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NEWS Briefs

LKFN seeks Treaty 11 signing location

The Liidlii Kue First Nation is trying to find where the 1921 signing of Treaty 11 took place in Fort Simpson.

"We do have a relationship with Canada and it is through the treaty relationship," Chief Gerald Antoine said. "We're researching the location of when this treaty site had occurred."

Antoine said he thinks having such information would be beneficial for when community tours are being done.

— Joseph Tunney

Free computer course in Nahanni Butte

Aurora College and the Nahanni Butte Dene Band are partnering to offer a free introduction to computers course in Nahanni Butte from Aug. 8 to Aug. 12, said Stephanie Betsaka, receptionist at the Nahanni Butte Dene band office.

The course aims to teach students basic computer maintenance, as well as how to check emails and how to safely research topics online. The course will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a location is still being determined, Betsaka said.

— Kassina Ryder

Elders and youth drawn together

A new summer program for youth aged 13 to 17 is starting up in Hay River Reserve the week of July 18, said recreation co-ordinator Sharon Pekok.

The program is scheduled to run for about five weeks and will include typical summer activities such as swimming, canoeing and nature hikes as well as cultural activities with elders.

Pekok said the goal is to encourage interaction between youth and elders through activities such as dry fish making, hand games lessons and traditional cooking over open fires.

Indoor activities will take place at the community gym.

— Kassina Ryder

Youth get lesson in archaeology

Youth in Kakisa are expected to participate in a traditional knowledge camp the week of Aug. 8, said Chief Lloyd Chicot.

Participants are expected to learn about traditional place names and look at some archaeological sites outside the community.

Elders are also expected to lead discussions on the history and significance of traditional place names.

"They'll explain the importance of the place names and why they're named that way," Chicot said.

