chilkat
Chief Kohklux
in 1869 shows
Tlingit travel
routes to Fort
Selkirk.*

The Archaeological Survey of Canada and Yukon Heritage Branch hold copies of manuscript reports and photos related to archaeological investigations in the region. Anthropologist Dominique Legros worked with Pelly Crossing elders in the 1970s and 1980s. The products of his studies include his Ph.D. thesis, *Structure Socio-Culturelle et Rapports de Somination chez les Tutchone Seprionaux du Yukon au XIXe Siecle* (University of British Columbia, 1981) and a book of Selkirk First Nation stories provided by the late Tommy McGinty, in cooperation with the Selkirk Indian Band, *Tommy McGinty's Northern Tutchone Story of Crow* (Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1999). In 1988, Ruth Gotthardt and members of the Selkirk First Nation co-authored *Selkirk Indian Band: Culture and Land Use Study*. The original Kohklux map (drawn by Chilkat Chief Kohklux 1869), which shows Tlingit travel routes to Fort Selkirk, and meeting places with Yukon Indians, is at the Bancroft Library in California. A copy is located at the Yukon Native Language Centre (YNLC). The Yukon Historical and Museums Association have produced a booklet on the Kohklux map. The map is featured in the CYFN Curriculum Branch *Athapaskan/Tlingit Transition Grade 3 Cultural Enrichment Kit*, while Fort Selkirk is the focus of a booklet produced by the Department of Education called *Explorations*. YNLC also holds typescripts of Reverend T. H. Canham's diaries, which include daily entries for the time he spent at Fort Selkirk (1899-1908). The Selkirk First Nation holds photographs of Elders, individuals and families, band administrative records, and copies of tapes, research reports, and other data on projects at Fort Selkirk.

Landscape Features

Many features in the Fort Selkirk area have special meaning to the people who have lived there. Important landscape features in the planning area include Victoria Rock, the Pelly River confluence, and the lava bluffs opposite the townsite. Volcano Mountain lies outside the planning area, but is a prominent geographic feature associated with many native stories. Wolverine Creek just upstream from Fort Selkirk has been used as a water source but has been found contaminated in recent years.

Landscape Features Summary:

- Victoria Rock — native name, Tthi Ts'ach'an; spiritual place, landmark, campsite, fishing place;
- Lava Bluffs — native name, Melu; dominates view from Selkirk, geologic interest, stories about cannon practice by Yukon Field Force;
- River Sloughs — fishing, navigation, wildlife;
- Trails — connections to White River, Aishihik, Kluane Lake, Selwyn, Dawson, as well as local trails to Victoria Rock and other places;
- Cinder cone — just upstream of Fort Selkirk on opposite shore; native name, Ne Ch'e Ddhawa.

3.3 Natural Resources

3.3.1 Climate

Fort Selkirk has a continental climate with pleasant but short summers and cold winters. It is wetter and colder than Whitehorse. Annual temperatures average -5 C, with July at +15 C and January averaging -30 C. The May to September average is +11 C. Annual precipitation is 276 mm with a little less than half of this falling from June to August. The early autumn and late spring can be very agreeable times to visit Fort Selkirk, for brilliant fall colours or mild weather winter activities.

Favourable climate and soils make agriculture possible in small pockets along central Yukon River valleys such as the Stewart, Pelly and Klondike. A combination of silty or organic soils on river terraces and flood plains and a greater number of frost-free days make these sites some of the more suitable agricultural land in the Yukon. Pelly Farm, just upstream on the Pelly River has produced local grain crops for livestock since the turn of the century, and currently produces beef and market vegetables.

3.3.2 Geology

Fort Selkirk is on the Lewes Plateau, just north of the Dawson Range. The Lewes Plateau is part of the Yukon Plateau, a broad interior plateau that extends through the central Yukon. Although the local geology is complex, a few interesting features stand out. The ridges to the south of Fort Selkirk are made of granite, but it is the massive basaltic lava flows across the Yukon River that dominates the setting.

Traditional First Nations names for local features:

Tthi Ts'ach'an
(Victoria Rock)

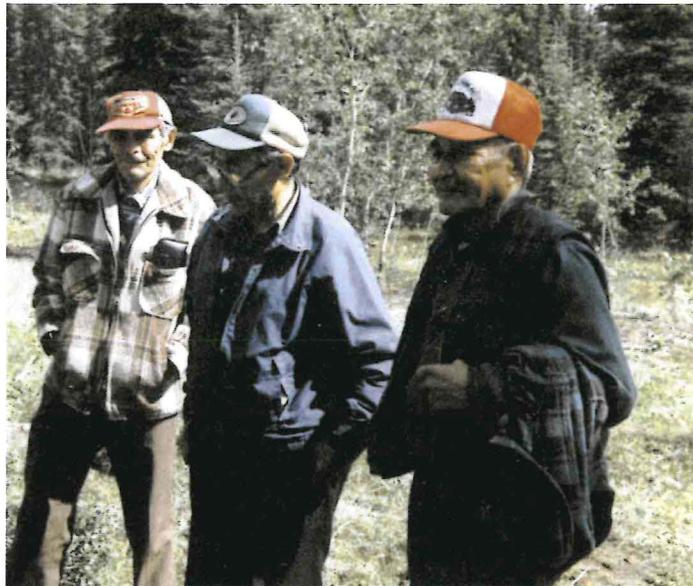
Melu
(lava bluffs)

Ne Ch'e Ddhawa
(cinder cone)

Scientific investigations of the volcanic history of the area were stimulated by oral accounts of Selkirk First Nation Elders.

These flows originated from Volcano Mountain, a cinder cone 17km north of Fort Selkirk. The flows dammed the rivers forcing the Yukon River to cut across a spur of its former valley below Selkirk. According to geologists from the late 19th century on to Hugh Bostock in 1936, the volcano ceased to erupt perhaps only a few hundreds of years ago. These observations were based on the sparse vegetation cover on Volcano Mountain and some of the large lava flows.

Recent work by Lionel Jackson of the Geological Survey of Canada sheds more light on the age of the local geology. His evidence suggests that the volcano is much older than previously thought, and probably erupted during the early Pleistocene or late Pliocene period, partly under glacial ice. Jackson's scientific investigations on the volcanic history of the area were stimulated by oral accounts by Selkirk First Nation Elders including Tommy McGinty and Harry Baum.



(l-r) Elders
Charlie
Johnson,
Edward Simon
& Harry Baum
(Photo: Yukon
Government)

Bostock and Jackson's geological maps show the extent of lava flows in the area. Victoria Rock, just 3km downstream of Fort Selkirk also consists of basalt and other metamorphosed (changed by heat and pressure) rocks. Victoria Rock is also known by Selkirk people as an important cultural heritage site, and as the site of an historic fish camp.

The townsite of Fort Selkirk lies on a terrace made of glacial drift (deposits from the last ice age) and alluvium (sands, silts and gravels deposited by the river).

Volcanic ash from the White River eruptions was also deposited in the region, although archaeologists have not noted its presence at the Fort Selkirk site. The surface geology has changed with events like the lava flows, movements of the river channel, and possibly ash accumulations. Fort Selkirk lies in the scattered permafrost zone.

3.3.3 River Environment

As the Yukon River waters rise and fall and currents reshape the islands and banks, the river environment changes every season. The Yukon River water flow fluctuates from highs in June-July to low levels in September-October. The townsite elevation is above the high water flooding mark. Flooding is not known to have occurred at Fort Selkirk in recent times. River navigation records provide more detailed descriptions of historic water levels.

The main flooding risk is from ice dams during spring break-up. Break-up normally occurs mid to late May depending on weather conditions. The effects of these events and current climate changes such as thawing of permafrost along riverbanks are difficult to predict, but could damage structures such as boat landings or buildings too close to the riverbank. Victoria Rock, just downstream of Fort Selkirk, is a known bottleneck where ice jams frequently occur. Archaeologists found that an historic fish camp at Victoria Rock was eroded away by river currents.

The riverside channels and sloughs provide habitat for spawning salmon, which in turn attract grizzly bears. Many other animal species, such as moose and black bear depend on the riverside vegetation for food. Known as the riparian zone, the river floodplain with its silty soils and good growing conditions supports the largest trees and most diverse vegetation in the area.

3.3.4 Vegetation

Fort Selkirk lies in the Yukon Plateau (Central) Ecoregion. This central Yukon zone of rolling hills and plateaus is dominated by white and black spruce forests. Lodgepole pine colonizes areas after forest fires, with aspen and balsam poplar on disturbed or well-drained sites. Willows, shrub birch, cinquefoil, soapberry and alder are typical shrub species, with feather moss dominating the understory in forested areas. Wildflowers, like the spring crocus, are abundant in the townsite.

Native people traditionally used many plant species for food or medicinal purposes. Currants, cranberries, mossberries, raspberries, strawberries and blueberries are still picked throughout the Yukon. In earlier times during the spring, “everybody liked to scrape off the inner bark of spruce and pine to get the sweet, juicy shavings of sap. They also like to chew the pink resinous gum from spruce and fir trees” (McClellan, 1987). See the Council for Yukon Indians publication, *Land of My Ancestors - Plants as Food and Medicine*, 1993, for more information.

The Fort Selkirk site was cleared for fuel wood during the early part of the century. Stumps from the steamer era can still be seen amongst the trees of the new forest.

The Fort Selkirk site is host to a number of plant species traditionally used by First Nations peoples – especially berry bushes.

Dan Van Bibber says that when the cleared area behind Fort Selkirk was meadow, strawberry picking was popular. Forest succession has now replaced most of these strawberry patches.

3.3.5 Fish & Wildlife

Mammals

People have hunted and trapped animals in the Fort Selkirk vicinity for generations. Elders report that sheep, caribou, moose and fish are the most important food species. Excavations at the basalt cliffs across from the townsite have revealed caribou bones about 1.6 million years old, from before the volcanic eruptions. These bones are the oldest known in the world. Elders speak of the caribou migrating across the lava terrace north of Fort Selkirk. Bostock (1936-p.45) wrote that in "some years they [caribou] appear in large numbers along the Lewes River from Selkirk to Carmacks... [they] return in great herds of many thousands in July." These migrations of the Forty Mile herd no longer occur, but are an important part of the Fort Selkirk heritage.

*River travellers
may encounter
moose, black
bear, coyote, red
fox, arctic ground
squirrel, varying
hare & muskrat.*

Many of the Yukon's wildlife species may be found here today. Common species likely to be seen by river travellers include moose, black bear, coyote, red fox, arctic ground squirrel, varying hare, and muskrat. Other less commonly seen species include grizzly bear, sheep, wolf, wolverine, lynx, martin, mink, and weasel.

Woodland caribou seen in the area are very similar to barren ground caribou, but are heavier. Caribou are sociable, usually observed in bands of 10-50 animals. These small herds migrate between dry open ridges and forested valley bottoms. Lichen, often growing on trees, is the mainstay of the Caribou's diet. In summer, they also eat a variety of leaves, twigs, sedges and grasses. Caribou are excellent swimmers.

Moose rut in late September, then calve in early June, often using river islands for the calving. Moose are browsers who like sparsely treed areas. They range through higher altitudes in winter, then move down in summer.

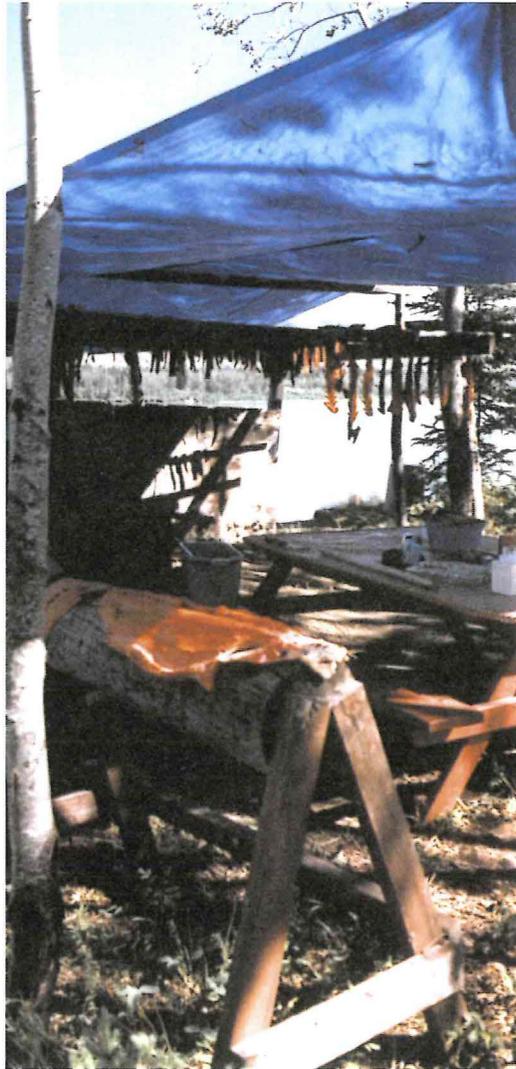
Black bear prefer lower elevations and feed in forest openings, aspen growths and river flood plains. Black bears are good swimmers and fast runners. They breed in late June, then den up from October to until April. Their cubs are born in the dens in February.

Birds

Birds of prey, waterfowl, songbirds, and game birds such as sharp-tailed grouse are frequently viewed along the river valley. The Pelly River confluence area is often used as a staging ground by migratory birds such as Sandhill Cranes. These long-legged, long-necked birds roost on river bars and islands during the spring and fall migrations. Fort Selkirk is located on a major North American migratory bird flyway over the Tintina Trench. Hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and cranes follow the Tintina Trench route into Alaska.

Sandhill Cranes migrate in large flocks, in V or line formation. The Pelly Farm site attracts sharp-tailed grouse, swans and geese during migration.

Peregrine falcons nest in many of the cliffs along the river from Minto to Alaska. This part of the Yukon River has one of the largest peregrine falcon populations in North America. Bank and cliff swallows also inhabit the cliffs along the Yukon River. Ravens nest in the basalt cliffs opposite Fort Selkirk.



Fish

Salmon have been fished from the Yukon and Pelly Rivers for centuries. Thousands of Chinook and Chum salmon typically spawn in areas of upwelling groundwater in the side channels or sloughs of the Yukon River from Fort Selkirk upstream to Minto. Salmon also spawn in back eddies downstream of Fort Selkirk. Chinook spawn in late July and September, while Chum spawn from September to November. Spawning fish during these periods attract Grizzly Bears to this stretch of river.

The Pelly River also produces Chinook salmon and a large species of whitefish known as the Tezra whitefish. These fish are an important part of the local food fishery. Other species in the Yukon and Pelly Rivers include grayling, pike, lake trout and inconnu.

Visitors are interested in the fish camp, which provides an additional opportunity for interpretation.

(Photo: I. Robertson)

4.0 Site Use & Tourism Development

4.1 Visitor Use History & Trends

Fort Selkirk visits are steadily increasing. In 1991, 650 visitors signed the guest book. By 1998 that number had reached 1600 with 650 visitors arriving during the peak month of July (**Figure 4**). A 1997 survey of the three most travelled Yukon rivers confirms the majority of river travellers chose the Yukon River and that 35% floated by Fort Selkirk's door on their way to Dawson City. Virtually all river travellers passing Fort Selkirk stop for a visit with the majority choosing to camp overnight. Over half of these visitors come from German speaking countries.

This trend is expected to continue as the survey found 71% of river travellers use existing campsites whenever they can. The campground is showing the signs of this heavy use.

