NPTGS Directors help commemorate 1862 smallpox epidemic

There were prayers for the dead and lessons for the living on a special rafting trip down the Fraser River in August commemorating the 150th anniversary of the devastating 1862 smallpox epidemic.

Co-chair Cheryl Chapman, Secretary Brent, Ruthven and Director Dr. Ron Ignace made the five-day trip from Sheep Creek to Lillooet. Organized by the Secwepemc First Nation and Fraser River Raft Expeditions, the voyage saw participants give the victims of the epidemic a traditional goodbye.

Chapman said the public needs to know more about the epidemic. Some estimate up to 60 per cent of B.C.'s Aboriginal people perished -- some put the death toll even higher.

"Opportunities for sustainable community economic development along the trails are already being explored and implemented. Assistance needs to be provided to enhance these opportunities to share the real history for generations to come," she said.  

(full story)

Alexandra Bridge Project Gets Community Support

A coalition of First Nations representatives, heritage organizations, community activists, officials from all three levels of government and other supporters gathered at the trailhead just north of Alexandra Lodge to celebrate the grand opening of the Tikwalus Trail near Spuzzum.

The $98,000 Tikwalus Trail Project saw a 12-kilometre loop on Lake Mountain restored and interpretive signage installed along the route.

(full story)

Geocachers Hit Tikwalus Trail Early & Often

Avid geocachers are flocking to the Tikwalus Trail -- some even experienced the joy of being FTF (First To Find) within a few days of the caches were posted on geocaching.com this spring.

There are six NPTGS geocaches along the trail, including caches near spectacular vistas like the Chief Pahal-lak Viewpoint. The caches will be added to the Society's Chasing the Golden Butterfly geocache Heritage Trails Route later this summer.

Geocaching is an online “X-marks the spot” pastime that uses a Global Positioning System (GPS) device. And early responses indicate the Tikwalus Trail is a welcome addition to the program.

Check for updates online.

Old Stories, New Pathway documentary airs on Fairchild TV

Viewers across Canada got a chance to see Senators Vivienne Poy and Lilian Quan Dyck's journey of discovery through the historic Fraser Canyon thanks to Fairchild TV. Fairchild's Senior Reporter Claudia Lau covered the Senators' three-day tour. The result was Old Stories, New Pathway, a half-hour news documentary that aired on Fairchild's Magazine 26 program in May. Over 475,000 Chinese Canadians across Canada watch Fairchild TV each day, roughly 70 per cent of the Chinese population in Canada.

(full story)

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