



New Pathways to Gold

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Summer 2012
eNewsletter

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 Rutherford 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. [\[full story\]](#)

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](#).

Tikwalus Trail Grand Opening Highlight of Heritage Trails Program 2012



A crowd of just over 100 were on hand April 20 to witness an ancient trail getting a new lease on life.

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. [\[full story\]](#)



NPTGS Director Lily Chow awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee

It's only fitting that one of the **jewels of NPTGS's board** has received a medal marking the Queen's diamond jubilee.

Director Lily Chow has been awarded the medal in recognition for her community service, including her tireless work on the NPTGS board of directors.

The citation accompanying the medal praised Chow's decades of work in preserving B.C. heritage -- especially the Chinese-Canadian heritage she has worked to document and preserve. [\[more\]](#)

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 joined forces to help restore the Alexandra Bridge at a meeting in Hope on April 19.

NPTGS, Hope Mountain Centre and the Spuzzum First Nation are moving forward based on the input received during the community presentation. Phase II of the Alexandra Bridge Project is in the advanced planning stage and would see improvements to the park's Highway Pullout/Rest Area. The picnic area would be refurbished the trails upgraded and new interpretive signage would be installed.

Ladies of the Canyon Sing Out About the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails



The Ladies of the Canyon are singing out about their tour of the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails. Senators Vivienne Poy and Dr. Lillian Quan Dyck toured historic sites and communities from Hope to Lytton this April as guests of NPTGS.

"The New Pathways to Gold Society has the scope of vision in bringing forth the beauty and the history of the Fraser Canyon, encompassing the past and the future, capturing the lives of the First Nations people, the fur trade, the gold rush and the building of the CPR to the present **prosperity of British Columbia,"** said Senator Poy.

NPTGS wishes to thank all the heritage sites and community partners who played host to the senators. [\[full story\]](#)

Old Stories, New Pathway documentary airs on Fairchild TV

Viewers across Canada got a chance to see Senators Vivienne Poy and Lillian 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.