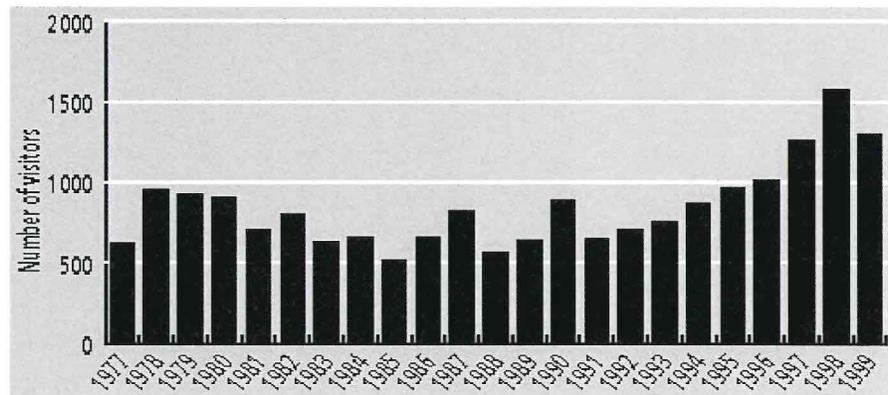


Figure 4 Visitation Levels Fort Selkirk 1977-1999

One tourism operator provides day trips by boat from Minto but nothing is currently available from Pelly Crossing. No road access exists, though it is currently possible to drive as far as the Pelly Farm approximately 8 km. upstream of Fort Selkirk on the Pelly River. With mining exploration west of Minto, exploration roads are gradually creeping closer to the townsite.

The 1990 Management Plan recommended that:

“ Tourism growth should be gradual and in keeping with the Fort Selkirk setting. A balance must be found between visitor services and the need to protect the peaceful and spiritual aura that is the heart of the Fort Selkirk experience. In the short term, visitors will be self-sufficient, but the future sale of food, crafts or guiding services would be in keeping with the trading history of the site”.

“A balance must be found between visitor services and the need to protect the peaceful and spiritual aura that is the heart of the Fort Selkirk experience.”

- 1990 Management Plan

Fort Selkirk has the potential to attract two distinct types of “pass through” travellers and one type of destination visitor. The pass through market is made up of parties on a multi-day trip down the Yukon River and day-use visitors making a side trip to visit Fort Selkirk from Pelly Crossing or Minto. The third potential market includes Selkirk First Nation members using the site for cultural renewal and others potentially coming to Fort Selkirk for a training or educational opportunity. All visitor segments have a strong interest in First Nations heritage and culture.

The dilemma is finding the balance between a level of visitor use consistent with a living cultural site and the “abandoned townsite” character that makes a visit here unique. Fort Selkirk is partially caught in time – the objective being to present the community as it was circa the mid 1950s after the residents had left. Many of the issues relevant to finding the right balance are discussed in the section on “limits of acceptable change”.

The following tourism trends will have a bearing on future visitor levels to Fort Selkirk:

- Yukon River travel will continue to increase particularly between Carmacks and Dawson City with Europeans continuing to be the dominant users;
- Fort Selkirk will not be the primary destination; travellers will be headed to or from Dawson City;
- For river travellers, Fort Selkirk will continue to be a preferred overnight camping spot on the way to Dawson City;
- Highway travellers are most interested in a half-day excursions from Minto and Pelly Crossing and this market potential is virtually untapped;
- There is day-trip interest in specialty tours such as flight-seeing visits or visitors coming to participate in special events (i.e. Parks Day) especially when there is a First Nations focus (i.e. Northern Tutchone Stick Gambling Games);
- Winter use including mushing, skiing and skijoring is increasing;
- Fort Selkirk could attract shoulder and winter-season use related to education and training (i.e. Elderhostel tours, youth cultural pursuit camps, heritage preservation training) with the right programming and marketing;
- Fort Selkirk has not been actively marketed to be consistent with the 1990 Plan objective to let tourism evolve slowly. Any change in this approach will increase visitation levels, as the site becomes better known.

All visitor segments have a strong interest in First Nations heritage and culture.

By implication, as visitor numbers increase, annual maintenance costs rise. However, government operational budgets have not changed over the past five years.

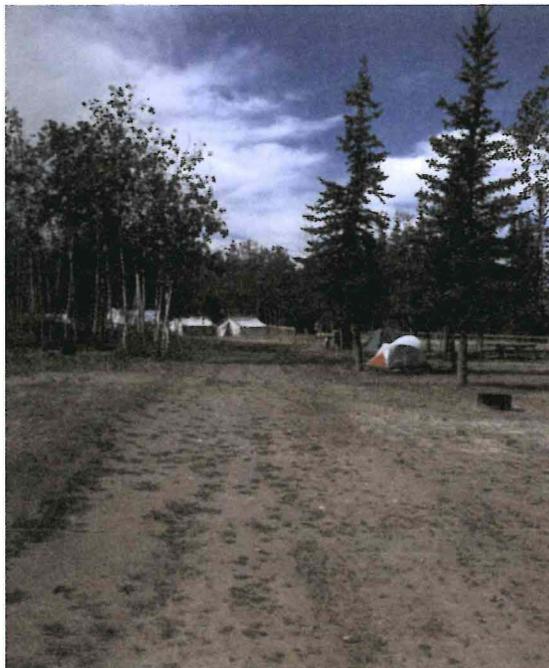
For example, the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch annual campground maintenance costs now exceed \$10,000 while Heritage Branch spends approximately \$200,000 supporting interpretation, maintenance and restoration projects. Of the \$200,000 total, \$115,000 is provided directly to the Selkirk First Nation to hire work crews, interpretive staff and operate the work camp.

The net result is that the amount of discretionary dollars available for infrastructure reinvestment, new project initiatives or unanticipated costs is shrinking.

At present there are no mechanisms in place for cost recovery to offset capital or operational costs. The fee for service issue was put forward for discussion in surveys of river and highway travellers and at community meetings in Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse. The public reaction is discussed in the following section on community consultation.

A campground retrofit will be necessary to accommodate a higher level of use, and to avoid spill over into non-designated camping areas - some possible solutions are discussed in Section 9.2. As indicated by the river traveller questionnaires, group sizes vary.

Since travelling companions are generally inclined to camp together, tent sites need to be spatially organized to accommodate a variety of group sizes. Also, campers are generally on multi-day trips and prefer to haul gear the least distance possible. This means camping is continually concentrated in the same area leaving little time for the ground to recover. The existing facilities meet a basic-needs level of service. A water well, outhouses, fire pits, fuel wood, garbage containers and kitchen shelter are provided.



The campground is showing signs of wear such as compacted soil from increasing levels of use
(Photo: I. Robertson)

Almost half of highway travellers who responded to the questionnaire had not heard of Fort Selkirk before visiting the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre.

4.2 Community Consultation

Questionnaires, interviews and open houses were utilized to invite community and visitor feedback. Questionnaires were available at the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre (Highway Traveller Questionnaire), and at Fort Selkirk (River Traveller Questionnaire). Bonnie Roberts conducted interviews with community members and Elders in Pelly Crossing. Two Open Houses were arranged: one in Pelly Crossing on December 7th, 1999, and the other in Whitehorse on December 9th, 1999.

4.2.1 Summary of Questionnaires

There were 23 highway traveller questionnaires and 80 river traveller questionnaires completed, within a two-week period. The highway traveller questionnaires were only available during the Heritage Centre's hours of operation.

On the other hand, river traveller questionnaires were available at all times at the Fort Selkirk site. The amount of completed questionnaires within the short time period indicates that people were eager to contribute to the Fort Selkirk Management Plan by offering information about their general interests and motives for visiting the area.

Highway Traveller Questionnaires

The majority of respondents were travelling independently in their own vehicles. Many of the respondents had stayed at Minto Resort the night before, and were stopping in Pelly Crossing to visit the Heritage Centre. Other reasons stated for stopping in Pelly Crossing included: needing a rest from driving, and an interest in First Nations culture.

When asked if they plan stopping points in advance, approximately half indicated that they did. The other indicated that they made travel decisions on a spontaneous basis. Almost half of respondents had not heard of Fort Selkirk before visiting the Heritage Centre. Activities that interested travellers were: wildlife viewing; visiting new places; scenery; local history and culture.

A high degree of interest (81%) was expressed in a guided boat tour to Fort Selkirk. There was a marked preference for this to be a half-day excursion. The majority of respondents were interested in having a First Nations traditional meal, with craft-making and game demonstrations included in the trip. They were generally willing to pay between \$50 and \$75 for such an excursion.



Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre, Pelly Crossing (Photo: I. Robertson)

*Highway
travellers need
advanced
warning of the
visitor
opportunities
ahead.*

The implications of the highway traveller questionnaire results are presented below:

- Travellers need advance warning of the opportunities ahead because their primary destination on this leg of their trip is either Dawson City or Whitehorse. As independent travellers, they have more flexibility to spontaneously adjust schedules if offered tourism opportunities that stimulate their interest.
- Any marketing initiatives directed towards highway travellers have two phases, pre-trip planning and the extent to which the in-transit traveller can be persuaded to adjust their routing and schedule. Without awareness of the opportunity, no behavioural change can be expected to occur. The majority of travellers were unaware of Fort Selkirk until reaching Pelly Crossing.
- Highway travellers rely on a range of information sources for pre-trip and in-transit planning including Motor Association trip guides, Milepost Magazine, the Yukon Vacation Guide, Visitor Reception Centre staff and word-of-mouth experience. Road signage and cooperative marketing initiatives are all required to attract, stop and convince visitors to take the side trip to Fort Selkirk.
- The activities that travellers indicated an interest in could all be offered at the Fort Selkirk site and demonstrate the demand for those activities to be developed further.
- Minto Resort, the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre, the Store, and Snack Bar are all prime locations for the display and distribution of promotional/information materials and marketing partnerships.
- An emphasis in the Fort Selkirk Management Plan on creating more opportunities for presenting First Nations perspectives is appropriate, as a large portion of respondents indicated a strong interest in learning about local First Nations culture and history.

River Traveller Questionnaires

The responses to this questionnaire indicated group sizes varied. Forty percent of the parties consisted of 1 to 2 people, followed by groups of between 3 to 6 people (33%) and large groups, of 7-11 (29%). The majority of people travelled in canoes on independently planned trips. Most respondents stayed overnight, although a significant number were on the site for only a few hours. Almost a third of the river travellers did not know of Fort Selkirk before encountering it. Those that did know of it, had heard from friends, or read about it in a Yukon River guidebook.

*Many river
travellers stay
overnight and see
value in
campsites sized
specifically for
large or small
groups.*

In terms of touring the Fort Selkirk site, more of these people preferred to explore it on their own. However, there was substantial interest in tours of the townsite, preferably by a First Nation person. More than half of the respondents did not use the Fort Selkirk booklet or walking tour, yet those that did, found it very useful to their understanding of the place.

Overall, interpretive materials at Fort Selkirk were considered to be useful. A significant number of respondents wanted signage in other languages (German, French). This may be appropriate since half of the river traveller respondents were from Germany or Austria. These travellers responded favourably to the idea of other interpretive activities such as campfire talks, and craft demonstrations. Additional suggestions for interpretive activities were: photographs, geological information, and storytelling. All times of day were considered equally suitable for interpretive activities.

Respondents who requested more information were generally interested in First Nations way of life, traditional subsistence methods, and trade. Opinions on restoration efforts indicated that many respondents felt that it should be restored as much as possible, yet a large number of people did not want to see the site overdeveloped. Many also felt that the site is adequate in its present state, and that any restoration efforts should be aimed at maintenance.

Approximately 83% of respondents were willing to explore the area. However, half of this group was not interested in guided hikes. The campground rating was predominately "good", although there was significant interest demonstrated in having a shower facility and an interpretive centre, as well as some interest in a store and dock. A large portion of these respondents were willing to pay for camping (the existing campground is the only remaining free government campground) and shower facilities, and many were also willing to pay for guided tours and an interpretive booklet if priced reasonably.

The implications of the river traveller questionnaire results are:

- Campsites should be apportioned to accommodate small and large groups.
- Further off-site promotion of the site is appropriate, particularly at Visitor Centres, and in Yukon promotional materials since significant numbers of visitors were unaware of the site's historical importance.
- Development of interpretive materials and activities should continue.
- Since a significant proportion of travellers are from German-speaking countries, there may be merit in translating interpretive materials with the costs recovered through sales.

Elders wish to involve young people in interpretive activities to ensure that the knowledge of the site and history is not lost.

- Restoration plans should proceed, but should not compromise the rustic and authentic atmosphere of the site.
- There is interest in opportunities for visitors to explore the surrounding area, including guided hiking tours and other modes (i.e. horseback riding).
- The development of additional facilities and services is appropriate if planned in a manner that will not negatively impact the aesthetic and historic qualities of the site.

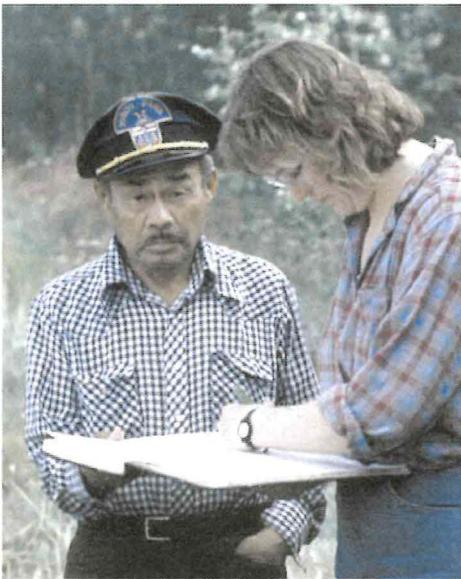
Survey Comments and Suggestions

The following list of suggestions is compiled from the written portions of both questionnaires:

- More information on First Nations history and culture;
- Include demonstrations of craft-making, games, and harvesting methods in interpretive plans;
- Create and sell Fort Selkirk video in waterproof packages;
- Install interpretive panels inside historic buildings;
- Operate an active trading post;
- Install a donation box;
- Involve youth in restoration efforts;
- Keep site rustic and avoid over-development.

4.2.2 Interviews with Selkirk First Nation Elders and Residents

A local researcher and Selkirk First Nation member Bonnie Roberts conducted interviews with Elders. A number of community Elders participated in the preparation of the 1990 plan and were instrumental in establishing the original vision of Fort Selkirk as a living cultural site. The following suggestions were made:



Caretaker Danny Roberts
(Photo: Yukon Government)

- Build cabins or recreate one of the original small hotels to accommodate older visitors;
- Fix up Taylor & Drury store to operate seasonally as a basic grocery and crafts store;
- Construct a fire pit area with benches for communal gatherings;
- Offer special activities to visitors (i.e. storytelling by Elders, and stick-gambling games);
- Investigate the possibility of clearing the old, traditional trading trails;
- Offer a boat transportation service to Fort Selkirk from Pelly Crossing;
- Involve young people in interpretive activities to ensure that knowledge of site and history is not lost;
- Hold more community gatherings there on a regular basis;
- Improve dock facilities to make access easier for Elders.

4.2.3 Public Open Houses

Two open houses were held, one in Pelly Crossing and another in Whitehorse. In general, most respondents are satisfied with the progress that has been made in implementing the 1990 plan and support present site management practices. Five topics attracted the most interest and discussion. The response to each topic is discussed below:

Fees

The idea of introducing a fee for services to help offset operating costs was put forward for public response. The reaction was mixed. River travellers who responded to the questionnaire indicated a general willingness to pay for services such as camping while highway travellers expect any visitation fees to be included in the cost of a guided tour.

Pelly Crossing residents were generally opposed to fees being charged to Selkirk First Nation beneficiaries as the site is jointly owned and managed by them. By extension, they argue imposing a fee would be a disincentive discouraging resident use and this would be contrary to the goal of encouraging cultural renewal. Other respondents felt more discussion was needed to determine who would be subject to such fees and what visitor services would be included in the price. Another concern raised was the amount of lead-time required to amend legislation and ensure tourist operators and the public at large are aware of the changes. A lead time of two years was suggested. The complex nature of user fees implies that any user-pay system must be fleshed out in great detail. There was support for charging a fee to commercial operators and for some of the interpretive brochures that have been produced to offset their publication cost. It was also noted that this is the only Yukon government campground for which a fee is not charged at the present time.

