



Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

Welcome

Well, we are already half way through the year and we have certainly been busy. Our Antique and Collectibles Appraisal Day went off without a hitch, the Teck Cominco Project is well underway and the second issue of the Trail Journal of Local History is finished and printed.

We have also been hard at work producing a combined Museum and Sports Hall of

Memories brochure and heritage buildings walking tour. One side gives readers a brief history of Trail and the hours and location of the Museum, Sports Hall of Memories and Archives. The other side provides a heritage buildings walking tour for both tourists and local people alike to take. The walking tour brochure will be distributed to the Chamber of Commerce, local

hotels and motels, and also to local restaurants where the brochure will be left unfolded to use as place-mats. We will also laminate some for those restaurants who would like something a little more permanent.

So, look for the brochure and take the tour—there are many interesting buildings in our downtown core!

Antique Appraisal Day

On June 5th, the Trail Historical Society held its second annual Antique and Collectibles Appraisal Day at the Trail United Church. Mr. Al Bowen, respected appraiser from Vancouver, again provided attendees with interesting and entertaining information about the artifacts they brought with them.

One of the more unusual items was a large coffee grinder in the shape of a coffee pot from the 1930s, given as a promotional item to the owner of a local café in the 30s. It was valued at \$2500.

The highest appraised items were a pair of painted ceramic lamp bases from the 1860s that

originally were believed to have come from France. These beautiful objects were appraised at \$3,500 for the pair.

We would like to thank those volunteers and attendees, and, of course, Mr. Al Bowen for making the day a success.

Museum Open

The Society's Museum in the Trail Memorial Centre is now open for the summer.

Deanna Hockley of Trail has been hired to look after the Museum with the assistance of a summer student employment grant from Human Resources Development Canada. Deanna will be with us until

the end of August before returning to university in Edmonton.

Deanna is continuing to work on the Cominco Magazine project where last year's summer student, Heather Potter, left off. She is also helping on various other smaller projects, such as labels for some of the

exhibits in the Sports Hall of Memories, as well as her regular duties as the museum attendant.

Visit our Museum and share our enjoyment of our City's history. The Museum is open Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, except statutory holidays.

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HISTORY BITES:

Did you know the first woman to manage a Canadian bank lived right here in Trail? On Nov. 20, 1957 Margaret Rowe became the first woman appointed in charge of a Canadian bank, the Bank of Montreal. On July 24, 1965 the East Trail Branch of the Bank of Montreal was opened, and Margaret was the Accountant-in-Charge. That title was changed to Manager on Nov. 1st, 1966. When Margaret retired from the Bank of Montreal on June 30, 1985, she had worked for the Bank of Montreal for forty-two years, ten months and six days.

Trail Journal of Local History: Issue 2

Courtney Palsson, assisted by Jenny Cowell, has published the second issue of the Trail Journal of Local History.

Produced in the same format as the first issue, this work is 54 pages of interesting and enlightening stories of local history. Articles include “Charles Catalano on Music and



Ginger Goodwin”, “The Company Store”, and the work of architect William Frederick Williams.

Other articles describe the work of pioneer photographer Frederick Steele, the historical value of Fire Insurance Plans, and naming of the City of Castlegar and other local places and

features. Finally, the origin of the Trail Smoke Eater hockey team name is clarified.

The Journal is a delightful and easy read and belongs on the bookshelf of everyone interested in our area’s history. It is available for a modest \$8.00 at the LJ Bookstore, Crockett Books and from the Society’s offices in City Hall.

Cover of the Trail Journal of Local History: Issue 2

Sports Hall of Memories Update

Final touches are being made to the new display area in the Sports Hall of Memories. Painting has commenced and the flooring and moldings will follow. The lighting has been installed and it looks great.

The first exhibit in the room will recognize the accomplishments of local athletes currently performing at the professional or national

level in hockey, baseball and women’s softball. To date, Adam Deadmarsh, Dallas Drake, Jason Bay and Lauren Bay have contributed items for the display. We hope to install the display in August.



As part of this project, we are pleased to report the Regional District Community Services Commission

(Greater Trail) provided the Society with a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program in the amount of \$2185 to purchase 10 mannequins to display jerseys, uniforms and clothing properly in the Sports Hall of Memories and the Museum. The mannequins will ensure these items are displayed in a pleasing manner and protect the clothing from damage.

One of the new exhibits in the Sports Hall of Memories, showcasing the 1939 Smoke Eaters jerseys and memorabilia.

Heritage Funding in the West Kootenays

In the Fall of 2003, the Society requested the Regional District Community Services Commission (Greater Trail) provide financial support to the 3 heritage organizations in the region; ours, the Rossland Museum Association and the Beaver Valley and Pend d’Oreille Historical Society. The Commission has agreed to provide the societies with a grant in aid in the amount of \$5000 for 2004 to assist with their heritage endeavours. They have requested the societies determine how the funds will be spent and report back.

The initial meeting of representatives from the 3 organizations has been held and it is the consensus of the group the funds should be spent promoting our museums and activities to increase attendance and generate revenue. We are currently exploring ways and means to do this and will be meeting again shortly to discuss how best to proceed.

We are all very appreciative of the Commission’s support of our efforts to preserve our local history.



Photo Cat. # 7015—Trail Public School (Central Elementary) taken shortly after being built in 1911. Three wings were later added, one on the east side, two on the west side. The distinctive roofline was removed in the 1950s.

Museum Feasibility Study

Trail City Council has authorized the Society to proceed with a call for proposals from qualified firms to prepare a feasibility study for the establishment of a new museum and archives for the City. The Society appreciates Council's support of this initiative.

