



# Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## Welcome

Well, the new Year has kicked off and the Historical Society is well on its way to another successful and busy year. With the failure of the City Hall renovations referendum in November, the current location of the Society's offices and the Archives will remain the same. This certainly gives us even more incentive to attain a new facility for our ever-growing archival and artifact collections.

As many in the community may have seen, the large, mobile display unit developed with the Rossland and Beaver Valley

historical societies is currently on display about town. We have purchased exhibit space for the Greater Trail Winter Games Village at the Miner's Hall in Rossland and hope to generate a lot of interest with this unit. The funds for this project were generously provided by the RDKB Commission. The photo below features representatives from each society and also Gord DeRosa, of the Commission.

The Society has recently taken over publication and distribution of the Trail Journal of Local

History. Former editor and co-editor Courtney Palsson and Jenny Cowell have decided to pass it on to the Historical Society to handle reprints and new issues. We thank them for their hard work on this project and we look forward to producing many more issues to come.

The Society would like to welcome new Trail City Council Representative, Robert Cacchioni to the Society and we look forward to his attendance and his input at our meetings. Welcome, Councilor Cacchioni!

## Membership Renewal and AGM

It is that time of year again, already. We are getting ready for our Annual General Meeting, to be held Wednesday, March 29, 2006 at 7:00 at the old School Board building on Columbia

Avenue.. We have opted to hold an evening meeting, so as to allow for those working and potential new members to attend.

Providing the Society with interesting history bites will be

guest speaker and Society member, Greg Nesteroff. Greg is a captivating speaker, who is sure to enlighten the group with anecdotal tidbits of our historic past.

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### A quick tip:

*When transferring photographs from a sticky-paged album to acid-free or polypropylene pages, flip the sticky page upside down and pull the page from the photograph, rather than pulling the photograph from the page. You are less likely to tear your photograph by removing it this way.*

## 2006 City Grant

Since 1999, the City of Trail has provided the Society with funding to assist with our day-to-day operations. This funding has enabled us to employ a full time employee to manage the Museum and Archives, respond to public enquiries and to carry out the myriad of other duties assigned by the Executive. This year the City has generously provided a grant in the amount of \$30,000 to continue with our work.



The Big Four: James Byres, Noble Binns, William J. Devitt, James H. Schofield. These four men represented the cornerstone of the community. Noble Binns was mayor in 1902 and city magistrate for many years, William Devitt went on to become Police Chief, and James Schofield went on to become the first man to sit for 25 years (1907-1933) in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia.

City Council continues to be very supportive of the Society and our efforts to preserve and protect our community's history. Our

main focus this year will be on planning for a new museum and archives (see related article elsewhere in this newsletter). It will be a busy year and hopefully we will get closer to our goal and 2007 will see the new museum a reality. Thanks again to City Council for their support.

## Cominco Magazine Project

This year is a special one for our community and its major employer. It was 100 years ago that the CPR's Trail smelter, a few local mines and the Rossland Power Company were amalgamated to form the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of Canada. This company would grow to be the largest producer of lead and zinc in the world and

provide employment and opportunity to our residents for almost a century.

To celebrate the anniversary, the Society is planning to compile an anthology of the most interesting history articles published in the Company's

*"...the Society is planning to compile an anthology of... interesting history articles..."*

Cominco Magazine. We plan to produce a high quality book that will also include reproductions of employee news and community related articles that each issue contained.

Look for more information on this project soon.

## Teck Cominco Archives Project

Just as work was wrapping up on Phase II of the Teck Cominco Archives project, Carol Vanelli-Worosz located yet another 400 or so 4" x 5" negatives. Work has already begun on what we hope is the final batch of this sort.

This last set was found in the old Tadanac Training Centre and seems to be the remaining images belonging to the initial collection of 4" x 5" negatives.

How they negatives came to be housed there, or even why, is a mystery to Carol, but she is nevertheless glad she came across them.

The next phase will begin immediately upon completion of this remaining set. This phase consists of thousands of 35mm negatives, dated predominantly

from the 1970s.

Depending on the work load this year, we hope to have both projects wrapped up by the end of the year.

The Teck Cominco project has been a major source of income for the Society over the past three years.



*An example from the recently located collection. This image is titled 'spraying zinc in machine shop'*

## Museum Project Update

The Society's goal to establish a new museum and archives for the City is progressing. In the Fall, we were able to secure \$15,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust and \$24,000 from Western Diversification to proceed with the preparation of strategic, financial and operational plans for the facility. Highland Development Consultants of Rossland will prepare the plans and work has commenced.

project. The strategic plan will enable us to proceed on a well defined path. The financial plan will provide a clear picture of what capital resources will be

needed and what sources of funding are available. The operational plan will guide the management of the facility for the first 5 years of operation.