The issue of fee for service needs careful consideration. Installing a donation box is a potential interim measure to help offset increasing costs.

There is a growing awareness that the level of services provided at Fort Selkirk cannot be supported indefinitely. Budgets are not growing while visitor numbers are increasing. It was suggested that an interim measure would be to implement a donation box and provide literature on operating costs to encourage donations. It was also suggested that more user surveys be conducted to obtain more information that can be used to design an appropriate system that will obtain Selkirk people's and broad-based public support.

Commercialization/Economic Opportunities

Fort Selkirk is simultaneously a heritage site, a tourist destination, a community-gathering place, and a stopping-place for river travellers. The majority of respondents supported the provision of basic services, particularly as opportunities for community economic development. There was a pervasive concern about over-development and over-commercialization, as most people favoured the rustic atmosphere of the site. River travellers expressed interest in additional services such as basic amenities like a seasonal store and showers.

River travellers are particularly interested in taking part in interpretive activities and cultural events. Pelly Crossing residents also see value in encouraging more economic opportunities at the site but not at any cost. Like their tourist counterparts they do not want to see heritage values compromised.

Developing additional services requires that the visitor profile be analysed and interpreted. Many visitors are there for a peaceful wilderness experience while others are there to gather with family and friends on special occasions. This implies that any services should really only enhance these types of experiences. Thus two categories of needs can be identified: “visitor experience/interpretation” and comfort. There is a willingness to pay for both types of services and a common belief that such opportunities should be developed slowly and carefully so the visitor experience that makes the heritage values present at Fort Selkirk, such as peace and quiet, are not compromised.

Restoration Levels

The preservation of heritage structures and sites continues to be a high priority. There is support for an increase in preservation activities, starting with building stabilization and artefact collection. People familiar with the site over a number of years expressed concern about the gradual loss of artefacts. There are mixed feelings about appropriate levels of restoration. Some argued present levels of restoration were enough, while others supported specific initiatives (i.e. reconstruction of Chief Peter McGinty’s home). Others suggested that structures should be restored as much as possible (i.e. refurbished to allow modern use) or rebuilt completely (i.e. Big Jonathan’s house). Site and building authenticity were also raised as concerns.



In general the message seems to be: restore what you can and re-use buildings where possible, but don't go overboard and destroy the experience that makes Fort Selkirk unique.

The majority of visitors & residents agree - too much restoration would ruin the rustic charm of Fort Selkirk
(Photo: I. Robertson)

Many visitors to Fort Selkirk are European river travellers. It makes sense to provide interpretive & educational materials in other languages.

Road Access

Fort Selkirk is unique because the site is accessed via the Yukon and Pelly rivers. The boat trip is thus part of the "Selkirk experience". Many Pelly Crossing residents feel Fort Selkirk will be vulnerable to abuse and vandalism if accessible by road. Road access, others argue, is inevitable as mining exploration is already bringing roads closer to the site from the south and west sides of the Yukon River. On balance, more favour maintaining the status quo than encouraging road development. They suggest a buffer zone should be established around Fort Selkirk to prevent road development and that more emphasis be placed on encouraging guided boat tours from Pelly Crossing and Minto. There needs to be a role for the Management Committee in the land use approval process.

Interpretation

There is widespread support for the development of more on-site and off-site interpretive and educational opportunities based on Fort Selkirk. Selkirk First Nation Elders are particularly concerned that young people are losing their connection to this special place. Part of what makes Fort Selkirk special for residents of Pelly Crossing and visitors alike, is the presence of interpretive staff who grew up there and have a unique connection to the site. This suggests that there is a special need to begin planning for the day when that direct connection is lost as Elders pass on. There is a consensus that assistant interpretive staff now need to be trained to ensure continuity of knowledge and prepare for increased visitation levels.

One of the most noticeable visitor trends is the proportion of European river travellers especially from German speaking countries. There seems to be a general acceptance of the idea to provide at least some interpretive material in other languages particularly German and French. In interviews conducted with Pelly Crossing residents, a desire was expressed to see more interpretive and educational materials produced in the Northern Tutchone language to support local efforts in cultural renewal. This recommendation is also consistent with the original plan's objectives.

What the Public Response Means

The public and visitor responses suggest the management plan needs to be updated and refined, not revamped. This means the initiatives at Fort Selkirk are on track and the cautious, conservative approach identified in the 1990 plan remains valid. There is general agreement on site management priorities and the overall philosophy behind the management plan. There is room for new initiatives to enhance the visitor experience and make better use of available resources. It is also clear that the link back to Pelly Crossing is not as strong as it needs to be to encourage cultural renewal and ensure tourism opportunities benefit the local community directly.

5.0 Management Plan Vision

Fort Selkirk represents a continuum of life in the past, present, and future. The history provides the context of the place, and sustains the connection to the present. Fort Selkirk is a “living cultural heritage site”- it remains a meeting place, full of opportunities to learn, educate, and share. Fort Selkirk will evolve as peoples’ needs and aspirations change. There is a clear consensus that the original management plan goal remains as valid today as it did in 1990. The vision statement, goals and objectives also reflect the Selkirk Final Agreement.

5.1 Management Plan Goal

The Fort Selkirk Management Plan goal is:

***To preserve, protect and develop Fort Selkirk
as a living cultural heritage site.***

5.2 Objectives:

Objectives for eight management areas have been prepared. Each objective describes an action and outcome that collectively builds toward the common goal of making Fort Selkirk a living cultural heritage site.

Culture

To recognize the importance of Fort Selkirk to the Selkirk people as a special place for spiritual and cultural renewal by protecting and reflecting the values, history, traditions and aspirations of First Nation culture in the development and management of the site.

To exhibit First Nation traditional use and occupancy through ceremonies, festivals and educational experiences that promote visitor interest in, and respect for the Selkirk First Nation culture.

To preserve, protect and present the evidence of trade, settlement and way of life experienced at Fort Selkirk by all those who lived there for the benefit of both former residents and the entire community.

*Fort Selkirk
remains a “living
cultural heritage
site” –*

*a place to meet,
a place to learn,
a place to teach,
a place to share.*

Heritage Resource Preservation

To preserve the natural and cultural history of Fort Selkirk by undertaking such scientific, traditional knowledge and historical research as is required to protect, conserve and interpret the heritage values present.

To undertake the identification and collection of artefacts and the continued maintenance of buildings and sites in a manner that reflects the history of settlement and use of Fort Selkirk by all who have lived there.

To ensure that site improvements, building restoration and/or reconstruction are faithful to the guidelines set to protect the heritage character of Fort Selkirk.

To monitor the condition of artefacts and heritage structures to prevent deterioration from reaching unacceptable levels.

To ensure that future adjacent land use including roads and resource development respect the heritage values present at Fort Selkirk including the viewscape.

Education & Interpretation

To increase public knowledge, stewardship interest in, and awareness of the natural and cultural values present at Fort Selkirk by:

- Documenting and passing on the oral history of Elders and others so that youth can share the knowledge and traditions of First Nation culture represented at Fort Selkirk
- Presenting accurate, balanced and complete documentation of the history of settlement in a manner that brings Fort Selkirk alive to visitors interested in site history; and
- Preparing a variety of appealing interpretive and educational materials to support both on-site and off-site education and interpretation initiatives.

To promote public knowledge and appreciation of the value of linking traditional knowledge and scientific research to obtain a complete understanding of the history of land use at Fort Selkirk and the surrounding area.

Economic Development

To identify and encourage the development of economic development opportunities at Fort Selkirk consistent with the social and cultural development objectives of the Selkirk First Nation and protection of the heritage values represented there.

To ensure economic development occurs at a pace, scale and timing that allows the Selkirk First Nation to take the best advantage of opportunities for employment, training and business development as set out in the Selkirk Final Agreement.

Local Use

To allow Selkirk First Nation people to visit or to live at Fort Selkirk on a seasonal or permanent basis, as long as any new development follows design guidelines in keeping with the agreed management and heritage preservation objectives for the site.

Tourism

To provide visitors the opportunity to discover and experience a distinctive Yukon Historic Site by providing a range of services, facilities, education and recreational opportunities consistent with the protection of the heritage values present.

To market and promote Fort Selkirk according to the site's capacity to handle increased use without compromising the heritage values present and the economic development aspirations of the Selkirk First Nation.

Research

To encourage to the extent possible, direct community involvement in research initiatives that increase knowledge of Fort Selkirk, Selkirk First Nation culture and the region in which it is situated.

Organization & Administration

To implement those provisions of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement that apply to Fort Selkirk in a cooperative, timely manner.

To establish an efficient system of administration that involves locally based management and provides a stable financial base to support the cultural development, resource protection, conservation and interpretation initiatives set out in this plan.

To provide a means for monitoring site management effectiveness and evaluating plan implementation efforts on a regular and consistent basis.

To provide opportunities for education and skills development by developing on-site training programs in a manner consistent with the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.

5.3 Plan Performance Measures

Measuring progress is an important part of plan implementation. The plan is a guidebook that should serve as a regular reference for making management decisions. The applicable performance measures are:

- Degree of compliance with the terms and conditions of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement Chapter 13;
- Degree of compliance with site management goals, objectives and work plan priorities set out in this Management Plan and the previously adapted Preservation and Interpretation Plans
- Level of visitor use and impacts associated with visitor use are consistent with limits of acceptable change guidelines;
- Visitor satisfaction levels confirmed following site visit by survey and/or register comments and support for donation box;
- Annual “report card” prepared, assessed and acted upon prior to the following season;
- Evidence that principal plan recommendations have been implemented on schedule and within budget;
- Level of partner funding support consistent with plan priorities.



(Left to right) Father Bobillier with Martha & G. I. Cameron, George Dawson (Photo: Yukon Government)

What changes in site maintenance, building preservation, interpretation & visitor use need to be monitored to ensure that they do not compromise the heritage values at Fort Selkirk?

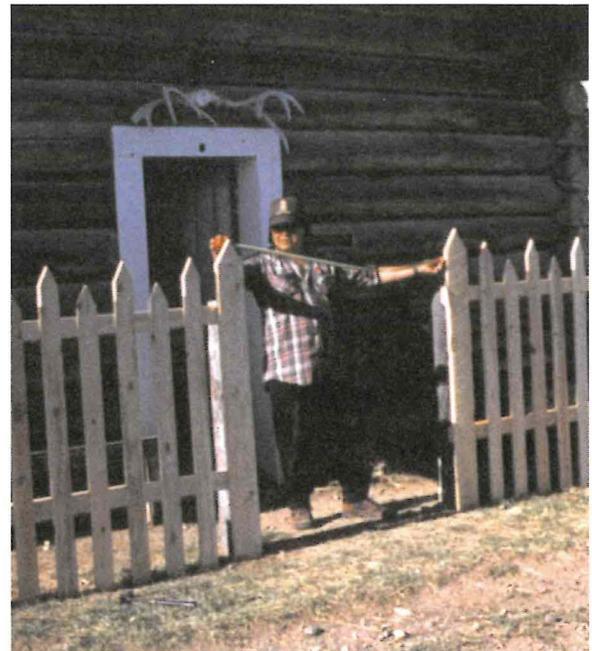
6.0 Limits of Acceptable Change

Resource managers concerned with wilderness protection and visitor use first developed the concept of “limits of acceptable change” (LAC) in the late 1970’s. The principles behind the concept are now being applied in a variety of applications where resource protection and visitor use issues are anticipated to be management concerns. By defining and applying LAC criteria, it is possible to monitor change and determine when intervention is required and not the normal “wear and tear” associated with a living site.

6.1 Heritage Preservation

There are three main preservation issues that need to be covered in applying this methodology to heritage preservation. Generally, the term preservation implies maintaining a constant condition. As is explained in Section 7, heritage resources such as buildings can be preserved, stabilized, restored to a predetermined state or reconstructed. The same is true for artefacts and it is not unusual to replicate objects for interpretive purposes rather than risk damage to a treasured original.

Fencing has been re-constructed for interpretive purposes (Photo: I. Robertson)



The goal of the management plan is to make Fort Selkirk a living cultural site. By implication this means changes will inevitably occur as the landscape evolves and visitors increase. Despite research and conservation efforts to date, changes have occurred over the years such as the loss of visible artefacts. Some buildings have now reached the point where they are unsafe to enter or have been reclaimed by the adjacent forest.

This means the limits of acceptable change need to be defined for each building and structure following the decision making process outlined in Section 7.1.3. This process examines each structure or site feature on its own merits and may result in a decision to take conservation efforts to a predetermined point. For example, one building may be fully restored, another stabilized and a third completely reconstructed. Part of that decision making process considers whether a building is to be re-used for another purpose such as interpretation or site support. As a result, each building will have its own criteria for when intervention is required and evaluated accordingly during the annual inspection.

The following is a brief list of LAC criteria applicable to heritage preservation:

LAC Preservation Criteria	Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further loss of site artefacts is unacceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete inventory and secure for safe storage, replicate where required for interpretive purposes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance of gravesites is unacceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervise or restrict access, increase public education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility expansion/relocation proposed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological impact assessment required prior to construction, establish design guidelines for new construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building doors/windows stick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check need for re-stabilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building visitation levels resulting in excessive wear and tear/vandalism or higher fire risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit or restrict access Increase public education; improve fire protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate of structural deterioration exceeds projections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-examine use, maintenance priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation growth undermining structural stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove vegetation or reassess heritage value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings are no longer sealed to weather or are in danger of collapse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve maintenance frequency; re-stabilize Prohibit access

6.2 Interpretation & Education

A fundamental goal for the Government of Yukon and Selkirk First Nation is to ensure the legacy of Fort Selkirk is passed on to future generations. The Selkirk First Nation is particularly concerned that their presence at Fort Selkirk is not lost to beneficiaries and is appreciated by visitors. Maintaining Fort Selkirk as a living cultural site is a prerequisite and requires a continuity of presence and use.

LAC Interpretation & Education Criteria	Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum level of 2 interpretive staff required to meet present levels of service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire trainee to ensure continuity and add additional personnel as visitor numbers warrant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive materials (i.e. signage, booklets, display materials, videos, etc.) are no longer readily available, accessible (on and off site) and out-of-date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-evaluate need, level of use, target audience, location of material, content, languages available Improve distribution mechanisms/raise awareness; monitor user requests Investigate opportunities for First Nations commercial venture to provide needed materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual visitor participation rates consistently dropping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct program evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elder and student field trip interest from Pelly Crossing declining reducing direct community connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selkirk First Nation and school commit to a minimum of one Elder/student field trip each field season Re-institute past programs (i.e. cultural camp)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unscheduled large groups exceed capability of interpretive staff to deliver programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicize large group notification and booking procedure through FSMG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss or damage of display and other interpretive materials due to pilferage or vandalism is unacceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit access to artefacts; lock display cabinets Use only duplicated artefacts for display and education purposes Provide secure storage in off-season
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-season use proposals for site are not consistent with management plan interpretive objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reject or modify activities to comply Re-examine changing needs and service capabilities

6.3 Visitor Use & Area Development

The public consultation and visitor surveys provide some clues to the level of activity and quality of visitor experience desired. Images of peacefulness and solitude, unimpaired views of the bluffs and a desire to preserve the site's authenticity came out in the public comments and can be translated into LAC criteria. LAC criteria can be applied to site conditions, visitor use levels and area management.