The current Museum in the Trail Memorial Centre is inadequate for our needs, is poorly located and has parking deficiencies. The Archives is housed in City Hall in 3 separate rooms

and is running out of storage space. In addition, having the Museum and Archives in separate buildings creates operational difficulties for the Society.

The Study will identify possible locations for a new museum and archives based on a number of preferred site selection criteria. It will also determine an optimum size for the facility, identify possible sources of capital funding, what partnerships are available in the community to make the project more

viable, and recommend an action plan to bring the project to a reality. This is the first major step towards getting a new museum and archives to showcase, protect and make available to the public our City's history in a meaningful and professional manner.

It is hoped Council will approve the selection of the preferred firm in August and the study can commence in September.

Mike Buckna Inducted

On May 6th, noted Trail hockey star and hotel owner, Mike Buckna, was inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame. Mike is known as the 'Father' of Czech hockey and is held in high esteem in the Czech Republic.

The ceremony was held in Prague, Czech Republic during the 2004 World Hockey Cham-

pionships. Mike Buckna Jr. attended the ceremony as a guest of the IIHF to receive the honour on his Father's behalf. Mike passed away in 1996.

Mike reports the cere-

Mike Buckna Jr. (centre) at the IIHF Induction Ceremony receiving his father's induction certificate.



mony was wonderful and very emotional for the families of the inductees. Mike and his family extend their sincere appreciation to Jamie Forbes and the Trail Historical Society for submitting his Father's nomination for entry into the Hall of Fame.

What's Happening in the Office

Work has commenced on the second phase of the Teck Cominco Photo Collection Project. This phase will concentrate on scanning hundreds of 4" X 5" negatives in the collection & link these to a descriptive database.

These negatives comprise the core of the photograph collection & are a valuable resource for Teck Cominco staff & the community. Many of the images in this collection will be placed in the files of the Trail City Archives & made available to the public for historical research purposes. The Trail Historical Society

thanks Teck Cominco & Carol Vanelli for the opportunity to organize & protect this valuable photo collection & for their support of the City Archives.



The Trail Copper Smelter, 1900, showing the O'Hara Roasters—one of the negatives recently scanned as part of the Teck Cominco project.

The Trail City Archives will be submitting a proposal to Fortis BC (formerly Aquila Networks Canada) by the end of July to undertake organizing,

cataloguing and properly storing the archive collection of their Trail and area operations.

The collection is stored in a small room in their Esplanade offices. Most of the material relates to the development and operation of West Kootenay Power dating from its founding in 1898. The collection consists of correspondence, dam engineering plans and details, photographs and other corporate records.

The collection promises to be a valuable history of the development of power generation in the West Kootenay region and will be a significant addition to the public records of West Kootenay Power.

Museum & Archives Director Wanted

Our Museum and Archives Director, Samantha Poling, has resigned to relocate with her family to Kelowna at the end of July.

All of us who have had the pleasure to know and work with Sam over the past

year will agree we are losing a valuable employee and a special friend. We all wish her and her family the best of luck in her new life in the Okanagan and thank her for the excellent job she has done for the Society. She will be greatly missed.

The Society has placed ads in the paper advertising her position, and we hope to have someone hired by the middle of July.

Trail Museum, Sports Hall of Memories
And Trail City Archives operated by
Trail Historical Society
Box 405, Trail, BC V1R 4L7

Phone: 250-364-0829
Fax: 250-364-0830
Email: spoling@cityoftrail.com
Or history@cityoftrail.com
www.trailhistory.com

The Trail City Archives is
located on 2nd floor of City Hall
1394 Pine Avenue, Trail

The Trail Historical Society meets
On the 2nd Tuesday of every month
On 2nd floor of City Hall
At 1:30pm



A postcard of the Trail Memorial Centre, recently purchased by Greg Nesteroff, a Society member, on ebay. Greg generously let us scan the postcard to add the image to our photo collection. Thank you!

60 Years Ago—Cominco Magazine July 1944

2004 represented the 60 year anniversary of D-Day, one of the most significant events in our history. Most of the men who landed and fought on France's beaches on D-Day are now in their eighties, and the sacrifices that they made and their bravery should never be forgotten. So, I thought I would look back to the Cominco Magazine to remember some of the men from Trail who served during World War II.



"It Isn't Funny!"

NO, IT isn't funny. Our cover, we mean. Even if you did get a giggle out of it, it isn't funny—not to Schicklegrubber!

Mendoza, famous English cartoonist, designed the poster reproduced on our cover. Our sales agents in Britain, Henry Gardiner & Sons, kindly forwarded it for our edification. It was drawn for use by the Imperial Smelting Works, England.

It is doubtful whether any war material has been more important, more vital to victory, more essential to the planning and development of the invasion, than zinc. It is in almost every conceivable item of a soldier's fighting equipment and the thousands upon thousands of tons of it that we have poured out over the last four years are now going to work where it can be most effective."



"FO Nello Melatini, LAC Bud Merry, L/Cpl. Phillip Merry and Sgt. Armando Gri, all of Trail, recently met in London on leave. Says Bud in a letter home, "We had a very quiet time—just gabbed about the home town and the wonderful friends we left behind." Speaking of his own squadron he says, "Our squadron was top-notch for England last month so we were honoured by a visit from the King and Queen." (Cominco Magazine July, 1944 p. 21)

"Sgt. Harold Breeze, formerly of the zinc plant machine shop, was recently listed by the R. C. A. F. as missing following operations. Harold left the Company to enlist in May, 1942. His wife, and daughter Dawn, with whom he is pictured, are living in Nelson." (Cominco Magazine July, 1944 p.20)



"Pte. Chuck Inglis who is now overseas with the Canadian army is shown here with daughter Marilyn Joyce, aged three. Chuck was formerly with the Warfield Labour gang and enlisted in February, 1943." (Cominco Magazine July, 1944 p.10)

