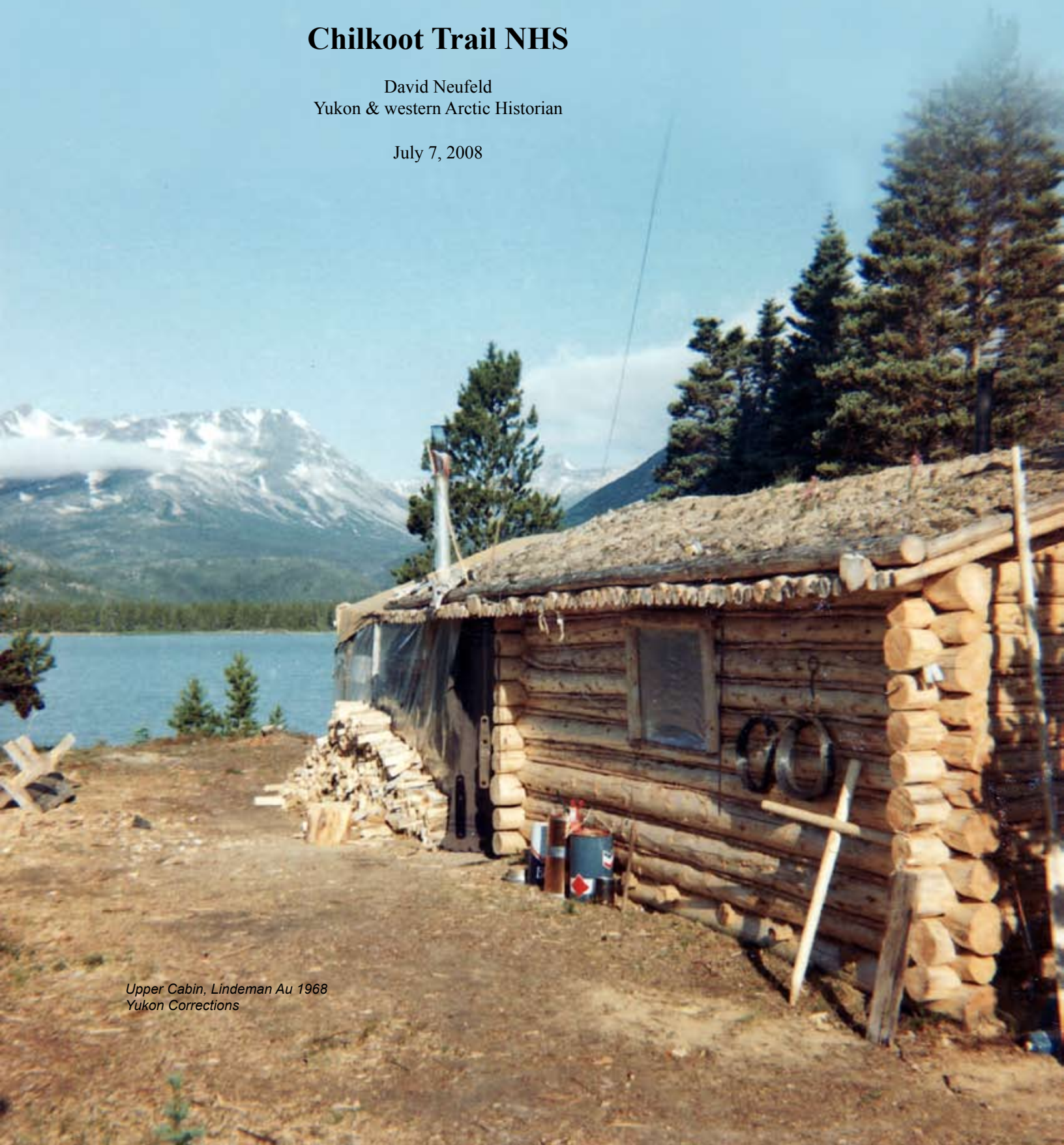


Cultural Resource Background Log Cabin Shelters at Lindeman

Chilkoot Trail NHS

David Neufeld
Yukon & western Arctic Historian

July 7, 2008



*Upper Cabin, Lindeman Au 1968
Yukon Corrections*

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Background

This note provides historical information for a CRM/FHBRO evaluation of the two log cabin shelters (Upper and Lower Cabins) located at Lindeman in the Chilkoot Trail NHS. The note is premised upon the Level 2 cultural values and messages associated with both the work of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC) work crews and the facilities they constructed. It also provides a summary of the use of the cabins and some suggestions for addressing the NHS CRM responsibilities.

Corrections Work on the Trail

The work of Yukon Corrections staff and work crews in the re-development of the trail is recognized as a Level 2 resource/message in the Chilkoot Trail Commemorative Integrity Statement. "The evolution of the site's use over time and its identity including the development of recreational use of the trail corridor are acknowledged." (CIS, 11.)

Construction of the Chilkoot Trail and its early infrastructure, including the two cabins under study here, was due to the interest and initiative of Corrections officials in both Alaska and the Yukon Territory. The Alaskan's were first off the mark with WCC work crews beginning to clear the trail in the summer of 1961, returning each summer until replaced by Alaska park staff in 1968. Among the work crew's accomplishments were the clearing and marking of the trail to the boundary and the construction of two cabins, one at Canyon City (1962) and a second, to the same design, at Sheep Camp the following year. (Norris, 60, 64) The design of these cabins appears to be the model for those subsequently built at Lindeman.

