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FUNDING INCREASED FOR PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

WHITEHORSE – 2006 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Historic Properties Assistance program.

In recognition of this important anniversary, and of the need to preserve the important Yukon historic properties owned privately or by community-based organizations or First Nations, the Yukon government has increased its support to the Historic Properties Assistance Program, announced Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor.

“This year, the budget for this successful program has been increased to \$100,000 and the funding will assist Yukoners in the preservation of their unique history,” Taylor said. “These treasured resources are more than just personal property; they are a link to the past that all Yukoners and visitors can enjoy.”

Projects that have been funded include exterior restoration, cemetery stabilization, foundation replacement and roof repairs to a number of properties throughout Yukon. For approved projects, contributions of up to 50 per cent of the value of eligible project costs may be made available on a matching basis.

"On behalf of the Old Log Church Museum, I would like to thank the Yukon government for its commitment and financial support given to the museum through the Historic Properties Assistance Program," museum curator, Susan Twist said.

“As one of the oldest log structures in Whitehorse, this funding will allow us to replace the cedar shingles on the roof and maintain the historic value and architectural integrity of this wonderful old building that contributes to Yukon's unique cultural identity," Twist added.

The Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in will receive funding for the Moosehide Cemetery preservation and restoration project.

Director of Strategic Initiatives, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Gary Wilson said, “With the support of the Historic Properties Assistance Program and the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, we can begin work this summer on the Moosehide Cemetery preservation and restoration project. This is timely because it coincides with the bi-annual Moosehide Gathering.”

For further information on program criteria and guidelines, contact the Heritage Resources Unit at 667-3463 or email Heritage.Resources@gov.yk.ca.

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Attached: List of projects receiving funding in 2006-07

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Historic Properties Assistance Program:

The following projects will receive funding in 2006-07:

Caribou Hotel, Carcross: Anne Morgan, a co-owner of the Caribou Hotel, will receive \$14,249 to assist with the reconstruction of the foundation and basement of the Caribou Hotel.

Chambers House, Whitehorse: The Frostbite Music Society will receive \$11,716 for the exterior restoration of the Chambers House, a historic building that will be situated in Shipyards Park on the Whitehorse waterfront.

Moosehide Cemetery: The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation will receive \$11,830 to landscape two cemeteries at Moosehide and to stabilize historic grave fences and markers.

Old Log Church, Whitehorse: The Old Log Church Society will receive \$20,000 towards a project to replace the cedar shingles on the Old Log Church.

Pelly Farm Homestead and Blacksmith Shop: Great River Journey will receive \$21,085 for the stabilization of two buildings at Pelly Farm; the original homestead and the blacksmith shop.

Radio Repeater Station, Teslin: The Teslin Historical & Museum Society will receive \$10,000 for the restoration of this former WWII aircraft navigational facility, now located at George Johnston Museum. The building will be used to interpret the impact of the Alaska Highway on the people of Teslin.

St. Mary with St. Mark Church, Mayo: The Anglican Church in Yukon will receive \$1,150 for a structural assessment of the landmark Anglican Church in Mayo.

Tagish Trading Post: Paul and Judy Dabbs will receive \$575 to assist in upgrading the second storey floor structure of the main building at the Tagish Trading Post.

The Loon, Mayo: The Silver Trail Tourism Association will receive \$8,395 in order to restore the hull of the Loon, a former White Pass & Yukon Route work boat that plied the Yukon and Stewart Rivers for many decades.