

New Pathways to Gold

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Summer 2016 eNewsletter

NPTGS gets fresh start thanks to new funding



Mile 0 of the Cariboo Waggon Road was a fitting spot for the New Pathways to Gold Society to begin the next phase of its journey down the Gold Rush/Spirits Trails.

MLAs Jackie Tegart (Fraser-Nicola) and Donna Barnett (Cariboo-Chilcotin) were on hand at Lillooet city hall on April 22 to present the NPTGS Executive with a cheque for \$500,000 from the provincial government. The new funding will enable the Society to continue to create economic development opportunities via heritage tourism and First Nations reconciliation in the Hope-Barkerville corridor.

NPTGS Co-chair Terry Raymond said the funding will allow NPTGS to continue work on initiatives like the Alexandra Bridge Project, the Gold Rush All Seasons Trail and corridor marketing programs.

And Cheryl Chapman, NPTGS First Nations Co-chair, added that partnering with First Nations has been a key factor in the Society's success to date. Since being founded in 2007, NPTGS has raised and/or leveraged over \$4 million for projects and contributed over \$3.5 million to local communities. Working with its partners, the Society has also built or restored over 230 kilometers of heritage trails, launched and/or completed 17 major projects and staged 150 events, performances, symposia and lectures.

For more information, visit the NPTGS [website](#).



"Battle of the Birds" takes flight at Talking Stick Festival

The "Battle of the Birds" took flight in February at the Talking Stick Festival in Vancouver, earning critical acclaim and playing to packed houses. This groundbreaking community engagement theatre creation led by Kevin Loring and his Savage Society theatre troupe is based on a traditional Nlakap'amux story. The production featured an award-winning cast and is full of songs derived from collaborations with professional artists working with community members. The piece is part of the "Songs of the Land" project, a collaboration between NPTGS, Savage Society and several arts agencies. Loring hopes to continue to develop the project this summer, so stay tuned.

Partnership creates jobs, training and heritage/recreation assets



NPTGS is teaming up with local organizations and government to provide new skills for workers, new amenities for heritage and recreation sites and a boost to the Cariboo's economy under the Jobs Creation Partnership (JCP) program.

Five participants have been hired to work on four separate phases of the \$400,000 project that will see upgrades to heritage/recreational sites and First Nations communities in the

region. They'll gain experience in log building and trail construction as well as learning other valuable skills during the 36-week project.

The Canim Lake First Nation (Tsq'escenemc), Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail Regional Management Committee, Highway 24 Ice Caves Project, Government of Canada, Province of British Columbia and the Recreation Sites and Trails Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations are also project partners.

The JCP program is administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation. For more information, check out the NPTGS [website](#).

Cedar-bamboo home movies a hit at Chinese Cultural Centre Museum

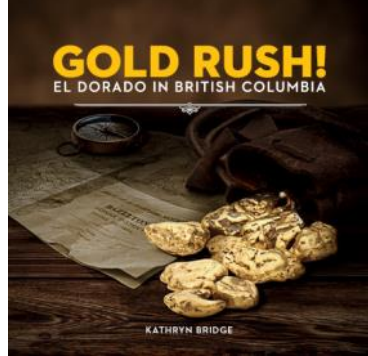
Dr. Henry Yu and Sarah Ling got a chance to show a few of the home movies they took during the Cedar-Bamboo Rafting Expedition in 2013. They presented a lecture co-organized by the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia and the Royal B.C. Museum and hosted by Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver in April. "Gold Mountain Dreaming and the History of the Cantonese Pacific" was well-received at the event, held at the Chinese Cultural Centre Museum in Vancouver.

Alexandra Bridge Site Project workshop sees big buy-in

The Alexandra Bridge Project got a big boost from the Spuzzum First Nation (SFN) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) at a workshop on April 1. The session to work out further details of the project's business plan, held in Chilliwack, was facilitated by Bob Purdy from Fraser Basin Council.

A sizable contingent from the SFN helped the other project partners roll up their sleeves and work on details like parking, infrastructure improvements and marketing. They were encouraged by assurances from Tracy Cooper that the ministry and the provincial government support the project and want to see it succeed.

The project partners will continue to work on the details of the business plan for the project to preserve and restore the iconic 1926 Alexandra Bridge structure and revitalize the surrounding site as a world-class heritage tourism asset.