LAC Visitor Use & Area Development Criteria	Responses
Site Conditions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed site development may be inconsistent with historical context and "living" cultural objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review all proposed development with respect to design guidelines Review and adjust site maintenance procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Naturalness" of site is no longer consistent with image presented or visitor experience promoted (i.e. out of context infrastructure visible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate and disguise essential infrastructure (i.e. outhouses, garbage cans) to reduce visual obtrusiveness and re-examine interpretive display placement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site management activities are not consistent with good sustainable development and historic site management practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling, garbage handling and sewage disposal practices modified and/or updated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wild fire risk assessment confirms risk is increasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and expand fire reduction strategy (i.e. understory thinning, grass mowing frequency)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual vegetation re-growth no longer disguises equipment trails and visitor paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify maintenance procedures, restrict access, re-seed and water disturbed areas;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive tree invasion of meadows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thin tree cover without eliminating forest edge diversity

LAC Visitor Use & Area Development Criteria (continued)	Responses
Visitor Activity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campground capacity is exceeded on a regular basis and surface regeneration no longer recovering prior to next season; users feel “crowded” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and rotate campsites • Identify alternate overflow area • Implement registration system • Develop separate large group area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of onsite visitor experience is declining; visitor complaints of “crowding” increasing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit large party access • Extend visitor season; hire additional interpretive staff • Implement visitor use fee
Area Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of other resource development activities and land uses can be heard or seen from townsite; proximity of road access starting to lead to unauthorised off-season visitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand buffer zone and encourage regional land use plans to protect viewshed and limit road development. • Institute more intensive management of ‘management area’
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of site reoccupation, type and location of related activities is beginning to compromise site values being protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict building site selection and develop facility appearance guidelines • Establish development restrictions.

The management of heritage resources involves four key concepts: Preservation, Stabilization, Restoration, and Reconstruction. Restoration & reconstruction are expensive but powerful interpretive tools, applied to the most thematically significant resources. They are most effective when they are based on well-documented sources, ensuring authenticity.

7.0 Heritage Resource Preservation

Four key terms need to be defined to understand the preservation process. Very often these terms are used interchangeably and this leads to confusion in meaning. The distinctions between preservation, stabilization, restoration and reconstruction are important:

Preservation – is the act of keeping intact or free from further decay a place, object or thing and protecting it from harm or destruction. Fort Selkirk is to be “preserved” as a historic site.

Stabilization - buildings and other features like grave houses are repaired to the point where the processes of deterioration are slowed but not eliminated. Most structures at Fort Selkirk have been stabilized, but this is an ongoing process.

Restoration - This means making a heritage resource look like the original while using as much of the original materials as possible. Often, buildings are restored to the way they looked at a particular date or period. At Fort Selkirk, this is generally the early 1950s when the town was abandoned. Restoration can apply to the outside of a building only, or it may pertain to the interiors as well where original finishes and furnishings are replaced. Restoration can be a lengthy and expensive process. The Anglican Church is mostly restored, inside and out.

Reconstruction involves rebuilding a replica of a no longer existing structure on its original site. Big Jonathan’s House is an example of a reconstructed building.

Below are definitions of additional terms used in the preservation process, with examples from Fort Selkirk:

Heritage Resources – This is a general term that includes buildings, artefacts, grave sites, archaeological sites and landscapes, in fact, just about anything showing evidence of human activity.

Artefacts are those smaller, more portable heritage resources (i.e. tools, furnishings). Most artefacts at Fort Selkirk are stored in the Stone House shed.

Recording is the first step in preserving a historic site, buildings and other structures. Using photos, text and plans; detailed records are made of the buildings’ appearance and condition before work begins, while the building is being *stabilized* and as any changes in condition occur over time. There are records of the major structures at Fort Selkirk.

Maintenance - Once buildings have been stabilized or restored, they need occasional cyclical repairs, repainting and other attention to keep them in good condition.

Stabilization of buildings is an ongoing challenge – buildings that have been stabilized will need to be stabilized again

7.1 Heritage Structures and Sites

7.1.1 Work at Fort Selkirk to Date

Stabilization work has been underway at Fort Selkirk for over 20 years. Most of this work has involved replacing foundations, repairing roofs, and replacing windows and doors. In some cases, the work has involved restoring portions of the buildings that have collapsed or reconstructing segments that have disappeared. This work proceeded on an as-needed basis for many years.

In 1990, the *Fort Selkirk Management Plan* outlined the general process and principles for treating the heritage resources at Fort Selkirk. This report follows the outline of that plan in the recommended program below. The *Fort Selkirk Preservation Plan*, created for the site in 1992, laid out a program for the site describing the specific repairs and monitoring required for each of the buildings. It also noted some possibilities in terms of more detailed restoration. Specifically, the 1992 Preservation Plan observed that:

- Stabilization should be completed soon.
- Some of the stabilized structures need to be stabilized again.
- More emphasis will go into maintenance.
- Restoration will become a higher priority.
- Artefact retrieval and installation will become more important.
- Building use will change, creating new problems to watch for.

For the most part, the work at Fort Selkirk has adhered to this plan. Restoration has become a higher priority but stabilization is not yet completed. It is not uncommon at a historic site of this size that there will be a range of building treatments where some buildings are restored and some left to weather and decay naturally. What seems to be lacking right now is a clear statement of which buildings are to receive what treatment. Particularly at the east end of the site, some buildings are partially stabilized, with walls braced and roofs patched, but they lack proper windows to keep the elements out. Meanwhile, other parts of the site are receiving detailed restoration work such as fencing and furnishings. The Preservation Plan suggests 6 buildings for interior restoration: priorities need to be assigned. Such restoration requires accurate evidence of original finishes.

Another prediction of the Preservation Plan that has certainly come to pass is that some of the stabilized structures need to be stabilized again. This is not just a maintenance task but capital-intensive work. It requires the same level of commitment in terms of personnel and materials that the site has seen over the past couple of decades.

With capital funding levelling off and possibly declining in the future, some hard choices have to be made about re-stabilization versus restoration. It is unlikely that there will be sufficient funding for all.

7.1.2 Where to Now?

There is a need to set priorities. There is still basic stabilization work to be done on the site and, as noted above, some structures require re-stabilization. Some reconstruction and restoration work has already been undertaken and there are now discussions about partially restoring building interiors. This goes beyond the recommendations in the 1992 Preservation Plan that anticipated focusing more on maintenance once stabilization priorities had been achieved. Maintenance seems to be but one component of a program that would see continued stabilization, re-stabilization, and some interior and exterior restoration to support interpretive initiatives.

Government funding for the site has not increased over the years and thus the purchasing power in current dollars is steadily declining. As an equal partner, the Selkirk First Nation will be expected to augment resources and funding support in the future.

In practical terms however, managers are still faced with doing more with less. Faced with a shrinking budget but a preservation program that has similar if not greater needs than in past years, how will resources be allocated?



Emphasis may now be given to maintenance of successfully stabilized structures.
(Photo: I. Robertson)

River travellers indicate that they do not wish to see Fort Selkirk “fixed up like Dawson” but they would like to see some restoration, particularly of building interiors.

What Do People Want to See?

The answer to what resources receive what treatment is not simple, of course. There are numerous other factors involved including cultural needs of the Selkirk First Nation, rate of deterioration of the structures, and the availability of skills, research and materials to carry out restoration. Not least of these factors is what do visitors and stakeholders want to see?

As part of this review, there was a survey conducted of river and highway travellers. While this survey was too small to have great statistical significance, it did provide some clear indications of how people feel about the site and what they would like to see.

People were unanimous in their desire to see the preservation work continue at the site. They did not want it fixed up “like Dawson” but did want to see some restoration done, including interiors. There were comments that more work should be done at the east end of the site. Some Pelly Crossing people also thought the recent fencing was inappropriate and should not be there.

How Does the Work Get Done?

Once priorities are set for future work, how will they be implemented? The Fort Selkirk Management Group, made up of YTG and Selkirk First Nation representatives, with technical input makes the decisions on annual site work. The site technician, based in Whitehorse, visits the site regularly through the summer. The technician reviews and discusses work in progress with the on-site project manager who in turn relays directions to the work crews. Design work for restoration, and some replication work, is done in Whitehorse.

From a review of the records it appears that the designs have not always been accurately translated in the field. Not all the preservation work is recorded and this makes planning for future programming difficult. Correcting this situation will require the onsite training of personnel in accurately reading plans and design instructions and recording the work in progress.



One question put forward asked about the feasibility of re-opening the Taylor & Drury store on a seasonal basis
(Photo: Yukon Government)

7.1.3 Recommended Program

The following diagram illustrates the recommended process for decision making.

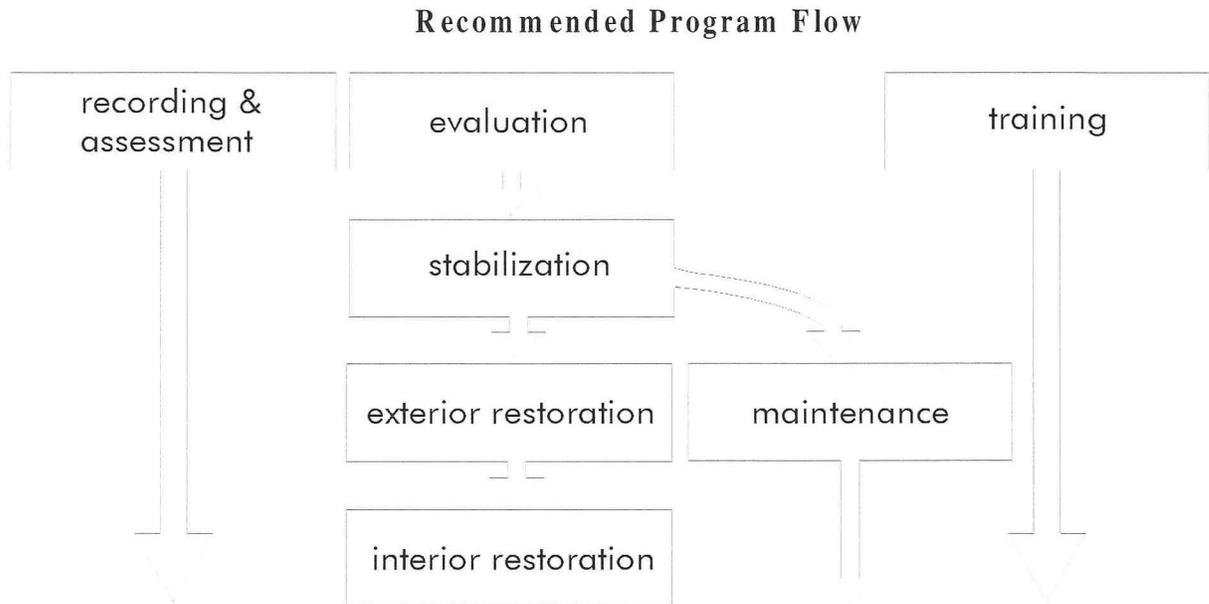


Figure 5 Preservation Planning Process

Evaluation

Fort Selkirk is most significant as a historical complex. This means that all the structures are considered to be of equal importance to the site. Supposedly then, all the structures should receive equal treatment except where knowledge is lacking or where restoration is required to support interpretation. Obviously, some buildings are better candidates for restoration than others but how should that be determined? The individual buildings and associated features should be evaluated. This is recommended in the management plan. The process would include rating the historical, cultural and interpretive merits of each structure. It is not necessary to restore every building representing one interpretive theme. The physical qualities of the building should also be evaluated including condition, need for stabilization, “restorability” and ability to cope with increased use. A building cannot be restored or reconstructed without accurate information or evidence of original finishes. The point of this exercise is to develop a priority list for building treatment.

Recording and Assessment

A crew member should be trained to systematically inspect the buildings each season to determine stabilization and maintenance needs. When stabilization and maintenance are undertaken, this individual would be responsible for documenting daily work with brief written descriptions, photographs and drawings as necessary.

On-site Technician

Job Description:

- Reports to project supervisor
- Consults with Heritage Branch Site Technician at beginning of field season
- Inspects buildings to determine maintenance and stabilization needs
- Keeps daily records of stabilization and restoration work
- Carries out minor maintenance work
- Collects, cleans, stores and records artefacts
- Records cemeteries and smaller structures

This process will provide a record of work done and allow for better restoration. Artefact cleaning and storage should also be one of the duties of this position.

Some of the smaller buildings and cemetery features need to be recorded. A trained recorder working with the on-site staff person should carry this out. The 1992 Preservation Plan provides an inspection program that should be used to help guide this process.

Training

In addition to training one individual for recording, the project manager and foreperson should receive training in interpreting restoration plans and heritage preservation principles. This will ensure that designers, planners and the people implementing the work all have a common frame of reference. Most of the training can be done in-house and in conjunction with other agencies, such as Parks Canada, that conduct similar work. Crew members should be provided opportunities to improve their trade skills.

Stabilization

Work should continue to follow the preservation plan so all structures are stabilized or re-stabilized. This is an ongoing maintenance program that ensures all buildings have good roofs, foundations, doors and windows. If windows and doors cannot be manufactured by a qualified craftsman from Pelly Crossing, the work should be performed at the government shop.

Maintenance

This includes smaller tasks necessary to keeping the buildings in good condition, sealed to the weather, and relatively clean. It would be the job of the on-site technician to inspect buildings, make notes on what work is required, and report this to the project manager. This person could also carry out routine maintenance like ensuring building interiors are clean.

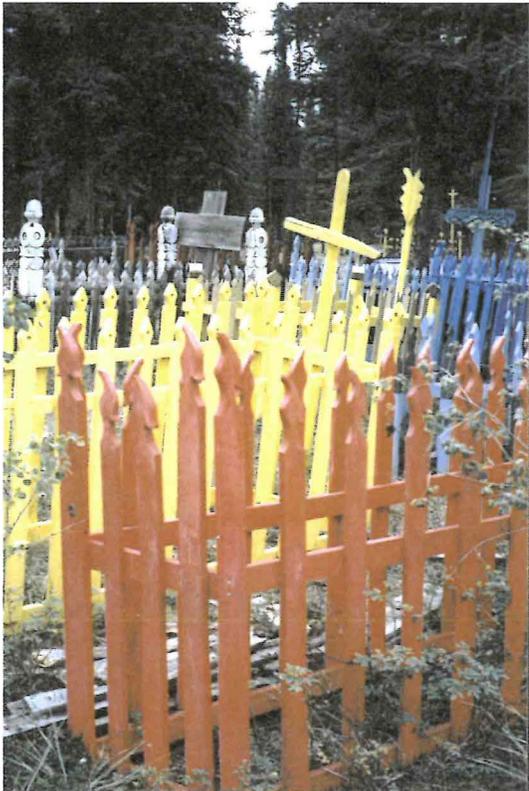
Exterior Restoration

Once stabilization and maintenance needs have been determined and budgeted, exterior restoration can be considered. While this may be mostly a budgetary and interpretive consideration, the management group will also have to evaluate the benefits of expending additional resources on certain buildings.

Interior Restoration

In addition to the evaluation for exterior restoration, plans for interior work must consider:

- Whether the interior of the building tolerates increased visitor use;
- Whether security can be provided for artefacts and replicas;
- What degree of restoration is required to support interpretation;
- Historical accuracy of interior finishes.



First Nations graveyard (Photo: Yukon Government)

7.2 Cemeteries and Grave Sites

Recording should continue in both cemeteries. Regular brushing and removal of growth around the fences and markers should be part of ongoing maintenance. Stabilization should be continued to ensure wooden structures do not deteriorate further. Graves that were stabilized in the 1980's are once again in need of attention.

There are other gravesites scattered throughout the town that fall into the purview of archaeology, as these gravesites are unmarked. As such, development of any new facilities or relocation of existing structures that involve ground disturbance must include an assessment of the likelihood of disturbing any human remains or artefacts. Consider marking known sites to aid in protection.

