Thanks to all the individuals, organizations and communities who helped make Canada Day in the Canyon a huge success, including: Yale First Nation, the Yale and District Historical Society, Fraser River Rafting, Spirit of BC Committee, Canadian Pacific Railway, Telus and BC Transmission Corporation.

Thanks for helping to make our Canada Day First Nations performers dance their way into crowd’s heart

The Siska Dancers drummed and danced their way into the hearts of the Canada Day crowd in Yale. Made up of members of the Siska Indian Band, the troupe performs at powwows and community celebrations. Their pride in their heritage and culture shows in their dancing and singing. They were part of an entertainment line-up at Yale that included performers like Hayley Sales, Black London and Evans Palmer. Performers dressed in period costume and portraying some of the colourful characters from B.C.'s past provided street theatre. As well, the crowd enjoyed historic walking tours and river rafting trips in zodiacs.

Thanks for helping to make our Canada Day

First Nations performers dance their way into crowd’s heart

Canyon Canada Day celebration in historic Yale launches New Pathways to Gold Society

Over 350 people watched the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Iona Campagnolo crown a very special Canyon Canada celebration in historic Yale. Her Honour gave the same “stump speech” delivered by Gov. James Douglas to a crowd of over 10,000 people in 1858, the height of the Fraser River gold rush. The speech and high tea afterwards capped the first event staged by the New Pathways To Gold Society - an event that saw lots of great music, good food and living history. Her Honour travelled to Yale aboard a special train provided by Canadian Pacific and was greeted by Yale First Nation Chief Bob Hope. Following the speech, Her Honour was presented with a silver salmon medallion with a golden eye (the gold was from a local sandbar) and flowers. The event was staged in partnership with the Yale First Nation, the Yale and District Historical Society, local businesses and corporate sponsors.

“This day is a great example of what we can achieve in 2008 if we all work together,” said NPTGS co-chair Chris O’Connor. “First Nations, communities, local organizations and business all pulled together with Her Honour to make this a truly memorable start to the celebrations to come.”

First Nations performers dance their way into crowd’s heart

The Siska Dancers drummed and danced their way into the hearts of the Canada Day crowd in Yale. Made up of members of the Siska Indian Band, the troupe performs at powwows and community celebrations. Their pride in their heritage and culture shows in their dancing and singing. They were part of an entertainment line-up at Yale that included performers like Hayley Sales, Black London and Evans Palmer. Performers dressed in period costume and portraying some of the colourful characters from B.C.’s past provided street theatre. As well, the crowd enjoyed historic walking tours and river rafting trips in zodiacs.

First Nations performers dance their way into crowd’s heart

Thanks for helping to make our Canada Day

NPTGS’ next big event: The Fraser River War Symposium

The New Pathways to Gold Society and the Lytton First Nation shine a light on a shadowy chapter in B.C.’s past this fall with the Fraser River War Symposium. Organized by NPTGS University Caucus Chair and U Vic historian Dr. Dan Marshall, this conference will examine the tumultuous events of 1858, which led to a little-known war that could have escalated had it not been for the diplomacy of Chief Spintelum of the Nlaka’pamux First Nation.

This critical yet largely unexplored event in Canada’s history will be the focus of a special three-day symposium in Lytton, September 21-23. Symposium participants will not only hear from First Nations’ spokespeople and representing a variety of academic institutions, they will also learn of this watershed moment in our history and the legacies and lasting consequences of this conflict that are still being felt today.

Contact Don Hauka for more information on this event.

For more information on the New Pathways To Gold Society, please contact Don Hauka, Communications and Creative Director, at 604-524-1884 or ddclauka@shaw.ca.