— Kassina Ryder

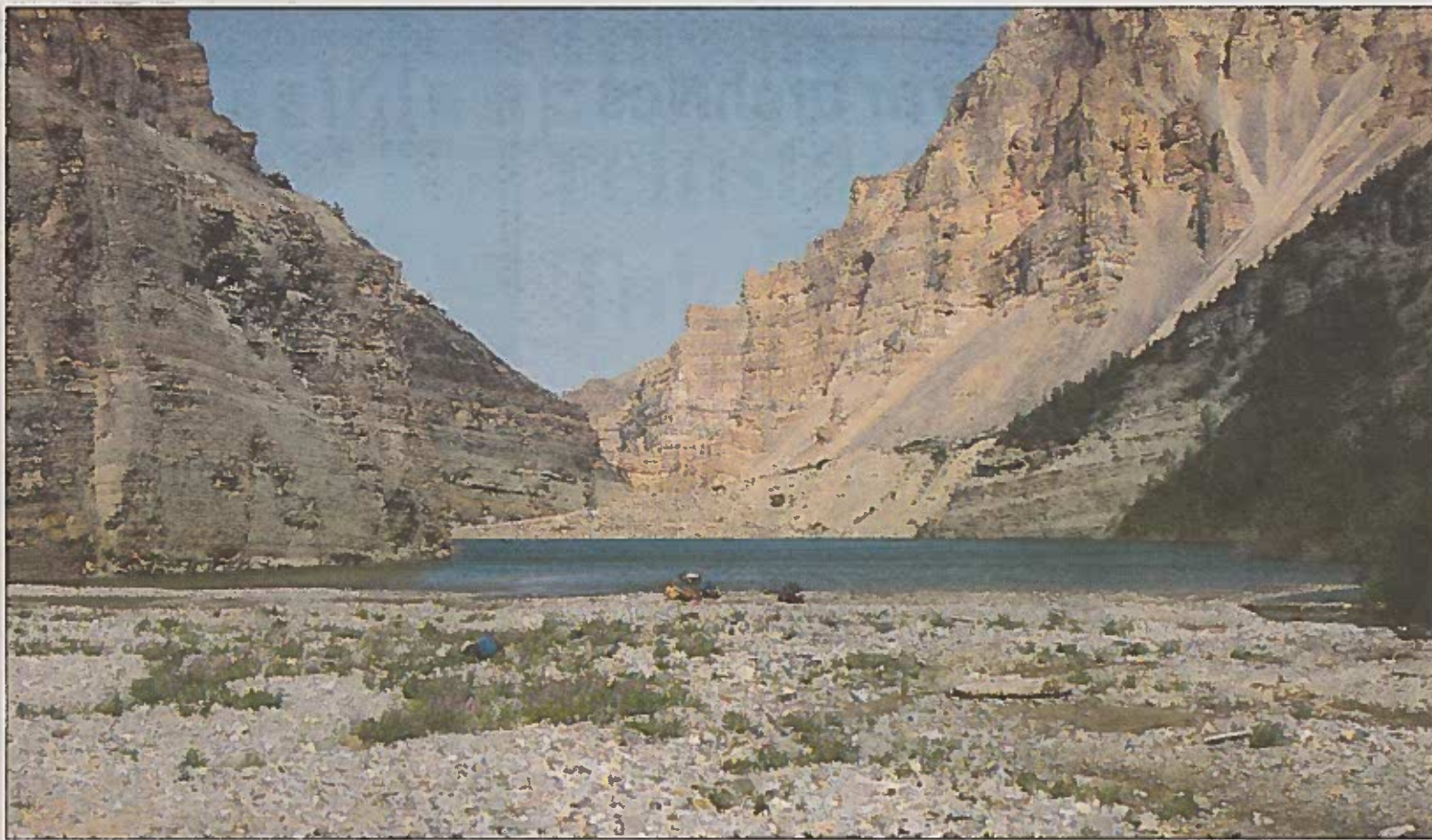


photo courtesy of Keith Hickling

Canol Trail Youth Leadership hikers rest beside a newly formed lake on the Canol Heritage Trail. The lake is believed to be the result of a landslide at Dodo Creek.

Hikers find newly formed lake on Canol Heritage Trail

Landslide believed to be blocking river

by Kassina Ryder
Northern News Services
Lil Goline/Norman Wells

Hikers on the 11th annual Canol Trail Youth Leadership Hike encountered an unusual obstacle the week of July 11 when a newly formed lake blocked their path.

"There has never been a lake. We usually cross this in about 20 minutes, half an hour, this section of the canyon," said hiker Norman Yakeleya. "Usually there is a little stream, a little creek. Once we came to it we noticed there is a whole new lake here."

Yakeleya has walked the Canol Heritage Trail each of the 11 years the youth leadership hike has taken place. The trail, which runs from Norman Wells to the Yukon border, was created during the Second World War to construct and maintain an oil pipeline.

The annual hike is open to Sahtu youth. Participants walk portions of the trail.

Yakeleya said the lake is located at about Mile 30 in Dodo Canyon and it appears that a landslide caused it to form.

The body of water is about half a kilometre long and about 180 metres wide, he estimated.

When the group arrived at the lake, they decided to test whether they could possibly walk through it to the other side.

"We thought maybe we could walk across it. We weren't too sure how deep it was," Yakeleya said. "We checked it out and there was no way that we could get across with our 60 pound packs. It was pretty murky at the bottom, pretty muddy."

Yakeleya said they soon realized they would have to walk around it.

"The group met for a while,

we discussed the route and we said, 'well, we gotta go around the mountain,' he said. "It took us three hours to go up on the east side of the bank up through thick bushes."

They broke a new trail and Yakeleya said though the climb was exhausting, the group treated the experience as a life lesson.

"Sometimes, life throws some surprises at you," he said. "We were jubilant when we started walking down the mountain on the other side of the lake."

Though he didn't know exactly when the landslide took place, Scott Elgert, a pilot with Canadian Helicopters, said he first saw water collecting in the lake in April 2015.

Elgert was flying over the area when he noticed a landslide had blocked Dodo Creek, causing a pool of water to form.

"I rounded the corner and noticed the lake had started to form behind the landslide," he said.

Elgert said the landslide didn't happen in one day. He had been watching the process take place over the course of two years.

"The rock slide that created the lake has kind of been falling over the last couple years," he said. "It started I think two years ago."

No matter when the lake was created, Yakeleya said encountering it was an ideal way to teach decision-making and leadership skills, as well as being a lesson on the unpredictability of life.

"We kept encouraging each other, we kept saying, 'This is leadership. This is what it takes to be a leader,'" Yakeleya said. "There are things that life throws at you unexpectedly."

This year's Canol Youth Leadership Hike had 12 participants and took place from July 8 to July 13.



photo courtesy of Norman Yakeleya

Norman Yakeleya stands beside a newly formed lake at Mile 30 of the Canol Heritage Trail. Yakeleya and other participants encountered the lake earlier this month during the Canol Trail Youth Leadership Hike



photo courtesy of Keith Hickling

Participants with the Canol Trail Youth Leadership Hike had to blaze a new trail to get around a newly formed lake blocking the former route.