7.3 Heritage Trails

Victoria Rock and Swinehart Farm were as much a part of life at Fort Selkirk as the townsite itself. Although clearing and maintaining the trails to these sites is less urgent than maintaining the buildings in the townsite, it is important to retain this link. This is a relatively low cost, low skill task that could be undertaken by groups like Katimavik. The trails also add interpretive scope to the site and offer visitors interesting hikes that may make longer stops at Fort Selkirk more attractive.

There are also trails connecting Fort Selkirk to other historical places and communities such as Aishihik. While it may be desirable some time in the future to re-establish these historic and prehistoric links, it would be a major undertaking, probably requiring the cooperation of other First Nations whose traditional territories are linked.

In addition to the cemeteries, gravesites are scattered throughout the townsite. Care must be taken to avoid disturbing remains.

7.4 Heritage Landscape Features

The landscape features at Fort Selkirk include those in the immediate townsite, and those features that can be seen from the townsite that give it a sense of place. The features in town include the trees, grasses and plants. Historically, the grass was kept short in the townsite to reduce the insect population. This is also desirable from an aesthetic viewpoint as it gives the site an inviting, park-like appearance. Fences, gardens and walkways also demonstrate community attitudes and lifestyles.

Humans have impacted the vegetation at Fort Selkirk for hundreds of years. During this time numerous foreign species have been introduced to the area. An inventory of plant species should be conducted, in cooperation with the Department of Renewable Resources. This could be accomplished through incorporating the research into a larger study of the natural history of the area, including fauna. The results of this study could be made available to enhance interpretative purposes.

There were very few trees near the buildings during the historic period of the townsite, but there are trees now. The view to the rear of the site has been much reduced from historical levels. In some cases, such as the large spruce in front of the Anglican Church, trees are heritage features in their own right and should be preserved. In other cases, berry bushes and shade trees lend an air of settlement to the site. This has to be balanced against the potential damage the plants and trees can cause to the buildings. If they are not harming the buildings, there seems little reason to remove them, although spruce re-growth should be limited for fire protection. Grass cutting should continue for the same reason.

The second type of landscape feature is the broader vista seen from the townsite. In most cases, there is an uninterrupted view of features such as Victoria Rock, the Ramparts and the Selkirk Cinder Cone that requires no special preservation, but are an important part of the site's context and cultural landscape.

The important work begun by the Fort Selkirk Oral History projects should be continued.

7.5 Oral Traditions

Collecting and recording stories specific to Fort Selkirk is an important part of preserving the history of the site. Oral history projects were undertaken at Fort Selkirk in 1984 and 1985. These projects brought together First Nation Elders and former residents of Fort Selkirk to share their memories of the town and its people.



Fort Selkirk Oral History Project participants, 1985
(Photo: Yukon Government)

This information is invaluable, but the projects still did not cover all the people that have recollections of living in Fort Selkirk. Over the years, some other interviews have been done as well, but there is a need for a program to collect stories systematically. This can begin with Danny Roberts and Maria Van Bibber. The assistant interpreter and others can do the interviewing.

The Fort Selkirk site is rich in potential for new discoveries - archaeological impact assessments will be required prior to any ground disturbance.

7.6 Archaeology

The Fort Selkirk area is in one of the more significant archaeological regions in the Yukon. According to the Yukon Archaeologist, the surface has been barely scratched for archaeology work and the area merits more investigation over several field seasons should funding and circumstances permit.

As well as the remains of Campbell's Post, there is a potential for important prehistoric discoveries. This was a traditional camp and trade rendezvous site well before the Hudson's Bay Co. moved into the area. Until the sites have been properly investigated, any disturbance of known sites, such as Campbell's Post, must be avoided. Not all gravesites are marked. An archaeological impact assessment is required prior to any ground disturbance. This includes new building in the work camp area or any camping expansion area.

The modern residence constructed by Indian Affairs for Danny Roberts apparently sits over part of the Post remains. Whenever it is abandoned consideration should be given to dismantling it to facilitate a full archaeological investigation of the feature.

A four to six week Community Archaeology program at Fort Selkirk would cost about \$50,000 including remote subsistence for the students.



Elder Stanley Jonathan supervises construction of a fish trap with the Fort Selkirk archaeology crew, 1989 (Photo: Yukon Government)

The First Nation might seek funding for archaeological work from various sources including the Northern Research Institute and the Community Development Fund. Some federal programs assist with student hire.

7.7 Palaeontology

The discovery and research of palaeontological remains in the Fort Selkirk area is relatively recent. At the time of writing (early 2000), it is too early to assess just how much more fieldwork and research may be required. At least one visit is planned to the site in the summer of 2000. It is desirable that Selkirk First Nation members be involved with any future fieldwork.

*Artefacts
require proper
protection from
the elements,
rodent damage
& the risk of
fire.*

According to the Yukon palaeontologist, Dr. John Storer, the nature of these remains is such that no special protection is required for the sites. Tons of material might need to be sifted to uncover the material and few would be capable of recognizing the fossils.

7.8 Artefacts

Over the years, many of Fort Selkirk's artefacts, which were the personal property of local residents, have disappeared. Some of the remaining items are stored in the Stone House shed. This was to be a temporary measure until a more suitable storage place could be found. This has yet to happen. Artefacts require proper care and storage if they are to last. Some items are still scattered throughout the site. While the presence of artefacts gives the town a lived-in feeling, this has to be weighed against the chance that they will disappear.



Interpreter Maria Van
Bibber with artefacts on
display at Stone House
(Photo: Yukon
Government)

Even though there are plans to line the Stone House shed with metal mesh to keep the squirrels out, this will not create an ideal environment for artefact storage. This problem should be viewed in the same way as building stabilization. The artefacts should at least be dry and have some measure of protection from fire and rodents. Consider a new building in the work camp area that is purpose-built for artefact storage, including fire resistance. The on-site technician could be in charge of the collection, storage, recording and care of artefacts.

*Heritage
Branch Historic
Sites is a
suitable
temporary home
for Fort Selkirk
archival
materials.*

7.9 Documentary Sources & Research Issues

7.9.1 Documentary Sources

The 1990 *Fort Selkirk Management Plan* recommended that the *Fort Selkirk Bibliography* (Dobrowolsky, 1988) be expanded to include additional sources “for the purpose of ongoing research and development at the site.” This becomes more important as new research work is generated and held in different locations, even within Heritage Branch (Historic Sites, Archaeology and Palaeontology). The recommendation to consolidate data sources in one main document still stands.

According to the *1994 Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan*, further archival research is recommended at outside institutions such as the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives (Winnipeg) and the National Archives (Ottawa).

In the years since the bibliography was compiled, the Yukon Archives has also obtained additional records relating to Fort Selkirk. Archival research should be ongoing and reviewed to determine how the results can contribute new knowledge and information to preservation and interpretation initiatives.

The 1990 Management Plan also recommended that a “site resource collection” be developed in Pelly Crossing. Since that time, SFN members have met at least twice with the Archival Advisor, an employee of the Yukon Council of Archives, for advice on how to better organize all the First Nation’s records, including archival material. Work should continue to catalogue this material and make it accessible.

For the immediate future, we suggest that Heritage Branch, Historic Sites serve as a repository for any Fort Selkirk material not available at Yukon Archives. There is already an extensive body of information at the branch, it has a library, and is publicly accessible.



(l-r) Big Jonathan Campbell, Norman Silas & Suzie Campbell (Photo: Yukon Government)

Heritage Resources

Summary & Conclusions:

- Preservation Plan recommendations are being followed for the most part.
- Preservation procedure should be followed to ensure all structures and features are recorded and stabilized before planning any restoration.
- Given the current budget situation, stabilization and maintenance may be the limit of preservation activities.
- A staff member is required to record stabilization, assess maintenance needs, and act as curator of the artefacts.
- More training is required to ensure preservation plans are properly implemented and monitored.
- Heritage trails in the immediate area should be cleared and treated as part of the site.
- Oral history work should continue.
- Archaeological assessment is required prior to any new development.
- Artefacts should be collected, recorded and stored in a proper facility.
- The Fort Selkirk Bibliography should be expanded.

Stone House Library - The *Fort Selkirk Interpretive Manual* recommended that a small library be set up at the Stone House Interpretive Centre for the use of staff and visitors, but that no one should be permitted to remove books from the building. Appendix 7 in the Interpretive Manual has a preliminary list of suggested reports and publications.

7.9.2 Access and Accommodation for Researchers

In the 1990 Management Plan, suggestions for onsite research predated the *Yukon Historic Resources Act* of 1996. Any scientists and other researchers wishing to undertake work at Fort Selkirk need to obtain approval from the Fort Selkirk Management Group (FSMG) and observe current regulations for obtaining the necessary permits.

With advance notice, the FSMG can ensure that the researchers would not be in conflict with other activities on the site. Also the SFN may be able to provide assistance in the way of guides, Elders, boat travel, etc. Copies of all research findings and reports should then be provided to the Management Group.

7.9.3 Heritage Resources Summary & Conclusions

The accompanying list (left) summarizes the issues and offers suggested directions regarding heritage resources preservation at Fort Selkirk.

“The guided tour was informative and delivered with a great personal knowledge.”

- 1999 River Traveller Survey

8.0 Interpretation & Education

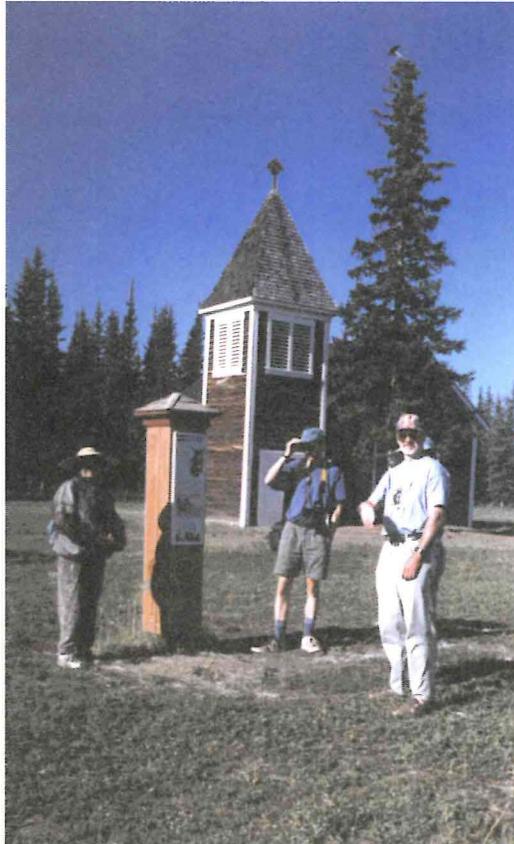
8.1 What is Interpretation?

Interpretation is a special way of communicating factual information and perspectives in a manner that reveals meanings and relationships to an audience. It helps people understand human and natural heritage through first hand involvement with ideas, cultures, objects, artefacts, landscapes or sites.

8.2 1994 Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan

Preparation of a detailed interpretation plan was one of the key recommendations that came out of the original Management Plan in 1990. Completed in 1994, it examined all aspects of interpretation including: the site resources, the themes and stories that best explained the heritage values present at Fort Selkirk, the needs of target audiences and the various ways these stories could be shared on and off site, and helped define the desired visitor experience.

To determine what was needed to put interpretation into place, the plan addressed issues such as setting priorities, training, costs, and timetables. At the same time, an interpretive manual was produced as a resource tool for onsite interpreters. It was designed so that it could be added to as new information and stories became available.



This section, will identify accomplishments of the last six years, suggest priorities for the next five years and make a few new recommendations based on changes in the current situation. The 1994 Interpretive Plan remains valid and should be consulted for greater detail.

The 1994 Interpretive Plan was built around a set of guiding principles and a main interpretive concept.

100% of the exterior interpretive signage recommended in the 1994 plan has been installed.

(Photo: I. Robertson)

8.2.1 Interpretation at Fort Selkirk - Guiding Principles

After consultation with the Elders, various Selkirk First Nation members and other resource people associated with the site, the following principles were developed as a basis for all interpretation activities at Selkirk:

Guiding Principles for Interpretation at Fort Selkirk:

- Use the expertise of Elders and acknowledge their role as educators, interpreters and counsellors in passing on First Nation stories.
- Interpretation should be culturally appropriate and suitable for implementation by members of the Selkirk First Nation.
- Visitors should learn that Fort Selkirk is still a home to the Selkirk First Nation and be taught respect for the site.
- Economic development opportunities arising from interpretation should benefit the Selkirk First Nation.
- Any increase in visitors to Fort Selkirk should be accompanied by measures to protect the townsite and its resources.
- The Interpretive Plan should build on the guidelines set out in the 1990 Fort Selkirk Management and 1992 Preservation Plans.
- All Yukoners should have the opportunity to experience, enjoy and learn from the heritage of Fort Selkirk.

8.2.2 The Themes & Stories

Based on the "Meeting Place" concept introduced in the 1990 Management Plan, Fort Selkirk stories are told within the framework of six general themes and 31 individual stories (**Figure 6**). Stories are told in a variety of ways, both at Fort Selkirk and off site. These include talks, demonstrations and tours by guides and Elders, signage, displays, a video, educational materials and publications.

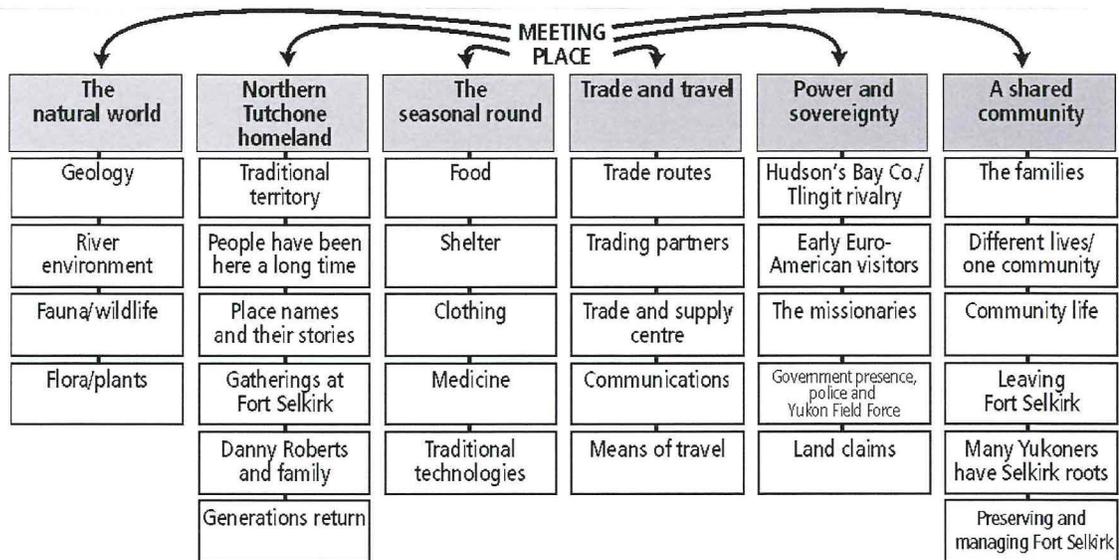


Figure 6 Fort Selkirk Themes & Stories

8.3 The Situation Today

Many recommendations of the *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan* have been implemented. Maria Van Bibber has been working with Danny Roberts to greet tourists, orient them to the site, and share stories of Fort Selkirk in the early days. Visitors can also take self-guided tours using a walking tour booklet and reading the attractive yet unobtrusive signage throughout the townsite. Displays are almost complete and

ready for set up in the Big Jonathan House and Stone House. In 1997, the Selkirk Development Corporation and the Yukon Government sponsored the production of a video, "Fort Selkirk – Voices of the Past," to be shown at the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre at Pelly Crossing, elsewhere in the Yukon and, eventually, at Fort Selkirk. All of these interpretive methods have incorporated the themes and stories developed in the Interpretation Plan.