We hope that the planning phase of the project will be completed by the end of summer and we can then concentrate on bringing the project to fruition in 2007.



Image of the new Surrey Museum in Cloverdale, officially opened in October 2005.

This is a critical part of the

## BCMA Conference 2005

In October, Jamie Forbes and Sarah Benson attended the British Columbia Museums Association Conference in Kelowna. Workshop and session topics proved extremely timely this year, as coordinators seemed more in tune with the needs of smaller institutions whose budgets do not allow for large scale upgrades or programming.

Key sessions this year focused on facility construction, market-

ing, effective website administration, major funding resources, museums and tourism, children's museums and collection management.

All of these session topics were of particular interest to the THS, as we move further along in our new museum and archives facility project.

*"The key word stressed...was necessity."*

The key word stressed in nearly all sessions was necessity. How do we make a museum/archives/gallery a necessity in our community? Throughout our strategic planning phase, we hope to address this issue and begin to develop a healthier relationship with our community.

## Fortis (W.K.P.) Archives Project

The Society is pleased to announce that FortisBC has agreed to contract with us to reorganize and rehouse the records of the West Kootenay Power and Light Company currently stored in their Trail offices.

The material dates to the Company's founding in 1898 and his-

torically, is a very valuable collection. The development of hydro electric power on the Kootenay River is an important part of the industrial growth of the West Kootenay area. This collection of company correspondence, photographs, agreements and other documents will be



Rear of Lower Bonnington power house - W.K.P. & L. Co

made available to the public for the first time through the City Archives once the project is completed.

The Society thanks FortisBC for the opportunity to preserve and protect this significant archive collection.

## Recent and Upcoming Activities...

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The Society is getting ready for two of its annual events: Heritage Week held in February and the Antiques and Collectibles Appraisal Day, held in June.

Waneta Plaza kindly offered the THS some space in its corridor to display our Heritage Week exhibit. Heritage Week

this year was entitled Heritage of Cultural Places: Historic Places that Inspire, Inform and Entertain. We utilized the Auto-View collection donated following its closure.

The Antiques and Collectibles Appraisal Day will be held Saturday, June 10, 2006

with appraiser Al Bowen, at the Trail United Church Hall. Call Sarah at the office for more information or watch for our advertisements soon.

Society member Nola Landucci is working on a summer stock project, currently entitled Trail of Memories

Animation project, with the hopes of producing a summer theatre project in Trail.

The THS is also getting terms of reference prepared for our logo contest, open to all residents of Greater Trail.

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

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

**The Trail Historical Society meets  
on the 2nd Tuesday of every month  
in the Community in Bloom office  
at the old School Board building on  
Columbia Avenue, Trail at 1:30.**

We welcome anyone interested in our City's history or in supporting the Society's work to become a member. A membership form is available on the website and can be forwarded to the Society at the above address. Membership fees are as follows:

- **Regular: \$12.00**
- **Family: \$20.00**
- **Corporate: \$30.00**

For an additional \$12.00 you may obtain a one year's subscription to the BC Historical News at a saving of \$4.00 off the regular price. This high quality journal contains a variety of articles on BC's history and is a must have for students of our Province's history. It is published quarterly.

## From the Archives...

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After two very informative and valuable distance education courses through the Archives Association of British Columbia, I think I could accession archival documents in my sleep. The process is much more intense than one would imagine. There are three steps to correctly accession an archival document or photograph. First comes appraisal (is this item useful to our archives, do we have one like, how unique is it, etc.); second, comes arrangement, if it is a large donation of several items (does this collection have an established order to it and if not, how do we propose to arrange it); and thirdly, description (who created it, when was it created, what are its physical properties, time period, etc). A collection, what we call a *fonds*, can take up hours and

hours of time, just to establish its use, a proper order and complete description.

As technology has made its way into the archival world, we are now starting to digitize many photographs in the archives. This is only necessary when all three steps of the accession process have been complete, but most importantly the description phase.

We are planning to seek grant money to fund a digitization project of the thousands of donated Trail Times negatives from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. As mentioned earlier, the difficult part will be selecting only those images that will be of most value for our purposes and spatial restrictions. It is important to ensure that the images we

choose to digitize are of value, as resources can quickly be tapped if all images are considered.

Digitizing is important to a small archives like us, specifically for fundraising, as we sell archival reprints from images in the archives. Exposure to the light of a scanning or photocopier is harmful to a photograph, so maintaining a master digital copy is ideal for an archives that sells a lot of reprints. Digitizing has also brought many a hit to our website, helping to boost our profile in the community.

Accessioning and digitizing in an archives requires plenty of thought, which explains the backlog that many archives deal with everyday.