Canadian Museum of History exhibit plugs New Pathway to Gold

Visitors from all over the globe are getting a glimpse at the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails corridor at the Canadian Museum of History's "Gold Rush! El Dorado in British Columbia" exhibit. Organized by the Royal B.C. Museum, the exhibition features nearly 300 artifacts from the tumultuous 1858 gold rush that kick-started modern B.C. And visitors can take home a plug for the New Pathways to Gold in the souvenir program, which has a picture supplied by the Society inside. The museum has sold nearly 1,000 catalogues in both official languages and had almost 11,000 visitors tour the exhibit in April. It runs until January 15, 2017. For more information on the souvenir catalogue, check out the museum [website](#).

HBC Heritage Trail grand opening double the fun



Hundreds of people had double the fun at the Hudson's Bay Company Heritage Trail Grand Openings on the Victoria Day long weekend. Participants flocked to events at either end of the spectacular 74-km trail between Hope and Tulameen (near Princeton). Organized by the Hope Mountain Centre, both events were smashing successes.

So many folks turned up in Tulameen on May 21 that the bannock and coffee ran out. On May 22, not even the rain could dampen the crowd at Peers Creek trailhead, where there were displays, costumed re-enactors and a black powder rifle blast that officially opened the trail. NPTGS Co-chair Terry Raymond attended the Peers Creek event.

The HBC Heritage Trail offers hikers and horseback riders an adventure through spectacular terrain of the Cascade Mountains. NPTGS is part of the partnership that restored this ancient trade route for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. Check out the details at the Hope Mountain Centre [website](#).



Xat'sull Heritage Trails Project prompts overwhelming response

There's been an overwhelming response to the Xat'sull Heritage Trails Project. So many people want to be part of the crew building the network of multi-purpose trails linking to historic Gold Rush trails around Deep Creek and Soda Creek (Xat'sull), some are volunteering their time to learn more about trail building in case there's a chance to join the crew later.

The project in the traditional territory of the Secwepemc People is a partnership between the Xat'sull First Nation, NPTGS and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT). NPTGS is providing \$30,000 towards the project. NDIT is providing matching funds.

Multicultural Director Lily Chow a tireless worker



On any given day, Lily Chow can be found meeting with high officials from China or the Deputy Speaker of the B.C. Legislative Assembly, travelling the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails Corridor unearthing stories about the cedar-bamboo connection, proofing the latest edition of one of her books or keeping tabs on a global conference to be held in Vancouver. And that's just a typical morning...

NPTGS's Multicultural Director, Lily's a tireless worker and advocate for realizing the potential of the GR/ST Corridor. This spring, she's been continuing to build connections between corridor communities and key

players in China, Victoria and elsewhere. Building these relationships and telling the stories she's unearthed has helped earn her not one but two Queen's Jubilee medals and a host of other honours.

"Lily is amazing," says NPTGS Co-chair Terry Raymond. "She contributes so much to the board and to the communities. We're very fortunate to have a person of her calibre as a director."

NPTGS First Nations Co-chair Cheryl Chapman says Chow has done more than any other researcher to document the cedar-bamboo relationship between the early Chinese pioneers and First Nations.

"The cedar-bamboo connection helped lay the foundations of modern British Columbia," said Chapman. "Lily has shown us that this relationship continues to create opportunity and enrich this province as we move into the next millennium."

Lily was born in Malaysia and lived in Canada since the 1960s. She taught in the Prince George School District and at the University of Northern British Columbia. Her first book, *Sojourners in the North*, won the Jeanne Clark Local History Award and is used as a textbook in many colleges and universities. Her latest book, *Blood and Sweat over the Railway Tracks*, won the third place award in the 2014 Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historical Writing.



Gold Country Fam Tour gets warm welcome in the Hot Spot

Gold Country's 10th annual Familiarization tour was warmly received in the Hot Spot of Lytton on May 31. The 17 participants hit the Hot Spot's highlights, including taking the reaction ferry across the Fraser River, the caged walking path beside the train bridge and Ken Glasgow's outdoor gallery. Gold Country CEO (and NPTGS Director) Terri Hadwin notes that "Bernie Fandrich (of Kumsheen Rafting) was an excellent guide with tons of local knowledge." Check out the Gold Country [website](#).

The New Pathways To Gold Society is a community-based organization dedicated to continued reconciliation with First Nations, investment in BC heritage and economic development. NPTGS gratefully acknowledges the support of the [BC provincial government](#).

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.