In Pelly Crossing, the Selkirk First Nation has constructed the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre. Some materials relating to Fort Selkirk are available at Eliza Van Bibber School and at the Department of Education's Learning Resource Centre that contains educational materials available to all Yukon teachers.

What River Travellers Want:

- Campfire talks;
- More about the First Nations culture;
- Demonstrations of traditional fishing methods;
- More storytelling;
- More photos & artefacts;
- Informative guided tours.

What Pelly People Said:

- Invite different Elders to the site.
- Do demonstrations of cutting and drying salmon.
- Young people should work with Maria in summer & take history courses in winter.
- “I really like the idea of a campfire with benches around and a hot meal available for a fee.”
- Offer fiddles dances during the summer; invite people from Carmacks & Mayo.
- Get youths interested by providing camping and workshops in Selkirk. Elders to work along with anything that happens there.
- The site is presented well because Danny & Maria were raised there.

8.3.1 Summary of Work Done to Date

On Site Interpretation:

- Interpretive signage, 100% complete
- Directional and information signage, 50% complete
- Interpretive centre, 80% complete
- First Nation centre, 80% complete
- Displays (Big Jonathan and Stone House), 70% complete
- Publications (interpretive), 60% complete
- Two seasonal interpreters employed
- No special interpretive events yet
- Informal interpretation: some SFN members dry salmon on site and work crew members talk with tourists

Off-site Interpretation:

- Limited signage
- Information and directional brochures still needed
- Interpretive video completed
- Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre built at Pelly Crossing
- Limited programming at Eliza Van Bibber School
- Some materials available for other Yukon schools

Many Yukon First Nations have opened cultural centres or are developing heritage sites, including:

Tagé Cho Hudan Interpretive Centre, Carmacks;

Han Cultural Centre, Dawson;

Kwaday Dan Kenji (Long Ago Peoples Place), Champagne;

Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre, Pelly Crossing.

8.3.2 What Should We Do Next?

Excellent progress has been made. Based on what we have learned from both the community and visitors, people appreciate visiting the site because of its rich natural and human history, and the opportunity to learn more about Northern Tutchone culture. Community Elders and other residents have expressed interest in developing stronger links between Pelly Crossing and Fort Selkirk. They would like to see more interaction between students and Elders.

First Nations tourism is growing and there are a number of new attractions to educate, inform and entertain visitors, students, and Yukoners. There is an opportunity for the Fort Selkirk site to make links with other First Nations operating cultural centres and heritage sites.

As mentioned earlier, the management and interpretation of Fort Selkirk is going well. There are some opportunities, however, to improve interpretation at the site and strive to achieve the vision to make Selkirk more of a “Meeting Place” for cultures, First Nations members, visitors and all Yukoners. Drawing on public input and studies of the current situation, the plan makes the following recommendations for future directions.

8.4 Outreach & Making Connections

Since the *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan* was prepared in 1994, many Yukon First Nations have either opened cultural centres or are developing heritage sites. Significant new developments have included the opening of the Tagé Cho Hudan Interpretive Centre in Carmacks; the new cultural centre built by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation on the Dawson City waterfront; Kwa'day Dan Kenji (Long Ago Peoples Place), a private enterprise near Champagne; and the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre at Pelly Crossing.

The Champagne Aishihik First Nation has conducted interpretation at Shäwshe (Dalton Post) and at Klukshu. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Heritage Branch prepared a management plan for the Rampart House and Lapierre House heritage sites in 1999 and over the last few seasons, have been researching and preparing to stabilize and interpret these two important sites. As part of their cultural planning, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation have sent students to visit national First Nation heritage sites, and invited resource people from these sites to Dawson to share their expertise.

There are many potential benefits to making connections with other First Nations involved with cultural centres and heritage sites in the Yukon and elsewhere in Canada. A few of these include:

Sharing Experiences

People working with heritage and cultural sites can learn from each other's experiences and problems in areas such as repatriation and conservation issues, site management, fundraising, exhibit design, marketing, etc. Working together, they can also come up with creative approaches and solutions. They can also avoid duplication of effort and ensure that they are highlighting features that are unique to their area and culture. It has been suggested that Fort Selkirk might be an ideal place for a symposium on First Nations Cultural Centres and heritage sites.

Joint Marketing

There is a growing interest in First Nation sites and culture, especially by European visitors. Joint marketing (i.e. First Nations Tourism Association) can reduce costs for promotion, identifying target markets, and sending the message to a wider audience.

Shared Training & Learning Opportunities

Members of the Selkirk First Nation have over twenty years experience in restoration, preservation and interpretation of one of the Yukon's most important heritage sites. SFN members could share their expertise and learn from others.

Members of the Selkirk First Nation have over 20 years of experience in restoration, preservation & interpretation – Fort Selkirk offers an excellent opportunity for sharing their expertise with others.

Fort Selkirk would be an excellent training venue. It provides a unique blend of relative isolation and comfort with its work camp facility consisting of cabins, kitchen, power and pumped water.

Trainee interpreters would benefit greatly from learning what is going on at other sites elsewhere in the Yukon. All First Nations could benefit from sharing training sites, costs and experiences. It is recommended that work terms with other National and Provincial heritage sites be considered in the future. Two outstanding First Nation facilities are the Head-Smashed-In World Heritage Site operated by the Alberta government with Blackfoot from the Blood Reserve and the Peigan; and Wanuskewin, a world heritage site, operated by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians in co-operation with various other agencies. Linnea Battel, who visited the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation in the fall of 1999, has much valuable information to share about her experiences preserving, developing and interpreting an important First Nations sacred site, the Hatzic Rock or Xá: ytem interpretive site in British Columbia.

Development of a training program for maintenance and tourism services staff is also recommended. For example, programs offering training in carpentry or guiding would offer opportunities for both local people and others to gain proficiency in these areas, share ideas and pass skills on to coming generations.

8.5 On Site Opportunities

8.5.1 Signage

The outdoor signage is attractive and interesting, yet unobtrusive, and covers most of the major themes and stories. There is still a need for information/regulations signage in English, French, German and possibly Northern Tutchone. (See the section following on translations).

8.5.2 Interpreters

At present, Danny Roberts, Maria Van Bibber and to a lesser extent, Peter Isaac are all handling interpretation duties. Visitor response is very positive and visitor levels are expected to continue to grow. At this time, the First Nation should hire at least one trainee interpreter to learn from and assist Danny and Maria. If this person started work before field season, their work could include working with Elders and staff of Eliza Van Bibber School to organize a field trip and summer program at the site.



Interpretive signage is effective & blends well with the site. (Photo: I. Robertson)

8.5.3 Interpretive Programs

Consider organizing special events such as an Elders Visit Program, salmon bakes, special arts festivals, traditional activities, etc. This could be promoted at times such as Parks Day when boat access is offered to the site from Pelly Farm. Promoting such events well in advance could influence tourists to plan trips around these events.

8.5.4 Special Gatherings, Weddings & Other Special Events

Many Pelly Crossing people have stated that they would like to see more community gatherings taking place at Fort Selkirk. Fort Selkirk has many resources to offer (Elders' traditional knowledge, archaeology, palaeontology, geology, river environment, fish, etc.). As well, the work camp facilities make it an excellent location for events such as student culture camps and science camps in the off-season. For the same reasons, this is an excellent site for conferences, workshops, etc. related to heritage preservation. For example Selkirk would be an ideal location for a conference on First Nation cultural centres given the number of centres that have either recently opened or are being planned.

Several buildings could be used to host small meetings, including Big Jonathan's house at the east end of the site and the Wilkinson cabin behind the work camp. The work camp facilities could also be rented out in the off-season as a potential new revenue source. A policy of facility use needs to be prepared.

Incorporating archaeology into interpretive programming helps all youngsters learn about the past, & Pelly Crossing students about their own ancestors.

8.5.5 Archaeology¹

Archaeology can be incorporated into interpretive programming at Fort Selkirk in a number of ways. This is an excellent way for young people to learn about the past (and, in the case of Pelly Crossing students, their ancestors), particularly if combined with other activities in a “Culture Camp” or “Science Camp” experience. As has been well demonstrated at Canyon City, the actual process of archaeology is fascinating to visitors and most enjoy the opportunity to participate and get an inside look at a historic site. See also the 1994 *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan* for other suggestions re using archaeological resources.

8.5.6 Palaeontology¹

There are a few possible approaches to interpreting the newly found palaeontological resources of the Fort Selkirk area. A riverbank sign with text and photos of the fossils could be placed opposite the location where the fossils were found. A display in the Stone House could include replicas of fossil finds. In the case of the 1.6 million year old caribou bone, there is a logical tie in to stories about natural history (wildlife), seasonal round (including caribou hunts), traditional technology (how every part of the animal was used), and trading partners (caribou hides were an important item in the trade with the coastal Tlingit). (See page 8, *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan*.)



Stone gravers used to incise bone & antler tools, excavated from a small site just upriver from Fort Selkirk. 5,000+ years ago. (Photo: Yukon Government)

8.5.7 Translated Materials

Given the high number of German-speaking visitors to the site, some interpretive materials should be translated. The walking tour booklet, which is now available in French, would be a good item to translate into German. To make interpretive signs around town more accessible to German-speakers who make up the majority of river travellers, consider having translations available on large laminated sheets (of a size that would be difficult to accidentally walk away with). Visitors could borrow the information sheets from the Stone House and return them at the end of their tour.

Northern Tutchone names and terms should be used wherever possible to identify features, tools, individuals, etc.

¹It is anticipated that additional regional archaeological and palaeontological research will be undertaken in the area surrounding Fort Selkirk, with logistical support based there. This provides an opportunity to expand the interpretation program and take advantage of visiting scientists' expertise whenever the opportunity presents itself.

8.5.8 Interpretation Related Development

A number of economic development options have been identified that could also tie into interpretation opportunities. Some suggestions include selling crafts, offering traditional hot meals, and charging for tours.

Consider selling copies of the interpretive booklets and the Fort Selkirk video in waterproof packaging as was suggested by one river traveller. As with other initiatives, this is best done by starting small with a small pilot project to gauge interest.

Interpretation & Education Conclusions:

- Interpretation helps to preserve & share the legacy of Fort Selkirk for Selkirk First Nation members, all other Yukoners & visitors
- Expanding the interpretation program supports preservation objectives, strengthens links between Pelly Crossing & the historic site & makes Fort Selkirk more meaningful to visitors.

8.6 Off Site Opportunities

8.6.1 Community Connection

Pelly Crossing residents are concerned that the legacy of Fort Selkirk be passed on to the community's children. As there is frequent turnover in the school staff, there is an onus on the community to help make this happen. There have been a number of suggestions as to how this might take place. If an assistant interpreter or interpretive programmer commences work a few months before field season, one of their tasks should include making arrangements for a field trip to Fort Selkirk. They would work with an Educational Liaison person, based in the Band Office or another person concerned with developing curriculum and programming. The Department of Education could be approached for assistance with this.

8.6.2 Education

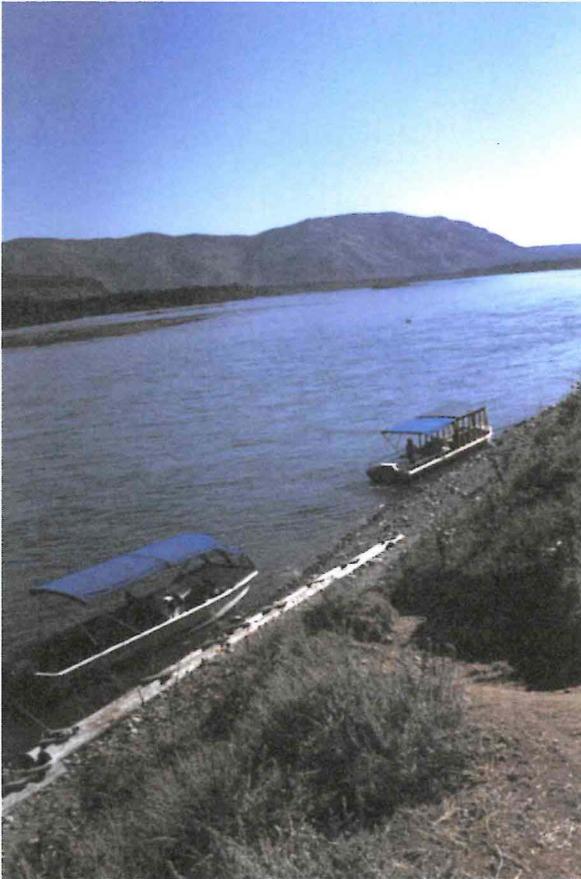
There have been many informational/educational materials produced relating to the Fort Selkirk site that can be used in Pelly Crossing, elsewhere in the Yukon, and even further a field. The Learning Resource Centre maintained by the Yukon Department of Education contains several Selkirk resources, including the video. A set of artefact casts was given to the Eliza Van Bibber School in 1987. There are also artefact casts in the Pelly Crossing Heritage Centre that the school can access in the off-season. A new development, since the writing of the 1994 *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan* is the use of websites as educational/promotional tools. Consider developing a website as a future option. Note however, that to be effective, the web site must be kept current and be linked to related sites to encourage use.

8.7 Interpretation and Education Conclusions

The accompanying list (left) sums up the importance of interpretation and education programs at Fort Selkirk.

9.0 Visitor Use, Activities, Facilities & Services

Visitor use has increased steadily over the years. The primary growth has been in river travellers on extended trips down the Yukon River with the ultimate destination being Dawson City. The existing commercial boat tour from Minto has demonstrated the potential for day-trips geared to the independent highway traveler market. Pelly Crossing is strategically located halfway between Whitehorse and Dawson City.



The success of the commercial boat tour from Minto demonstrates the potential for other kinds of day-trips.
(Photo: I. Robertson)

The 1990 Management Plan anticipated strengthening the links between Fort Selkirk and Pelly Crossing, recognising the potential of the historic site to draw and hold visitors in the region. No substantive effort was made to strengthen the Fort Selkirk connection until construction of the Selkirk First Nation Heritage Centre in Pelly Crossing in 1997. Existing community assets such as the former government campground at Pelly Crossing were not maintained until 1999, further discouraging visitors to stop. The success of Penny's Place food stand confirms visitors will stop if the tourism services wanted are available. The results of the highway traveller survey also indicate strong visitor interest and a willingness to pay for a side-trip to Fort Selkirk from the community.

Since access is presently restricted to air or boat service, a substantive increase in visitation levels will not occur.

9.1 Site Information, Marketing & Promotion

Effective site promotion serves a number of purposes:

- Informing and educating people about the historic site
- Alerting river travellers in advance that Fort Selkirk is a special stop and worthy of a prolonged visit;
- Informing visitors of special events at the site; and
- Attracting new visitors to the site.

When planning site promotion, other factors have to be considered such as the availability of transportation to Fort Selkirk and any capacity limits that would affect service delivery or undermine the intended visitor experience. There also is a need to monitor promotion activities to determine the effects of advertising on visitation levels.

To date, very little effort has been spent on site promotion to encourage more visitations especially from highway travellers.

9.1.1 Highway Signage

Other than a commercial sign promoting the Fort Selkirk tour out of Minto, there is no directional signage on how to reach the site from either Minto Landing or Pelly Crossing for self-equipped, independent travellers. There is also no indication where information can be obtained about the site such as at the Heritage Centre in Pelly Crossing.

While there is some signage by the Heritage Centre in Pelly Crossing mentioning the community's roots in Fort Selkirk, the importance of the site requires more active promotion. River travellers for example, would benefit from signage at both Carmacks and Minto.

9.1.2 Lure Brochure

These are the glossy two-sided cards available on racks in visitor centres throughout the Yukon. This is a fairly inexpensive method to advertise and provide site information. They should be used to advertise that there is a public campground and interpretive staff onsite to inform and educate visitors.

