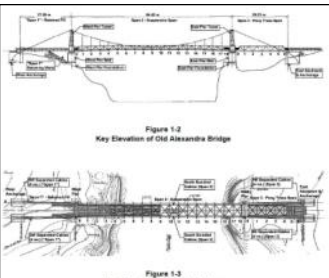


# New Pathways to Gold

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**Winter 2015/16  
eNewsletter**

## Working Group wraps up work on plan to re-invent 1926 Alexandra Bridge site



The Working Group formed to develop a strategy to save the historic 1926 Alexandra Bridge and develop the surrounding site's heritage tourism potential has completed its work. The group has largely completed a plan to re-invent the entire site.

The project's focus now shifts to developing a comprehensive economic contribution analysis. The completed plan will map out strategies for elements such as fund raising, community consultation and communications support to preserve the bridge and add new heritage tourism assets to the area.

The business planning process is being supported by an Oversight Committee composed of the Alexandra Bridge Project Partners lead organizations, including the Spuzzum First Nation, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and NPTGS.

## Spuzzum First Fish Ceremony builds bridge from past to present



The Spuzzum First Fish Ceremony on July 25 was a big success. About 400 people packed the Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park picnic area through the day. Good food, lots of great people and a wealth of networking - especially about the Alexandra Bridge Project. It's the second year the Spuzzum First Nation (SFN) has held this ancient ceremony in public.

The SFN is one of the lead organizations in the Alexandra Bridge

Project, a coalition of government, community and corporate groups with the common goal of making the preservation of the historic 1926 bridge a legacy project for the Canada150 celebrations in 2017. Other organizations include NPTGS.

## "Battle of the Birds" takes flight at Lytton River Festival



The "Battle of the Birds" took flight in September at the Lytton River Festival. This ground-breaking community engagement theatre creation led by of Kevin Loring and his Savage Society theatre troupe is based on a traditional Nlakap'amux story. Part of the Songs of the Land project, the production featured an award-winning cast and was full of songs derived from collaborations with professional artists working with community members.

"It was exciting to have worked with the community and a talented group of Aboriginal artists over the month of August to workshop and develop this performance piece," said Loring, a Governor General Award-winning playwright. "The whole thing was quite beautiful."

Loring and a team of First Nations artists worked with communities at workshops in Lytton to bring renewed life to this ancient Nlakap'amux story, one of dozens captured at the turn of the last century on wax cylinders by renowned anthropologist James Teit. Savage Society and NPTGS have been collaborating since 2013 to bring these stories to contemporary audiences.

The "Battle of the Birds" is also supported by the B.C. Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts and First Peoples Cultural Council Aboriginal Arts Awards.

## Xat'sull Heritage Trails Project links historic routes

A trio of partners are teaming up to bring new life to historic Gold Rush/Spirit Trails in the traditional territory of the Secwepemc People. The Xat'sull Heritage Trails Project is a partnership between the Xat'sull First Nation, NPTGS and Northern Development Initiative Trust.

The project will see the network of multi-purpose trails linking to historic Gold Rush trails around Deep Creek and Soda Creek (Xat'sull). The Deep Creek Recreational Trail will connect hikers to the Xat'sull River View Trail (part of the Cariboo Waggon Road).

NPTGS is providing \$30,000 towards the project. NDIT is providing matching funds.

## New bridge paves path to past and future at 108 Mile House

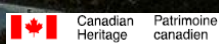


Prayers, singing and drumming on a sunny Canada Day morning marked the opening of a new bridge on an ancient trail that paves a path to both past and future.

The ornamental bridge across Sucker Creek near the 108 Mile Heritage site extends a portion of the original Cariboo Wagon Road. It will also serve as an entrance way to a cultural centre and museum being developed by the Northern Secwepemc Cultural Society.

The bridge is a joint-project of the NCSGS, NPTGS and a coalition of local businesses and organizations. NPTGS contributed \$25,000 towards the construction. It generated nearly 300 person-hours of work.

NPTGS First Nations Co-chair Cheryl Chapman and Secretary Brent Rutherford were on hand for the opening. The bridge project is a significant milestone in the overall cultural centre project.



**Director Lily Chow wins book prize**  
NPTGS Director Lily Chow's book, *Blood and Sweat Over the Railway Tracks: Chinese Labourers Constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway (1880-1885)*, was awarded the third prize at the Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Historical Writing. The book was co-published by UBC and the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC. Chow was presented with her medal at the BC Historical Federation Conference Awards banquet at the Billy Barker Casino Hotel in Quesnel, in May.

### Canyon War documentary screened at Royal BC Museum's Gold Rush Film Festival

*Canyon War: The Untold Story* was screened in Victoria as part of the Royal BC Museum's Gold Rush Film Festival on September 18. Director Eva Wunderman introduced the award-winning documentary that sheds light on a shadowy chapter of Canadian history. NPTGS is proud to have helped bring this story to an international audience.

### NPTGS supports Save-the-Salmon Traditional Pow-Wow in Horsefly

The Xat'sull Save-the-Salmon Traditional Pow-Wow September 11-13 held by the Xat'sull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) in cooperation with the Williams Lake Indian Band and the community of Horsefly, at the Horsefly Spawning Channels, was a success. NPTGS is a sponsor of this event which invites locals and tourists to honour the salmon and the environment.



### NPTGS sponsors Fraser raft trip

What better way to celebrate the Fraser River than by taking a raft trip through the wildest part of the river that runs through the heart of BC? That's just what a crew of enthusiastic participants did in September thanks to the support of NPTGS.

To honour Fraser FEST, a province-wide series of community festivals, NPTGS sponsored a rafting trip between Boston Bar and Yale that took the participants through Hell's Gate in the capable hands of Fraser River Raft Expeditions. The intrepid crew included heritage buffs, historians, First Nations leaders and trail builders.

Fraser FEST staged seven community festivals in September that saw participants learn the river's story as well as rafting, paddling, cycling and singing along the Fraser River.

### Gold Rush Trail marketing initiative chosen as model by Destination BC

It's been a busy year for the Gold Rush Trail marketing initiative. The project continued to beef up its social media presence, revamped its website and will have 50,000 Gold Rush Trail Travel Guides ready for distribution to visitor centres and stakeholders in the spring of 2016.

Perhaps even more significantly, the Gold Rush Trail marketing model has been identified as one that can be used by other regions in the province by Destination BC. Watch the NPTGS website for further details on this exciting development.

### Gold Rush/Spirit Trails Corridor MLAs support NPTGS projects

MLAs representing ridings along the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails got an update on NPTGS projects at the BC Legislature in late October. In exchange, the Society's team (accompanied by Spuzzum First Nation Chief James Hobart) got a "thumbs up" for NPTGS' work in corridor communities.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Donna Barnett (Cariboo-Chilcotin), Laurie Throness (Chilliwack-Hope), Simon Gibson (Abbotsford-Mission) and Jackie Tegart (Fraser-Nicola). NPTGS was represented by Co-chair Terry Raymond, Director Lily Chow and Executive Director Gord Rattray, accompanied by Chief Hobart.

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 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).