



Movers and shakers of the CM&S in 1906.

# Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## Welcome: Latest Activities

Welcome to the latest installment of the Trail Creek News! The Society has made a good transition into the fall, wrapping up Phase II of the Teck Cominco Archival Project and embarking on the newest archival project belonging to FortisBC. The West Kootenay Power archival collection is a valuable piece of local history and will be a valuable tool to the archives and researchers. Phase I will take place this fall. More on this on the next page.

The 3rd issue of the Trail Journal of Local History is well underway, thanks to the dedication of society member, Greg Nesteroff. Thus far, nearly half the articles are ready. Unsolicited material is always welcome!

We have recently reprinted another 3000 of our promotional brochures for local distribution. We allotted for this reprint in last years budget, as we had funds remaining from donations earmarked for this purpose.

The summertime saw us making use of our new-found storage space in the vacant Sunningdale School. Many items were removed from the Museum to make room for reorganization and exhibit changes. In addition, the Society accepted two large donations from Teck Cominco and Hall Printing. The first being a Cominco-made desk, believed to have been used by Aldridge and Blaylock. The second being the large linotype press located in the entryway of Hall Printing. This linotype is an extremely unique

piece of our city's printing history. We thank both companies for their continued support and to the School Board for the use of space.

And finally, we have been out and about at many recent functions. The Society manned the historic video tent at Teck Cominco's 100th Celebration and also presented a history of the 1948 flood at BC Rivers Day in September.

## Update: Museum/City Hall Planning

The Society continues to work towards establishing a new museum and archives for the City. Trail City Council has agreed to include a new museum in the plans to construct a City Hall on property they have purchased on the Esplanade. Representatives of the Society met with the City's archi-

ects on September 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss our needs and vision for the facility. They feel a museum on the Esplanade will be well received and will be an asset to our community. They are very excited about the project. The Society will have to have its strategic and business plans prepared by the

end of the year so the conceptual design of the museum and archives may be prepared for public viewing and Council approval. We are all looking forward to the project proceeding and having a new museum and archives to exhibit and protect our City's history.

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### BACK IN...

*It was in this month in 1956, 50 years ago, that the first group of CM&S Gold Medalists were honoured at the Crown Point Hotel for 40 years or more of continuous service.*

## Heritage Facility Planning Workshop

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On September 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, Sarah and Jamie attended a Heritage Facility Planning Workshop at the Greater Vernon Museum and Archives. The workshop was sponsored by the BC Museums Association and was conducted by two conservators from the Canadian Conservation Institute.

The workshop topics were very timely for our Society as we begin our planning for the new museum on the Esplanade. Saturday's sessions reviewed the issues that need to be addressed in planning for a museum. These included development of a solid business plan, preparation of a market analysis, and establishing a framework for the programming of the museum. Sun-

day's sessions covered planning for the design of the facility and topics such as what space will be required for the various components of the museum, location of these components and what design pitfalls to avoid.

Both Sarah and Jamie feel the workshop was very worthwhile and what was learned will be put to practical use when designing our new museum.

## Tri-Society Promotional Newspaper

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In the spring, the Trail Historical Society, the Rossland Museum Association and the Beaver Valley and Pend d'Oreille Historical Society submitted an application to the RDKB Commission, funded by the Columbia Basin Trust, to create an informative newsprint-style promotional supplement to our Nexus display unit. We were successful in this application and the three groups have sat down to

develop concept.

This handout will include further history on our three areas, as well as relevant newspaper articles from the early days of our cities. It will resemble an old-fashioned newspaper, complete with advertisements.

*"This handout will include further history on our three areas, as well as relevant newspaper articles from the early days..."*

The 'brochure' will be 8 pages in total, allowing for 2 pages per group, leaving the front and back for general information.

We are meeting again in November to with a representative from Hall Printing to discuss this concept and the layout.

## West Kootenay Power/FortisBC Archival Project

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As we mentioned earlier, we have wrapped up Phase II of the Teck Cominco photograph collection and we are beginning our work on the West Kootenay Power & Light Company archives. The project has been broken down into three phases, the first of which concentrates on the large photograph, negative and multimedia collection.

We resubmitted our proposal to FortisBC

last year to regain our momentum on this project. It is timely for both the Society and for FortisBC to begin the project now and complete the three phases in three years, as it bodes well for the budgets



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

of both organizations.

This project will see the transfer of original documents and photographs to the Trail City Archives, while we provide FortisBC with high-resolution digital copies of all images and read-only copies of the West Kootenay Power Photograph Collection and West Kootenay Power Textual Collection databases.

## Federal Government Heritage Cuts

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On September 25, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Hon. Bev Oda announced drastic cuts to her department, and in particular, the slashing of the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) by half. The news of these cuts came as a shock to the Canadian Museum Association, who had received a commitment in writing by the Conservative Government to reinvest in the museum community and rework a new museums policy.

