

# New Pathways to Gold

## September 2009 eNewsletter

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### Heritage Trails project pumps \$2M into corridor communities

Communities from Hope to Barkerville and beyond will get a chance to restore and promote some of their most famous heritage trails thanks to \$2 million from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts to the New Pathways To Gold Society.

The grant, announced in April, will enable communities and other heritage partners to help rediscover and restore the network of trails along the corridor's historic routes like the Cariboo Wagon Road and the Douglas Trail.

"Corridor communities have the opportunity to develop more tourism opportunities in the Fraser River corridor by the conservation, development and promotion of these historical gold rush and First Nations trails and other heritage features," said NPTGS co-chair Byron Spinks.

The NPTGS board and support staff are hard at work consulting with communities, heritage groups, regional districts and First Nations to get shovels in the ground as soon as this fall. The project reflects the NPTGS' goal of increasing economic activity along these historic routes. The area encompasses the Hope to Barkerville corridor, the Harrison Lake-Lillooet Lake-Seton Lake-Lillooet route and the Hudson's Bay Fur Brigade trails east of Alexandra Lodge.

NPTGS hopes to use the grant to leverage additional infrastructure money from government, business and corporate sponsors for the initiative. The Society has already been awarded \$154,850 by the National Trails Coalition to fund a portion of trail in the South Cariboo. [atch the NPTGS website](#) for updates. [More on this story online.](#)

### Heritage Tourism Project: Time to share again

*Time to share again* is a heritage tourism project that puts local researchers to work gathering stories and ideas that First Nations and non-First Nations communities in BC can share with each other and the world. The results will be new heritage tourism products, attractions and events to draw visitors to our communities so they can become part of our story.

This NPTGS initiative (in partnership with [Aboriginal Tourism BC](#)) will see First Nations and Multiculturalism researchers going into the field after Labour Day to consult with First Nations and non-First Nations communities along the Fraser River corridor from Hope to Barkerville. They'll talk to people in the corridor about their communities and the contributions that First Nations as well as other cultures have made to the region.

In addition to gathering and recording stories of all kinds, the researchers will be looking for songs, tall tales, poems -- whatever folks feel comfortable sharing. The researchers also want to hear any ideas you may have for events, programs, plays or other heritage tourism products like posters, promotions or videos.

The material gathered by the researchers will be used to develop heritage tourism products about our shared history and cultures in British Columbia. They will develop events to promote new, heritage tourism economic opportunities throughout the region. The NPTGS plans to roll out the results of the project over the next one-three years. The goal is to make the project results an on-going contribution to the heritage tourism base of the corridor.

### Symposium offers teachers hands-on history lesson

*The Pathways to Gold: Heritage Resources for BC Educators Symposium* will bring together 25 BC teachers with academics, heritage facility operators, aboriginal tourism experts and Heritage Branch officials to come up with a strategy to capitalize on BC's living history.

Organized by NPTGS support staff, Event Coordinator Gisele Marion and with assistance from Brent Rutherford, this three-day symposium (Sept. 24-26) is designed to build connections between stakeholders within the heritage tourism and academic sectors and to make better use of existing heritage assets to enhance the classroom experience. The event is at capacity, with more applications than there are seats.

"All School District representatives and local Teachers' Associations enthusiastically support our project, as well as recognize its value to teachers and students," said Rutherford, a retired educator from 108 Mile House.

Barkerville and Cottonwood House will host the symposium, which will focus on encouraging educators to make use of the "hands-on" learning opportunities afforded them at BC heritage sites and new education resources like the NPTGS and partners documentary *Canyon War: The Untold Story*. It will also offer new perspectives on BC history, including a more inclusive telling of our shared heritage, with special emphasis on the contribution by different ethnic groups to the province's development.

Another key component of the symposium is presenting educators with First Nations perspectives on BC history and on aboriginal tourism/heritage opportunities to enhance the classroom experience in partnership with [Aboriginal Tourism BC](#).

Educators will work with NPTGS staff and a facilitator to devise a strategy to be used regionally in the Hope-Barkerville corridor with the intent of taking it province-wide as a next step. Teachers from five school districts (Prince George, Quesnel, Cariboo-Chilcotin, Gold Trail and Fraser-Cascade) will attend.

### Chasing the Golden Butterfly takes flight



MP Chuck Strahl does a little hi-tech treasurer hunting with the help of geocache expert Justin Moore.

*Chasing the Golden Butterfly*, the NPTGS and partners heritage tourism initiative, is a hit. Folks from all over the globe are chasing butterflies from Hope to Barkerville and beyond using a combination of a traditional passport and hi-tech geocaching.

Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl used the program to find the Hot Spot in Lytton.

"It's a great program and it's creating a lot of buzz out there," said Strahl, who was impressed with the

partnership between NPTGS, tourism organizations, corporate and community partners.

The passport has pictures, fun facts and maps for living history sites on three different routes. They're free (and disappearing fast) and available at participating Visitor Centres, Husky and Mohawk stations and other partner outlets. Check the [NPTGS website](#) or [geocaching.com](#).

And geocachers are raving about the sites they've found. Here are some quotes from the over 500 emails NPTGS has received:

**From Walhachin Flume:** "Seeing the flumes and knowing the history made this spot even more interesting - thanks for bringing us here."

**From the Chinese Railway Worker's Monument:** "Incredible history - more people should stop here."

### Canyon War documentary gets green light for TV debut

A ground-breaking documentary that sheds light on a shadowy chapter in Canadian history is coming to your TV screen soon.



Eva Wunderman

Director Eva Wunderman says *Canyon War: The untold story*, will air on APTN and Knowledge Network some time in 2010. The film was made possible by a partnership between the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, the New Pathways to Gold Society, Heritage Canada, CN and BC150.

The documentary tells the tale of the events of 1858, when rich gold discoveries in the Fraser River ignited a violent war between First Nations and tens of thousands of invading gold miners.

Hosts Dr. Dan Marshall of the University of Victoria and Lytton First Nation actor and playwright Kevin Loring explore near-forgotten battlefields and bring the past to life with the help of dramatic recreations.

Look for updates [online](#).

### NPTGS Notes & News

#### Giving 'em a stern (wheeler) talking to:



NPTGS Communications Consultant Don Hauka was delighted to be invited to speak aboard the MV *Native* paddle

wheeler in early August as it recreated the 1858 trip of 500 miners to Port Douglas at the top of Harrison Lake. Hauka was invited by program coordinator Elisabeth Scotson to give a talk about the construction of the Douglas Trail, BC's first major road project, that connected the Lower Fraser and Lillooet. The trip also featured many First Nations stories told by Chief Willie Charlie of the Chehalis Indian Band.

#### Hot time had at P.M. Harper's BC BBQ:



Summer is the season for Canadian politicians to hit the barbeque circuit and find out what's on the voters' minds. These

"mix and mingle" sessions are great for networking and an event out in Cloverdale proved to be especially useful.

NPTGS support staff attended a barbeque held at Senator Gerry St. Germain's ranch in early August featuring Prime Minister Stephen Harper. While they didn't get to talk to the P.M., they did make valuable contacts with Sen. St. Germain, Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore, Secretary of State for Sports and the Olympic Games Gary Lunn and others. Staff are following up with the Minister and Sen. St. Germain to brief them on the corridor and its tremendous heritage tourism potential.

#### The call gave him butterflies:



*Vancouver Sun* columnist Stephen Hume is used to getting lots of feedback after his prose is printed, but this is one

phone call that took him by surprise. The woman at the other end of the line said she liked what Stephen had to say about her grandfather. Grandfather? Turns out that Jane Wong and her sister Elsie Lee are the granddaughters of Nam Sing, one of the historical characters whose story is told in the *Chasing the Golden Butterfly* passport. Jane and Elsie agreed to be interviewed by NPTGS Director Lily Chow, who wrote about Nam Sing in her book, *Sojourners in the North* (Caitlin Press, 1996). Jane and Elsie are two of three surviving granddaughters of the Chinese gold miner, packer and cowboy Nam Sing. Although they live in the Lower Mainland, they grew up in Wells during the 1930s and 40s.

### Dodging the muggles and FTF! What they're saying about Chasing the Golden Butterfly (and what it means)

How have geocachers, those hi-tech treasure hunters, reacted to this new kid on their virtual block? Well, as far as we can tell, the program's a big hit. Here's a sampling from some of the hundreds of folks who have emailed us:

#### From Historic Yale

"Great new series of caches. We enjoyed finding them. Hope you hide more. FTFH (*translation: Thanks for the hunt.*)"

#### The Packing House

"I got my second FTF (*translation: First to find*) on this one. It took some doing because this is one busy little cafe. It took twenty minutes for every muggle (ie. non-geocacher) to clear out of the front yard! Anyway, task completed. I think I'm going to like the "Chasing the Golden Butterfly" series.

[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 for [BC150](#) in 2008, and beyond.

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](mailto:ddclauka@shaw.ca).