9.1.3 Visitor Centres

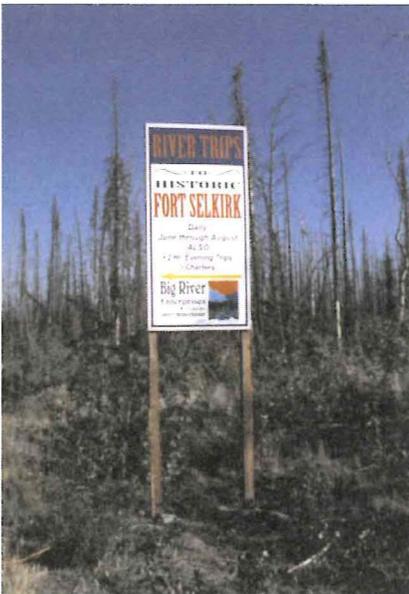
Located throughout the Yukon, these are good places to distribute information about Fort Selkirk and perhaps show the video.

9.1.4 Access Improvements

Recent upgrading of the Pelly Farm road including clearing of encroaching brush means that highway travellers can now get to within 8 km of Fort Selkirk by road. Presently, there is no infrastructure in place to facilitate public access such as an area for parking, boat launch or dock with a commercial shuttle service. The provision of a proper off-road parking area and improved, regular maintenance of Pelly Farm Road will encourage vehicle access to that point while improvements to boat docks will facilitate river access.

9.1.5 Advertising

As has been demonstrated by the private commercial operation at Minto, provision of a guided tour is feasible. The same entrepreneurial opportunity exists at Pelly Crossing or the Pelly Farm.



A commercial operator currently does the only advertising of the opportunity to visit Fort Selkirk (Photo: I Robertson)

Improvements to auxiliary facilities would allow for hosting a wide variety of events in the off-season including heritage management training sessions, First Nation meetings & student / Elder field trips.

To attract highway visitors to take a half-day tour to Fort Selkirk, advertising in selected publications such as the *Milepost* and the *Yukon Official Vacation Guide* would be beneficial. It is also important to look at joint marketing with area communities to keep costs affordable.

Cooperative advertising linked to the commercial operations at Minto and involving the First Nation heritage centres in Dawson City and Carmacks for example, would also be effective since there is a strong interest in First Nation product from all visitor market segments to the Yukon.

9.2 Onsite Infrastructure Improvements

9.2.1 Campground Development

There has been substantial investment in basic infrastructure improvements over the last 10 years, including replacement of campground facilities, drilling of two wells and installation of new signage. More investment is needed. Improvements to docking facilities and the addition of stairs to make climbing the bank easier were recommended by a range of users.

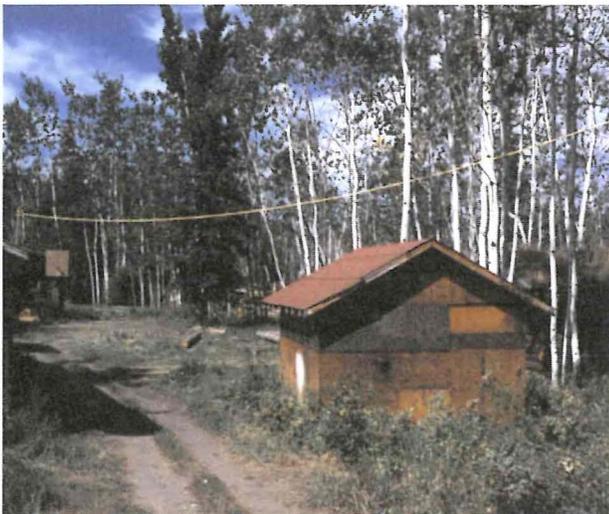
The need for campground expansion to allow site rotation is becoming apparent, as the groundcover is not recovering from the seasonal wear and tear of heavy use. While drainage is good, the arid climate makes vegetation regeneration difficult with sustained use. The campground area also needs clearer definition, as campers tend to cluster near the kitchen shelter and close to the edge of the river. More care in the placement and screening of essential support facilities such as the outhouses and garbage cans is needed to make them less obtrusive without being inconvenient.

The addition of a large communal fire-pit and gazebo to support campfire interpretive activities has been suggested and requires further analysis to determine the appropriate location and likely level of use.

9.2.2 Work Camp Facilities

Replacement of the existing diesel generating system with an environmentally friendly, in-river system was completed in 1999/2000 and is a good example of a project that should reduce operating costs and improve visitor and staff experience. Replacement of the existing plywood cabins with log structures is also more in keeping with site management objectives and should be continued.

Continued replacement of plywood cabins with log structures will allow the work camp to better blend with the rest of the site and improve living conditions. (Photo: I. Robertson)



River travellers and staff alike have suggested the development of a communal shower facility. It warrants further investigation as it also has cost recovery possibilities. Locating such a facility between the campground and work camp would make it accessible to all users.

It is also recommended that consideration be given to evaluating the potential for shoulder-season use of the camp facilities when the staff is not there. The potential to host heritage management training sessions, First Nation meetings and Elder/student field trips were cited as examples.

Late winter/spring use of the facilities may also merit investigation should interest be identified at some future date. User policies, rental rates and related operation and maintenance issues need to be examined in more detail to determine the practicality of this suggestion.

9.2.3 User Fees

Public response to user fees was mixed. At present, no fees are charged for camping, interpretive guide services or the booklets that are available to visitors. As noted previously, operating and maintenance budgets have not increased during the past 10 years while visitor levels have increased substantially. Annual campground maintenance costs now exceed \$10,000 and there is no money being set aside for future re-capitalization costs. It is also worth noting that the Fort Selkirk campground is the only official river campground that is not road accessible and for which no user fee is charged.

River travellers did indicate a willingness to pay for additional services such as shower facilities that suggests that some infrastructure additions could be constructed on a cost recovery basis.

As a co-owned and co-managed site, there are no policies and procedures in place to handle on-site revenue generation that would allow the funds collected to be earmarked for specific Fort Selkirk initiatives.

Two suggestions merit further investigation. One suggested scenario that has been used elsewhere in support of park and historic site development is the establishment of a non-profit co-operating society. This has been used successfully by agencies such as Parks Canada in the past. The "Friends of Fort Selkirk" concept may be attractive as a number of Yukoners have connections to the site.

A second alternative is to study the user fee concept further by conducting a survey of site users over one or two additional seasons. In the interim, signage indicating present service costs and encouraging donations might be used as a second method to gauge the likely level of public acceptance.

*Two possible actions
for revenue
generation:*

- *Establishment of
a non-profit
'Friends of Fort
Selkirk' society;*
- *Implementation
of user fees for
services on a cost-
recovery basis.*

10.0 Implementation Strategy

10.1 2000 Management Plan

The 1990 Site Management Plan has been updated to reflect current conditions (**Map 1**). The adjustments to the text and map reflect refinements to the original plan. Four site management zones are proposed:

Natural Area Zone - The objective of this zone is to preserve views and encourage compatible land uses within the Fort Selkirk setting. The intent is to manage and direct any proposed development so that the views to the surrounding natural features, and heritage sites would be unaffected. The natural area is a buffer around the core heritage site consisting of the built-up townsite.

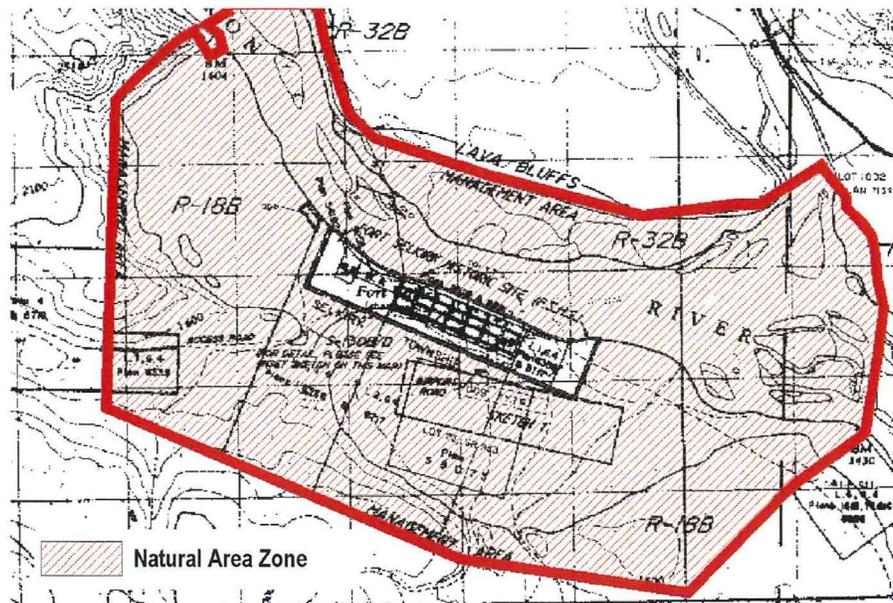


Figure 7 Fort Selkirk Management Area boundary

Preservation Area "A" - The objective is to preserve the context of, and provide a buffer for, major archaeological sites and buildings. No temporary or permanent structures would be constructed with the exception of interpretive signage; garbage containers and outhouses may be permitted if deemed essential and screened to reduce their obtrusiveness.

Preservation Area "B" - The objective is to preserve view corridors, and the context of major archaeological sites and buildings, while allowing reuse of existing structures, additional restoration or reconstruction, provided such developments are consistent with site history and are constructed in accordance with the adopted design guidelines.

A modest number of SFN member cabins (or other First Nations people with approval from SFN) could be permitted here following completion of an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed building site, but the preferred location is downstream of the work camp. Tent frames and other seasonal camp facilities would also be acceptable. Future servicing requirements to accommodate resettlement needs more careful study prior to development.

Visitor Services & Maintenance Areas - The objective is to concentrate all visitor and staff services in one area and identify the location of the main boat landings and trails required to access site features. Two boat landing areas are provided, one in front of the Hudson's Bay house near the centre of the site for day-users and commercial tours and a second, close to the campground for overnight visitors. Two types of trails are identified on the map. Existing heritage trails that provide access to features such as Victoria Rock and the cemeteries are noted. The trail to the airstrip and along the back of the developed portion of the townsite is intended for maintenance ATV's and other motorized equipment. The work camp would not be relocated and the campground expansion would be contained to the south. Concentrating the main visitor facilities in one location allows for some future shared use and helps control the impacts on other uses.

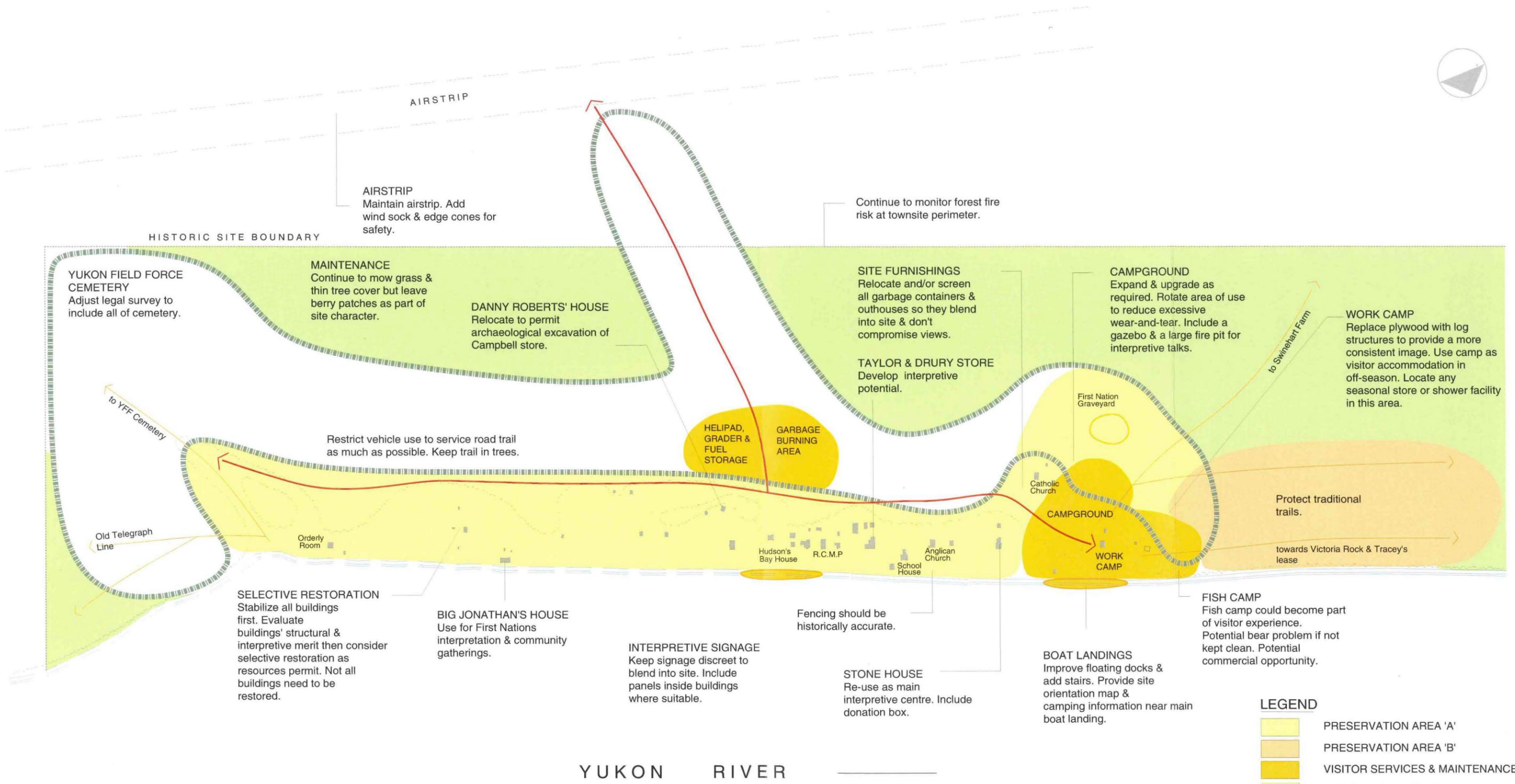
The types of land use activities permitted within the management area boundary (**Map 1**: following page) could have significant impact on protection of Fort Selkirk's heritage and visitor experience values. For this reason, the following actions are recommended:

- Continued withdrawal of these lands from mineral claiming, prospecting and mining;
- Adoption of special management procedures and/or zoning controls to be incorporated into the Selkirk regional land use plan;
- Application for land use in the vicinity of Fort Selkirk be circulated to the Fort Selkirk Management Group for review and comment prior to approval.

10.2 Site Management Organization

Fort Selkirk should continue to be managed under the guidance Of the Fort Selkirk Management Group with equal representation from the Yukon Territorial Government and Selkirk First Nation. The Fort Selkirk Management Group should have direct access to budgetary planning process for the Heritage Branch and First Nation.

There should be investigation in to the feasibility of creating a "Friends of Selkirk" type management body that could access federal and philanthropic funding as well as operate revenue generating aspects of the site.



FORT SELKIRK HISTORIC SITE

MAP 1: MANAGEMENT PLAN

not to scale

LEGEND

	PRESERVATION AREA 'A'
	PRESERVATION AREA 'B'
	VISITOR SERVICES & MAINTENANCE
	NATURAL AREA ZONE
	BUILDINGS
	TRAILS
	SERVICE ROAD
	EXTENT OF TREE TRIMMING/CLEARING
	BOAT LANDINGS

10.3 Implementation Priorities

The following chart identifies a range of projects involving both ongoing implementation of the 1992 Preservation and 1994 Interpretation plans plus additional initiatives brought forward in the public review of the 1990 Management Plan.