On the Canadian side of the pass trail re-development started in the fall of 1967 when a Yukon Corrections crew marked out a route. (Norris, 80) The following summer, and for five more years, Yukon Corrections staff and work crews set up camp in Lindeman and began clearing the trail, cleaned up a camp ground at Lindeman, built bridges and erected the two cabins at Lindeman. Upper Cabin was built in late July and early August, 1968 while Lower Cabin, started in 1969, was not completed until the summer of 1970. Lower Cabin became the work crew's preferred location due to its more sheltered location, access to fresh water from Moose Creek and better access for boat landing. (Norris, 81) The Yukon Corrections crew last worked on the trail in the summer of 1973. The following year all operations and maintenance were taken over by Parks Canada. (Norris, 140)



Dogteam coming into Lower Cabin, Lindeman, March, 1991. D. Neufeld

Lindeman Cabins Construction History



Upper Cabin, Lindeman, late 1960s.
Yukon Corrections.

This chronology of the construction of the Lindeman cabins is drawn from the logs of the Yukon Correction crew for 1968 and 1969.

During the term of these two logs, the crew also cleared the whole trail on the Canadian side of the border, cleaned up the Lindeman camping area, constructed the Lindeman Creek bridge and treadway in wet parts of the trail. The logs provide considerable detail on these works as well.

NOTE: RM is RG McLaughlin, JM is JB Maloney.

Upper Cabin, Lindeman, Je, 2008.
D. Neufeld



1968 Chilkoot Trail Log

Jy19 Friday - Upper Cabin location selected, near head of original Chilkoot trail south. RM

Jy22 - "Found some good trees (Pine) for the cabin across the lake. Spent the day cutting and peeling logs. Most of the trees are small and unsuited for log cabins." RM

Jy23 + 24 - "Cutting and peeling logs." RM

Jy25 - "We have hauled 32 logs across the lake, it takes 7 minutes a trip. We finished cutting and peeling logs today, 54 in all." RM

