



Kwanlin Dün CULTURAL CENTRE



A newsletter about the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

Issue 2

May 2010



Winter is over and the ground is thawing. Building season is here! Down on the waterfront, at the end of Black Street, the Cultural Centre will soon be taking shape.

Over this past winter, the Steering Committee, architects, contractors and KDFN's Economic Development Department have been busy behind the scenes.

Until now, it's all been about planning, discussing, drawing and negotiating. But now there is heavy equipment moving and people have got their hard hats and work boots on. This long dreamed of project is starting to become a reality.

Construction of the Cultural Centre represents our symbolic return to our ancestral home on the Yukon River.

The facility in the downtown core will reinforce the physical presence of Kwanlin Dün as a central part of the broader Whitehorse community. The new centre will also add to the "Whitehorse Experience" for tourists and provide a focal point for KDFN citizens.

Centre News

Library Lease

The agreement to lease space to the public library was signed in November.

The lease will be for 10 years with an option to renew for another 10. We are very fortunate to be able to host the library as our long-term anchor tenant. The library will make a very fitting partner and the rent will cover KDFN's financing costs.

Funding

CDF funding for \$119,000 was recently approved. Some of this money will be used to hire a Project Development Manager. As the building is being constructed, the Manager and their team will busy planning and designing exhibits, audiovisual materials and public programs, doing marketing plans, and recruiting and training staff. When the building is ready to be open to the public, the centre will be busy and fully operational right from the start!

CDF funding is also paying for a Kwanlin Dün trainee to do a two-year training program. At the end of their training this person will take over as Executive Director.

Additional funding has been requested from the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) Canadian Heritage to go help with exhibit design and fabrication, interpretive panels and other materials, including video production.

Staff Recruitment

The Project Development Manager's position was posted at the end of April. Ads were published in the local newspapers and on specialised national websites such as the Canadian Heritage Information Network and the Canadian Museums Association.

The Project Development Manager will play a key role in the recruitment of all other staff needed at the Cultural Centre: Interpreter/hosts, an archivist, curator and public program manager.

We will be advertising for the trainee position over the next month or so.

Construction Milestones

Sept 30, 2009: Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Fall 2009: Site preparations start.

March and April 2010: First tender packages and sub-contracts awarded.

May 2010: Work at the site has started! The office trailer is in place and the construction power has been hooked up. The first job has been to move the overburden off the building area to speed up the thawing of the ground.

The big push will be to get the structure closed to the weather before the snow flies next fall. Work on all the floors, finishings, lighting, duct work and other interior work will continue through next winter and 2011.

Over the next few weeks, we plan to be doing some test drilling to help the technical design of the geothermal ground loop and to further test the technical and financial feasibility of using geexchange as the main heating and cooling energy source for the building.



Things are busy at the site. Trades people are getting ready to make the slab and do related electrical and piping work. Crews are clearing brush by the river.



The People

Architects: David Nairne & Associates (DNA), Vancouver

Contractor: The Dominion Kwanlin Dün Joint Venture

Project Manager: Simone Mandarino (Dominion)

Owner's Representative: Gary Bailie (KDFN)

General Manager, 42135 Inc: Ian Hawkes

Director, Economic Development: Saskia Bunicich (coordinates Project Team and government departments)

Steering Committee Members: New members are: Rick O'Brien, Alicia Vance, Rae Mombourquette (Heritage Officer), Nyla Klugie-Migwans and Marilyn O'Brien. Existing members: Ann Smith, Bill Webber, Elaine Shorty, Saskia Bunicich, Martin Crill (Economic Development Adviser) Craig Mitchell and David McIntyre (both from DNA architects).

The role of the Steering Committee is to advise staff on the content, themes and style of interpretive materials and public programs – on the "Telling Our Story" and "Teaching Our Story" components of the centre.