Action Plan

Action Required	Priority	Timing	Order of Magnitude of Costs	Responsibility
Continue work camp building replacement, improve boat landings and construct stairs	1	Short-term	2*	YTG Tourism/SFN
Expand and rotate campground, screen and relocate outhouses and garbage cans as required	1	Short-term	1	YTG (Parks)
Complete outstanding Preservation Plan recording and stabilization projects	1	Short-term	4	YTG Tourism/SFN
Complete site artefact inventory and improve storage conditions	1	Mid-term	3	YTG Tourism/SFN
Train crew member as onsite technician to systematically inspect the buildings each season to determine stabilization and maintenance needs and act as artefact curator	1	Short-term	2	YTG Tourism/SFN
Restore the exteriors of selected buildings and partially restore and refurbish the interior of specific buildings (i.e. Taylor & Drury Store, Baum, Blanchard cabins, RCMP detachment, school) as resources are available	3	Mid-term	4	YTG Tourism
Complete outstanding Interpretive Plan projects and update oral history collection	2	Short-term	3	YTG Tourism/SFN
Hire at least one trainee interpreter annually	1	Short-term	1*	YTG Tourism/SFN
Develop training/skills development program for maintenance & service staff	1	Short-term	2*	SFN/YTG Tourism
Coordinate a minimum of one Elder/student onsite visit and special cultural event at Fort Selkirk per year	1	Annually	1*	SFN/School Council

Key for Order of Magnitude (Cdn \$): 1~0- 10,000, 2~10,000- 50,000, 3~50,000- 100,000, 4~100,000-500,000
 (* denotes ongoing or annual costs)

Action Plan (continued)

Action Required (continued)	Priority	Timing	Order of Magnitude of Costs	Responsibility
Prepare information and interpretive material for off-site use and reference in curriculum development	2	Short-term	2	YTG Tourism/SFN
Establish links with other First Nation heritage centres and sites and consider using Fort Selkirk as a training site	3	Mid-term	1*	SFN/YTG Tourism
Encourage private sector development of a regular boat service between Pelly Crossing and Fort Selkirk to encourage day use and complement existing service from Minto Resorts	1	Short-term	1	SFN
Administer river and highway traveler survey for at least one more year to confirm support for specific service improvements and obtain additional data to assess user fee options	2	Short-term	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Prepare a Marketing plan to actively promote site awareness and visitor use opportunities	3	Mid-term	2	YTG Tourism/SFN
Examine feasibility of off-season use of work camp facilities	2	Short-term	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Develop suitable land use policies for buffer zone and incorporate into regional land use plan	3	Mid-term	1	YTG Tourism
Complete historic site designation and mining claim withdrawal processes	1	Short-term	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Examine the feasibility of additional onsite commercial concessions to meet visitor needs	3	Mid-term	1	SFN
Investigate the feasibility of creating a "Friends of Ft Selkirk" non-profit society	3	Mid-term	1	YTG Tourism/SFN
Develop new off-site visitor opportunities such as brushing out the trail to Victoria Rock to offer visitors more varied opportunities	3	Short-term	2	SFN

Key for Order of Magnitude (Cdn \$): 1~0- 10,000, 2~10,000- 50,000, 3~50,000- 100,000, 4~100,000- 500,000
 (* denotes ongoing or annual costs)

Appendices

- + Sample Interpretation Work Plans
- + Schedule 'A' – Fort Selkirk Historic Site,
Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement

FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTERPRETATION

- Goal:** Provide more resources to the Fort Selkirk interpretation program.
- Objective:** Job Description for Interpreter Trainee.
- Concern Addressed:** Hire an interpreter trainee to learn from and assist Danny Roberts & Maria Van Bibber. By starting work a month before field season commences, the interpreter could organize a school field trip to the site and a pilot interpretive program for the summer season.
- Justification:** Strengthen links between historic site and Pelly Crossing community; help plan a pilot special program on site during field season; opportunity for younger person to learn about and foster the legacy of Fort Selkirk.
- Timeframe/Cost:** This could be implemented for the 2000 field season. Approximate salary would be \$12 per hour for 12 to 16 weeks = \$5400-\$7200 (based on 37.5 hour week).

Action Steps	By Whom	When	Results Expected
1. Hire interpretive trainee. Should have strong interest in Northern Tutchone culture & good organizational/people skills.	Fort Selkirk Management Group	To start four weeks before field season commences. (Late April?)	Further development of already successful Interpretive program.
2. Pre-season: Working with SFN and Eliza Van Bibber School, help plan Fort Selkirk field trip. Also do planning for pilot program during field season – determine events, ask Elders, plan advertising, etc.	Interpreter Trainee & Maria Van Bibber working with school staff & Elders, possibly also someone to help develop curriculum.	During 4 week period before field season.	Successful school field trip to Fort Selkirk and a well-organized pilot program.
3. Field season. Assist Danny & Maria in greeting/orienting visitors, conducting tours, campground clean up, etc.	Interpreter Trainee	Field Season	Lessen workload for Danny and Maria, positive work experience for trainee.
4. Pilot Program. On Parks Day help organize and deliver special visitor's program.	Fort Selkirk Interpreters	Parks Day	A successful program to be a good learning experience and model for future events on site.
5. Ongoing Training. Learn from Danny & Maria, record the senior interpreters' stories, become familiar with <i>Fort Selkirk Interpreters Manual</i> and other resources.	Interpreter Trainee	Throughout Field Season.	Better knowledge of Fort Selkirk & Northern Tutchone culture; learn to provide a good experience for visitors.

FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTERPRETATION

- Goal:** Provide interpretive programs at Fort Selkirk.
- Objective:** Organize and deliver a pilot interpretive program for Parks Day.
- Concern Addressed:** Invite more Elders to Fort Selkirk to meet with visitors, organize special gathering for Pelly Crossing residents and visitors.
- Justification:** Strengthen links between Pelly Crossing and Fort Selkirk, attract visitors by providing special event.
- Timeframe/Cost:** Parks Day (July 15), costs for advertising, honoraria, food (if provided), transport between farm and Selkirk.

Action Steps	By Whom	When	Results Expected
1. Consult Maria and community members to determine possible events, participants and contributions.	Interpreter trainee, Maria Van Bibber, community members.	Month before field season	Community involvement in planning project.
2. Determine resources required (will food be served, transport for Elders, props, etc.) and costs (e.g. Elders' honoraria, advertising).	Interpreter trainee working with community resource people	Month before field season	Community involvement in project.
3. Re-assess project to determine if it is achievable. Are costs too high? Is there a better way of doing some tasks? Re-organize accordingly.	Interpreter trainee working with community resource people	During month before field season	Project assessment to ensure successful project.
4. Do final organizing. Check participants still coming, arrange any last minute substitutions, ensure advertising is taking place, etc.	Interpreter trainee working with Maria, community people & Heritage Branch	Week or two before Parks Day	Ensure participants are ready for event.
5. Help with last minute logistics: arrange transport for Elders & resource people to site, set up areas for special events, etc.	Interpreter trainee, Maria, work crew & others.	Day or two before Parks Day	Ensure event will run smoothly.
6. The event! Do whatever is needed to make the event go smoothly. Be a good host to the visitors.	Interpreter trainee, Maria, Danny, work crew & others.	Parks Day	An enjoyable experience for Pelly residents and visitors.
7. Document the event. What have you learned? What worked and what didn't? What could be improved next year?	Interpreter trainee consulting other participants	During the week after Parks Day	Create community confidence to organize other events.

SCHEDULE A

FORT SELKIRK HISTORIC SITE

1.0 Definitions

1.1 In this schedule, the following definition shall apply.

"Fort Selkirk" means the lands described as Fort Selkirk Historic Site on map "Fort Selkirk Historic Site, (FSHS)", in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement which, for greater certainty, excludes Parcel S-130B/D.

2.0 Establishment

2.1 As soon as practicable following the Effective Date of this Agreement, Canada shall cause fee simple title in respect of any lands forming part of Fort Selkirk which are under the administration of Canada, to be issued in the names of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory and the Selkirk First Nation as tenants in common.

2.2 As soon as practicable following the Effective Date of this Agreement, the Yukon shall cause fee simple title in respect of any lands forming part of Fort Selkirk which are under the administration and control of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, to be issued in the names of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory and the Selkirk First Nation as tenants in common.

2.3 Fort Selkirk shall be designated as an historic site under the Historic Resources Act, S.Y. 1991, c. 8, as soon as practicable following the issuance of the fee simple titles referred to in 2.1 and 2.2.

2.4 The historic site designation under the Historic Resources Act, S.Y. 1991, c. 8 shall not be removed from any lands forming part of Fort Selkirk, without the consent of the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon.

2.5 If the Yukon acquires:

Block C - North half of the East one-half of Block C, (N½ of E½ of Block C) measuring 250 feet along First Avenue and 120 feet along Third Street, containing a measurement of 30,000 square feet, Townsite of Selkirk, Plan 8392 CLSR, 8392 LTO; and

Block C - Lots 6 and 8, Townsite of Selkirk, Plan 8392 CLSR, 8392 LTO,

or any part thereof (the "North West Company Lands"),

the Yukon shall cause fee simple title in respect of the North West Company Lands to be issued in the names of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory and the Selkirk First Nation as tenants in common and the boundaries of Fort Selkirk shall be amended to include the North West Company Lands.

2.5.1 For greater certainty, if the boundaries of Fort Selkirk are amended to include the North West Company Lands pursuant to 2.5, the historic site designation under the Historic Resources Act, S.Y. 1991, c. 8 of Fort Selkirk shall also apply to the North West Company Lands.

2.6 Yukon acknowledges that the Selkirk First Nation shall have the entire beneficial interest in and the exclusive right to determine the use, management and access to those lands identified as gravesites on map "Fort Selkirk Historic Site (FSHS)" in Appendix B - Maps which forms a separate volume to this Agreement.

3.0 Management Plan

3.1 A management plan shall be prepared for Fort Selkirk.

3.2 A steering committee shall be established to prepare the management plan referred to in 3.1.

3.2.1 The steering committee shall be comprised of six members, of whom three shall be nominated by Government and three shall be nominated by the Selkirk First Nation.

- 3.3 The steering committee shall make best efforts to recommend the management plan to Government and the Selkirk First Nation within two years of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 3.3.1 If the members of the steering committee are unable to agree on the provisions to be included in the management plan, Government or the Selkirk First Nation may refer the matter to dispute resolution under 26.3.0.
- 3.4 The preparation of the management plan shall include a process for public consultation, which for greater certainty, includes consultation with Yukon Indian People.
- 3.5 In preparing the management plan, the steering committee shall consider the interim management plan entitled "Fort Selkirk Management Plan" dated March 1990, which was prepared for the Department of Tourism, Heritage Branch, and the Selkirk First Nation.
- 3.6 Preparation of the management plan shall be guided by the following principles:
- 3.6.1 protection, conservation and interpretation of the Heritage Resources at Fort Selkirk in accordance with national and international standards as accepted or modified by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon;
- 3.6.2 recognition of the importance of Fort Selkirk to Selkirk People and protection of the use of Fort Selkirk by Selkirk People;
- 3.6.3 encouragement of public awareness of and appreciation for the natural and cultural resources of Fort Selkirk and surrounding area; and
- 3.6.4 provision of reasonable opportunities for the public to visit and appreciate Fort Selkirk.

3.7 The management plan may address all matters pertaining to the management of Fort Selkirk including:

- 3.7.1 its use by Selkirk People;
- 3.7.2 the nature and status of resources;
- 3.7.3 historic buildings;
- 3.7.4 archaeological resources;
- 3.7.5 burial sites;
- 3.7.6 public access;
- 3.7.7 land use impacts;
- 3.7.a the conditions of third-party use;
- 3.7.9 research in respect of the Heritage Resources;
- 3.7.10 economic opportunities for the Selkirk First Nation associated with Fort Selkirk; and
- 3.7.11 other matters as agreed upon by Government and the Selkirk First Nation.

4.0 **Approval and Review of the Management Plan**

- 4.1 The Minister and the Selkirk First Nation shall jointly approve the management plan for Fort Selkirk.
- 4.2 If the Minister and the Selkirk First Nation are unable to agree upon the provisions of the management plan, the Minister or the Selkirk First Nation may refer the matter to dispute resolution under 26.3.0.
- 4.3 Government and the Selkirk First Nation shall jointly review the management plan no later than five years after its initial approval and shall consider the need for review of the management plan at least every five years thereafter, provided that the management plan shall be jointly reviewed at least every 10 years.
- 4.4 The management plan approved under 4.0 shall be the "Approved Management Plan".

5.0 Economic Opportunities

5.1 The Selkirk First Nation shall have the first right to accept any contracting opportunity associated with Fort Selkirk offered by Government, the Selkirk First Nation, or Government and the Selkirk First Nation on the same terms and conditions as would be offered to others.

5.2 The Selkirk First Nation shall have the first right to all economic opportunities at Fort Selkirk identified in the Approved Management Plan provided that activities arising from such opportunities shall be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Approved Management Plan.

6.0 Implementation

6.1 Government and the Selkirk First Nation shall manage Fort Selkirk in accordance with the Historic Resources Act, S.Y. 1991, c. 8, and the Approved Management Plan.

6.2 A management committee shall be established to implement the Approved Management Plan.

6.2.1 The management committee shall be comprised of six members, of whom three shall be nominated by Government and three shall be nominated by the Selkirk First Nation.

6.3 The management committee shall implement the Approved Management Plan in a manner consistent with the principles set out at 3.6.

6.4 The management committee may consider implementing the Approved Management Plan in stages.

6.5 If the management committee is unable to agree upon the manner in which to implement the Approved Management Plan, the Minister or the Selkirk First Nation may refer the matter to dispute resolution under 26.3.0.

6.6 Nothing in this schedule shall be construed to confer upon an arbitrator appointed under 26.7.0 to resolve a matter referred to dispute resolution pursuant to 3.3.1, 4.2 or 6.5, any power to determine resources to be provided in connection with Fort Selkirk by either the Selkirk First Nation or Government.

7.0 Interim Measures

7.1 Unless otherwise agreed by Government and the Selkirk First Nation, Fort Selkirk shall be managed in accordance with the interim management plan entitled "Fort Selkirk Management Plan" dated March 1990, which was prepared for the Department of Tourism, Heritage Branch, and the Selkirk First Nation for a period of two years from the Effective Date of this Agreement or until the management plan prepared pursuant to this schedule is approved, whichever is earlier.

8.0 Management of Adjacent Parcels

8.1 The Selkirk First Nation shall manage Settlement Land, and Government shall manage Crown Land, within the area outlined by a dash-dot line designated as "Management Area" on map "Fort Selkirk Historic Site, (FSHS)", in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement, in a manner consistent with the principles set out in 3.6.

8.1.1 For greater certainty, Settlement Land within the Management Area includes Parcel S-130B/D and portions of Parcels R-18B, R-32B and R-42B.

9.0 Property Taxation

9.1 Fort Selkirk and the improvements thereon shall not be taxable provided that:

9.1.1 the Commissioner in Executive Council is the taxing authority in respect of Fort Selkirk;

9.1.2 Fort Selkirk is designated as an historic site pursuant to the Historic Resources Act, S.Y. 1991, c.8; and

9.1.3 the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory and the Selkirk First Nation own Fort Selkirk as tenants in common.

10.0 Restrictions on Transfer

10.1 Neither the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory nor the Selkirk First Nation shall transfer, assign, lease, encumber or otherwise dispose of any of its interest in Fort Selkirk without the consent of the other.

11.0 Mines and Minerals

11.1 Canada shall withdraw the mines and minerals within Fort Selkirk from locating, prospecting and mining under the Yukon Quartz Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and the Yukon Placer Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, from exploration and development under the Canada Petroleum Resources Act, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c.36, and from staking out a location for the mining of coal and from issuance of a **licence** to explore for coal pursuant to the Territorial Lands Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7.