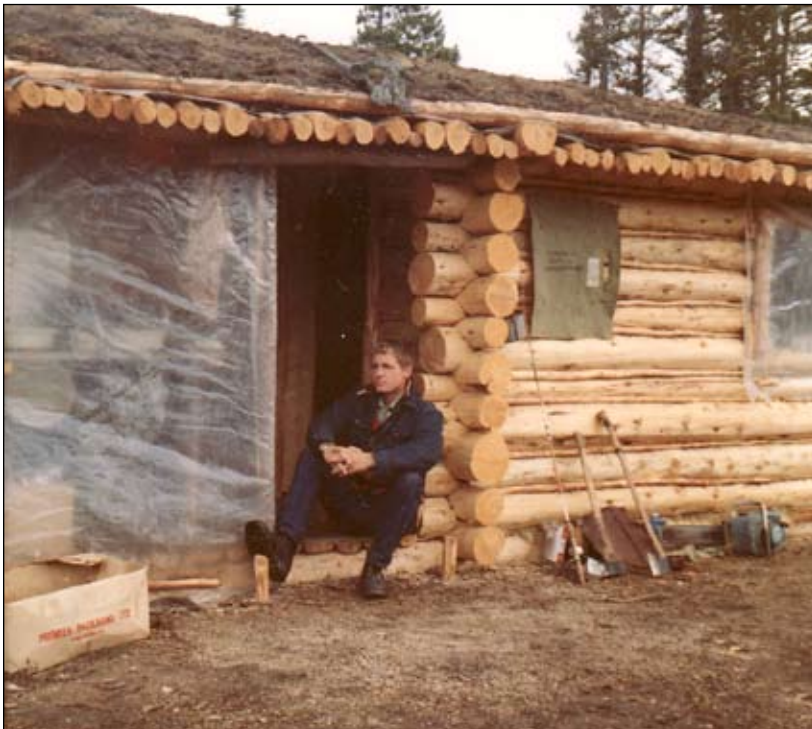
Jy26 - "We finished hauling the last of the logs across the lake. And now we are clearing the site for the cabin." RM

Jy27 - "We are putting up the walls of the cabin." RM

Jy29 - "Cut poles for the floor joists." RM

Jy30 - "Putting in floor joists and starting on wall of cabin." RM

R.G. McLaughlin relaxing on the deck,
Upper Cabin, Lindeman, 1968.
Yukon Corrections



Jy31 - "3 men are cutting and peeling logs for roof of cabin." RM

Au1 - "Cabin is taking shape now." RM

Au2 - "Just one other row of logs will finish the cabin walls." RM

Au3 - "3 men cutting and peeling roof logs." RM

Au4 - a few photos taken of cabin. RM

Au6 - "The crews were cutting & peeling (sic) log for the roof. Two men were putting up rafters." JM

Au9 - "We have enough split for the floor & the roof is almost completed." JM

Au10 - worked on cabin in AM. "To Date (sic) we have completed the wall which are eleven logs high and the roof which took 180 small logs 10' long and had to be carried 500 to 600 yds." JM

Au12 - "MacIntosh cut his left index finger to the bone with wood chisel, it should have had stitches." JM

Au13 - work on cabin continues. JM

Au14 - "We started to put the sod on the roof. We had sick parade a 0745 HRS with three fingers to bandage... The men worked exceptionally well today, And showing quite a lot of pride in this project." JM

Au15 - "The men are cutting the material for the outhouse and well." preparing for move of camp tomorrow. JM

Au16 - "we are moving everything today. The new kitchen is set up and all the supplies are moved. The men are still working setting up their tents." JM

Au17 - "I found the main camp moved to the cabin site, it is well put up and it seems to be a real happy camp." RM

Au19 - one man working on the well, another cleaning cabin site and a third cutting and peeling logs for the toilet. RM

Au21 - Visitors (Commissioner Smith, Director of Corrections VL Ogison and Mr. Cunningham, Chief Supervisor) inspect Lindeman camp. RM

Au23 - "I marked more trail to Bennett and carried (sic) over 100 bottles to the cabin." RM

Se1 - "The mice are getting bad in the cabin, running all over you, when you are sleeping." RM

Se7 - Outhouse completed today. JM

Se10 - "The men are cutting material for bunks & door." JM

Se13 - "Mr. Deneron and I put the bunks in today." JM

*Upper Cabin at Lindeman, 1968.
Note the log floor joists cut into the
foundation logs. The plastic covered
pole frame was the camp kitchen
and food storage area. The cabin was
used for WCC staff accommodation.
Yukon Corrections*



CHILKOOT TRAIL PROJECT - 1968

WORK PROJECTS COMPLETED

1. ONE 16' x 14' LOG CABIN

Floor: Supported by 3' x 20' stringers with supports every 2 feet and covered by 3" slab material (all hand sawed).

