



# New Pathways to Gold

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**December 2012  
eNewsletter**

## Heritage Trails Program ramps up in 2012

The NPTGS Heritage Trails Program was in high-gear this season with major work done on two key trails. In addition to the work on the ground, NPTGS also led efforts to manage and market trails, communities and businesses in the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails corridor.



Left: Two members of the Princeton Sierra Fire Crew crossing the Tulameen River toward Horseguard Camp on the HBC 1849 Brigade Trail. Four camps were constructed along the trail this summer. Top right: Mike Millar (left) and Anders Hopperstead install one of the new interpretive signs along the Tikwalus Trail. The crew from the Hope Mountain Centre also cleared 30 fallen trees from the 12.5-km trail.

## HBC 1849 Brigade Trail Nears Completion

Helicopters, firefighters, lots of local businesses and dozens of volunteers teamed up to help transform the HBC 1849 Brigade Trail this season. Four campsites were built along the spectacular 74-kilometre route from Peers Creek (Hope) and Otter Lake through the Cascades.

Bear-proof food caches, backcountry toilets, bridges, benches and interpretive kiosks were among the amenities added to the trail. Core funding was provided by NPTGS, which has invested over \$130,000 in the project. Other funding was provided by and Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The effort was amplified by 130 hours of volunteer time and local companies donated materials and services worth thousands of dollars.

Four campsites were built during the season: Manson's Camp, Conglomerate Flats Camp and Camp Du Chevreuil and Horseguard Camp. The trail was also brushed and fallen trees removed, improving access for all, but especially those on horseback.

Next spring, volunteers will complete Horseguard Camp with an historic kiosk, tenting areas, benches and a fire ring. For more pictures and information on these trail improvements, check out the NPTGS blog at <http://www.newpathwaystogold.ca/blog>.

## Tikwalus Trail Gets Finishing Touches

A crew from the Hope Mountain Centre put some of the finishing touches on the Tikwalus Trail, just in time for summer. Carried out in late June and funded by the New Pathways to Gold Society, work included installing the last five of nine interpretive signs along the trail.

The route now offers powerful stories revealing its multi-layered human history, in addition to stunning scenery. Some 30 fallen trees were also removed from the 12.5-km trail. The project is a partnership between the NPTGS and the Spuzzum First Nation.



Members of the GRST Regional Management Committee (from left to right): Frank Wijme (Horsefly Chamber of Commerce), Robin Fennell (Clinton Outdoor Sportsmen Association), Larry Messaros (Green Lake Snowmobile Club), Jim Kirby (Performance All-Terrain Ltd. and 100 Mile Chamber of Commerce), Steve Law (108 Resource Management), Donna Barnett (MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin), Cheryl Chapman (Co-chair, NPTGS and Training and Product Development Manager, Aboriginal Tourism Association of B.C.), Joanne Doddridge (District of 100 Mile House) and Brent Rutherford (Secretary, New Pathways to Gold Society).

## Regional Management Committee set up for Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail

Local business leaders and community groups are teaming up to ensure the Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail continues to be an asset to the Cariboo. A coalition supported by the New Pathways to Gold Society has set up a Regional Management Committee to oversee the trail's upgrading and long-term management.

The Regional Management Committee was established at a meeting held October 16 at the Hills Health Ranch. Consultant Steve Law of 108 Mile will provide administrative support for the new Committee. The NPTGS Board of Directors has committed to support the new committee's work and assist them with resources.

The NPTGS provided assistance to an ad hoc advisory committee that has met over the last year and gave financial resources to develop a business plan that will provide direction to the new Regional Management Committee.

The trail between 73 Mile and Horsefly received major maintenance during the winter of 2009-10. NPTGS worked in partnership with many organizations on the project, including the District of 100 Mile House, First Nations and local contractors.

Approximately \$650,000 was spent on the trail, with funds coming from the National Trails Coalition, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Northern Development Initiative Trust and a provincial government Trails Development Grant. A key goal in forming the committee is to ensure the investments made in the trail are protected and benefits accrue to the Cariboo.

Law says more information on the new committee and the committee members will be provided in the near future once all the details have been finalized.

## Project Updates

Work continues on the **Alexandra Bridge Project**. NPTGS is partnering with the Spuzzum First Nation (SFN) to restore and revitalize this historic area in the heart of the Fraser Canyon. Working with BC Parks, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and CN, NPTGS and SFN continue to move the project forward.

And the planning process for the **Douglas Trail** (Harrison Lake to Lillooet Lake) is complete and the project shovel-ready. This project, a partnership between NPTGS and the In-SHUCK-ch Nation, is waiting pending the result of treaty negotiations.

## Three new Directors join New Pathways to Gold Society Board

Three distinguished First Nations leaders joined the New Pathways to Gold Society board of directors at the Society's quarterly meeting in Ashcroft on October 25. Joining the board are Chief Don Harris (T'seku), Roy Christopher and Irvine Johnson.

Chief Harris is the elected and hereditary Chief of the Xa'tsa Nation (also known as the Douglas First Nation). He's currently a member of the St'at'imc Chiefs Council Executive, Lower St'at'imc Tribal Council Executive, TTQ Economic Development Corporation Executive and the In-SHUCK-ch Resource Management Director.

Christopher has extensive experience as a business professional, administrator and leader. He has a long and distinguished record of serving the Canim Lake Band, the Cariboo Tribal Council and other First Nations organizations. He served as Chief of the Canim Lake Band from 1974-1993 and again from 2001-2005. He's currently the Economic Development Officer for the Canim Lake Band and the negotiator for the Education Jurisdiction process.

Johnson was born in Esk'et (west of Williams Lake) and raised by his grandparents, who he credits for his fluency in Secwepemc. A storyteller, historian and residential school survivor, Johnson was first elected Chief of Alkali Lake in 1971. He's worked actively in First Nations politics with the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs and is currently the Treaty Negotiator for the Esk'etemc.

The NPTGS board of directors is composed of 50-50 Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Directors and one designated Multicultural Director. Terry Raymond and Cheryl Chapman are the Society's co-chairs. The other Directors on the board are Brent Rutherford (Secretary), Byron Spinks, Chris O'Connor, Elisabeth Spinkworth, Lily Chow, Ron Ignace and Ron Paull.

## Gold Rush/Spirit Trails marketing initiative moves forward

The first phase of the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails marketing project is complete. The Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association (CCCTA) acted as the lead agency, working with consultant Susan Denbeck of Cadence Consulting to complete a strategy report which was guided by extensive stakeholder consultations. There has been significant, positive response from all communities. Funding for the project was provided through New Pathways to Gold Society via a grant from the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training.

Denbeck's initial report has been endorsed by the NPTGS Board of Directors. The strategy calls for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to marketing the communities, attractions and businesses in the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails corridor.

The initiative to reinvigorate and renew the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails brand is a partnership between NPTGS, the CCCTA, Vancouver Coast and Mountains Tourism Region, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, Aboriginal Tourism Association of B.C., Heritage Tourism Alliance, communities, businesses and organizations from Hope to Barkerville. Watch for further updates as this initiative moves forward.

A formal advisory committee has been established to oversee implementation of the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails marketing strategy.

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).