In addition, the Conservative Government made serious cuts to youth employment programs, such as Young Canada Works and Summer Career Placement.

The latter program is utilized annually by the Trail Historical Society to hire a summer student to tend to the museum.

These program cuts were justified by the

Conservative Government, who deemed them “no longer effective.”

The national museum community has rallied together in the wake of these blows and has created quite an uproar in the House of Commons.

Museum staff sent letters to their local councils, MPs and the Heritage Minister herself demanding either a restoration of funding or alternative funding while new programming was developing. In addition, fulfillment of their promise was urged with regard to a new national museums policy.

We have recently received word that on October 25, Members of Parliament voted in favour of overturning the cuts to MAP and the immediate establishment of

a new Canadian Museums Policy. All opposition parties voted in favour, while the current government members voted against.

The Canadian Museums Association has plans to sit down with the Minister for Canadian Heritage in the very near future to offer suggestions for the new museums policy and address our funding requirements.

This is quite a feat for our national museums and their employees, whose vocal disapproval of these cuts led to the retraction of cuts to MAP.

For more information on the events of the last month, please visit [www.museums.ca](http://www.museums.ca) to view the latest updates.

## The Land Conservancy & Fort Shepherd

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The Land Conservancy of BC and Teck Cominco Metals Ltd. recently announced that Teck has sold a large tract of their land south of Casino Creek to the border to the Land Conservancy in order that it can be protected and managed as winter range for ungulates. The property also contains the site of the Hudson’s Bay post Fort Shepherd.

The Society is very pleased this property is now in the hands of the Land

Conservancy and that a management plan will be prepared that will protect not only the environmentally sensitive areas of the property, but the heritage value of the Ft. Shepherd site as well. At the urging of the Society, the Land Conservancy has agreed to replace the bronze plaque stolen from the cairn on the site in 1985 and to install

*“...a management plan will be prepared that will protect...the heritage value of the Ft. Shepherd site...”*

new directional signage to the site on the east side of the river.

This is good news and Teck and the Land Conservancy of BC should be thanked for taking the action necessary to protect this valuable resource.

## Cominco Magazine Anthology

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Teck Cominco Metals Ltd. recently celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of Canada Ltd. with a family day in Gyro Park. Another anniversary project that the Society is involved in is the preparation of a book containing selected articles and photographs from the Cominco Magazine, 1940-1971. Articles on the company

operations, local and regional history and the community in the war years will be highlighted.

The Society is assisting with selecting the articles and the format and design of the book. The Cominco Magazine is recognized as one of the premier employee communication publications in industry, and the numerous history

articles, some by noted historian Elsie Turnbull, are regularly used by researchers and students or our history alike. Look for the book in early 2007.

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

**Phone: 250-364-0829  
Fax: 250-364-0830  
Email: [history@trail.ca](mailto:history@trail.ca)  
Website: [www.trailhistory.com](http://www.trailhistory.com)**

**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 Committee Room 2, upstairs in  
City Hall, at 1:30 PM.**

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.

## THS Recipient of Barrie Hardcastle Bursary

Back in June, we submitted an application to the British Columbia Museums Association for the Barrie Hardcastle Bursary Award. Barrie Hardcastle was "a former director of the Nanaimo Centennial Museum, was an active supporter of the BC Museums Association and an energetic BCMA Councillor. Mr. Hardcastle was very concerned that financial and managerial aspects of museum and gallery operations tended to be overlooked or taken for granted. He felt that improvements in these areas would assist the museums and art galleries of BC by improving everyday effectiveness and preparing them for the future." (see BMCA Website, [www.museumsassn.bc.ca](http://www.museumsassn.bc.ca))

Our Museum and Archives Director, Sarah Benson, was preparing to register for in the University of Victoria's Cultural Resource Management program, which will take roughly 2 years to complete and will cost nearly \$7000. The

context of the program suited the criteria of this bursary well, and the application was submitted.

In early September, the Trail Historical



*Mr. Barrie Hardcastle. Courtesy of BCMA.*

Society was informed that we had indeed been selected for the bursary and \$1000 was awarded to the Society to assist Sarah in her studies over the next 2 years.

The bursary recipient was announced at the BCMA Conference that was held from October 19-21 in Prince George. We were unfortunately unable to attend this year's conference, however we did send our gratitude and regrets to the Awards Committee when we were informed.

Sarah leaves for Victoria in early November to complete a 6-day course on leadership in the cultural sector. Her ongoing distance course, Museum Principles and Practices I, will be wrap up mid-December. She will continue to take two courses a semester (one at a distance, one 'on-campus') in order to obtain her diploma in two years.