Roof: Has 1 in 4 pitch and is supported by 3' x 20' stringers. Has approximately one hundred and sixty (160) logs, 10' long and 4"-5" in diameter. Logs were covered with heavy plastic on which was laid 4" of moss and 4" of soil.

Shelves and two wooden bunks were constructed in the cabin.

The large material for this cabin, forty-six logs, had to be cut, peeled and towed across Lake Lindeman. The roof logs were packed approximately six hundred yards.

2. BRIDGE:

This is a single span, all timber bridge, overall length of 52 feet, consisting of:-

Two abutments, 6' in diameter and 7' high with rock ballast. Each abutment has a 10' timber approach.

The unsupported span is 32' long consisting of four transoms and decked with 2½" hand-sawed planking.

A handrail runs the length of the bridge.

Clearance at high run-off will be approximately six feet.

The large material on the project was towed across Lake Lindeman and packed 1/3 mile up the hill.

3. ONE 8' GRIBBED WELL

4. LOG OUTHOUSE

5. GRIBBED AND CLOSED GARBAGE DUMP

Chilkoot Trail Project - 1969 Camp Log and Diary

Jy10 - bad week for working on the trail. "It rained till lunch time, so we had the men cut and seal (sic) logs for another cabin next year. If we don't use them for that we can use the logs for fire wood as we are always short." RM

Jy11 - "We have 27 logs cut and peeled as of today." RM

Jy12 - "Crew cut logs." JM

Jy14 - "We cut material for re-construction of the graveyard. The men are working well." JM

Jy15 - "Two of the men stayed cutting material for the graveyard." JM

Jy16 - "The men worked on restoring the graveyard." JM

Jy17 - "The men completed the graveyard today." JM

Jy29-31 - Crew at fly camp near summit, marking and setting trail Summit to fly camp. RM

Au1 - "[Part of] the crew hauled logs across the creek to where the new cabin will be." RM

Au4 - "Two of our crew painted the cabin, outhouse, and bridge with clear shellac. Tomorrow they will do the small bridge." RM

Au7 - "We were burying glass and cans [in the camp area.]" JM

Note: Previous to this note in both 1968 and 1969 there were references to cleaning up the camp, presumably this meant disposal of tins and glass.

Au8 - "It rained hard most of the day, but we managed to get a few hours in burying rubbish." JM

Au9 - Men worked in camp "burying glass, cans etc." JM

Au16 - Day off to celebrate Discovery Day. JM

Au18 - previous notes detailed bridge construction "The bridge was completed today. The bridge is a two bent type with an overall length of sixty-ne feet of bridge proper with the abutments in both cases being bed-rock." JM

Au19 - "We crossed the lake to cut long base log for the cabin. We managed to get enough material by mid-afternoon..." JM

Au20 - "The men worked peeling (sic) log and other small jobs in the camp area." JM

Au21 - "The men are digging holes for the garbage dump and toilet at the new camp site." RM

Au22 - "The men are still working at the new cabin site." RM

Au23 - "We are still working at the new cabin site." RM

Au25 - "We all went to the bridge near the tracks and half the crew worked around the bridge while the rest worked on the sign at the tracks. We are burning the words Chilkoot Trail in a log weighing about 250 lbs." RM

Au26 - "[Two men] went to the tracks and finished the Chilkoot Trail sign. The rest of us went to the summit and brought back a sleigh in good condition and a collapsible boat." RM

Au30 - "We did some sign burning..." JM

Se1 - Parks Canada/US NPS trip overnights in Lindeman and tours site. JM



Significance of the Corrections Work Camp Experience

Addressing the Level 2 cultural resource values and messages related to the work done by Yukon Corrections staff and work crews in re-developing the trail includes two components; the work done by work crews and corrections staff and the social effects of this work.

The work accomplished is evidenced by the physical presence of the present hiking trail, generally located along the route of the gold rush route, a number of bridges (some of which have been replaced and others upgraded), the relocation of several larger artifacts to interpretive points, the clearing of bottles, cans and other gold rush detritus from the campgrounds and the two log cabins at Lindeman. All of these items should be evaluated for their level 2 cultural resource values. Consideration should also be given to the heritage messages related to this work that might be communicated on the trail or other supporting media.

The social effects of the corrections work can be divided into two parts; the use of the trail development project for inmate rehabilitation and the community and national effects of the opening of the trail as a recreational hike. The rehabilitation value of the time spent by inmates on the trail are difficult to quantify but the chance to work on the trail and make a positive contribution to their community appears to have had positive benefits. The 1969 Yukon Corrections Annual Report offered this assessment:

The six men (the inmate work crew) selected to go were a diverse group and ranged in age between 17 years and 45 years of age. They were serving sentences for a variety of offences ranging from petty theft to breaking offences, from fraud to assault. The oldest inmate, a French Canadian, was appointed cook and did an excellent job of keeping the inner man at peace with himself and his fellow workers. Two natives put their latent woodcraft talent to work in the finishing of the well and outhouse.

Work projects were shared equally except where one man might show exceptional ability in any particular task and everything worked out smoothly. Discipline was good and only on a few rare occasions were more than few words of reprimand required to settle any possible situation before problems arose.

Upon interviewing two of the three inmates on their return from the Chilkoot each had welcomed the opportunity to take part in this project. They had gone out with certain reservations and even with the idea of putting in "easy time". This idea was quickly removed when they found that the supervisors probably worked as hard, if not harder, than they were required to do, they were treated like men, so long as they behaved as such, and no nonsense would be tolerated....

While there is no guarantee that this type of project is the best in aiding in the rehabilitation of offenders sentenced to jail it can certainly encourage good work habits and do much to help a man regain some measure of self respect....

I am satisfied that this is only the start of many similar projects which can be undertaken by this Department. The community at large will benefit from this type of venture while suitable training will be given to inmates selected to work in this setting. (3-4)

WCC work party accommodation at Lindeman, 1968.
Yukon Corrections



The activities of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre on the Chilkoot Trail are part of a relatively short period in Canadian corrections history when rehabilitation overtook punishment and penitence as the basis for policy. It appears the Chilkoot Trail work was an innovative and early application of community-based rehabilitation programming, perhaps among the first in Canada.

The Royal Commission on the Penal System of Canada (1938) raised the reformation of the offender as an objective, equal to the protection of the community, for the correctional system. Little effective movement towards this end was made by the mid-1950s when the Fauteaux Inquiry (1956) reaffirmed rehabilitation as the primary objective of corrections. This trend, which assumed offenders had been “damaged” in growing up, became known as the *medical model*. The continuing lack of apparent effectiveness of rehabilitation programming in correctional institutions resulted in a change in emphasis to community-based corrections in the late 1960s. By the early 1970s there was a broad recognition that reformation of offenders was more effectively pursued in community-based facilities and programs and an expansion of such programs took place across Canada. This initiated what became known as the *reintegration model*. The work of the WCC work crews on the Chilkoot Trail appears to be an early example of these transformations in Canadian corrections policy. (Griffiths, 360, 410)



Construction of the first bridge, over Moose Creek near Lindeman, Au 1968.
Yukon Corrections

There is also evidence the trail was used to promote maturity amongst young people in a similar way. Since the 1930s different groups had hiked the trail to build character amongst, largely, young men. In 1973 a group of boys and girls from the Yukon Juvenile Training Home hiked the trail as a growing up exercise. (Neufeld, 148-49)

Water well at Lindeman, Au 1968.
Yukon Corrections

The community interest in the redevelopment of the Chilkoot Trail also gained a great deal of public support for its re-opening access to a valued regional cultural landscape. In September, 1969, John Lammers, President of the Yukon Conservation Society, praised the work;

Several reports... [noted] the excellence of the work done by the people of the Whitehorse Correction Institute on the Chilkoot Trail and the meeting registered great enthusiasm about this fact, the increased establishment of hiking trails in various areas of the Yukon being one of the Yukon Conservations Society's endeavours. (Yukon Corrections)

Thus it appears the redevelopment work tapped into a broader community, and ultimately national, interest in recreational hiking and the exploration of Canada's cultural landscapes.





*Upper Cabin, Lindeman, Mr, 1991.
D. Neufeld*

Cabin Purposes and Continuing Use
(Christine Hedgecock, personal communication)

The cabins, originally built to house the WCC Chilkoot construction crew and to provide hikers with a warm up shelter, continue to play an important role on the trail. The public safety value offered by the cabins is a year round function with both summer and shoulder season hikers using it to dry out. While winter use is more limited, the presence of the cabins effectively makes Chilkoot Trail NHS a year round recreational and learning opportunity thus facilitating a fuller addressing of mandate.

The cabins also play an important iconic role for Chilkoot Trail visitors. Used as navigational aids for hikers through the 1970s the cabins have also hosted a wide range of social event and celebrations by people who especially value the trail. The cabins were an anchor point for interpretation, viewing of artefacts collected and placed there by the WCC crews and group discussion of visitors' trail experiences The cabin is also often cited as a welcome respite in the trail log books and feature as iconic representations in many hikers' sketchbooks and photo albums.

The cabins fulfill an important social role for many different groups on the trail. They remain potent symbols of personal self-worth by members of the WCC work crews that originally built them and are fascinating indicators of community corrections policy history. Thus they carry considerable weight as reminders of the difficult times for First Nations in Yukon during the 1960s and 1970s.



*Winter use of Lower Cabin, Mr, 1991.
D. Neufeld*

Lindeman Cabins Modifications History

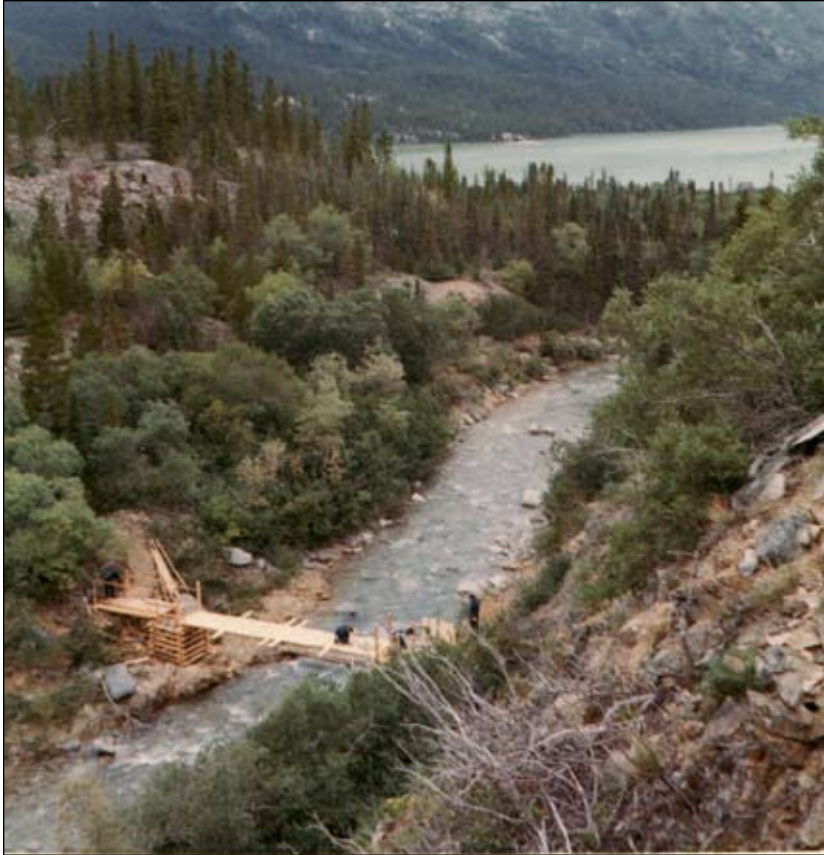
The original fabric of the cabins is largely intact, although some elements have deteriorated somewhat over the years. A series of minor changes and renovations have ensured that the cabins continue to meet hiker needs in a safe way. However, it is becoming apparent that significant work is required if they are to continue to do so.

The most significant renovation was the removal of the original dirt roof from both cabins. In the 1990s it was apparent that the weight of the roof was a major structural load. Further, the original plastic sheet membrane had broken down and no longer provided a waterproof seal for the roof. Consequently the dirt roof on both cabins was removed and replaced. Many, if not all, of the original roof poles appear to have been kept in place when the dirt and the degraded plastic sheeting was removed. The new roof, a board and batten design, maintains the same thick appearance of the original by use of wide boards on the edges. The Lower Cabin renovation also included the addition of internal supports for the sagging main beam of the roof.

Other renovations include the covering of the original split log floor with particle board providing a smoother surface and the replacement of the windows within the existing sash in both cabins. Heating stoves were installed in both cabins by the early 1990s but this was subsequently reduced to a stove only at Upper Cabin when stoves were replaced a number of years later.

*Lower Cabin, Lindeman, Je, 2008.
D. Neufeld*





Lindeman Bridge under construction,
Au 1968
Yukon Corrections

Recommendations for Acknowledging the Development of the Recreational Trail

The central element of the development of the Chilkoot as a recreational trail is clearly the work initiated and carried forward by the work crews and staff of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, thus it is important for site management and operations to acknowledge and present these as a set of Level 2 cultural resources. This work not only developed the trail and related facilities, but met both community and national interests in access to this relic cultural landscape. It suggests connections to the larger use of “captured labour” (Depression relief and conscientious objectors in WW II) in the development of Canadian national parks and historic sites. It also appears to have been an interesting, and possibly innovative, part of the history of community-based corrections in Canada. Finally, it is also the personal legacy of those individuals who spent time on the Chilkoot establishing a route, brushing out the trail and undertaking the hard bush work of cutting timber and building cabins and bridges to make the trail experience both safe and hospitable.

In order to address the Level 2 commemorative integrity requirements of recognizing “The evolution of the site’s use over time and its identity including the development of recreational use of the trail corridor...” (CIS, 11) a number of actions are possible.

Fixed Assets

- The trail itself is already a Level 1 resource and its continuing management should take into account evidence of the work of the WCC work crews.
- Although a number of the bridges and walkways constructed by the WCC work crews have been either replaced or modified, a record (details to be discussed) of the original structures should be maintained.
- The two cabins at Lindeman and other ancillary trail constructions built by the WCC crews should be evaluated for both their Level 2 heritage values and screened for FHBRO. (This work is planned for summer/fall, 2008)

Heritage Messages

- The story of the WCC crew work on the trail should be communicated, either on the trail itself and/or other off-site media.
- Additional research on the significance of the trail work by the WCC in Canadian corrections history should be undertaken to enhance the site’s presentation of this story.
- Consideration should be given to identifying and acknowledging those individuals, both work crew and staff of the WCC, who contributed to the development of the trail as we know it today.

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Lower Cabin, Lindeman, March, 1991.
D.Neufeld



Upper Cabin, Lindeman, Je, 1008
D. Neufeld

