



Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

Welcome: Latest Activities

We've been very busy so far this year in the office and have seen 25 additions to the museum, archives, and sports collections.

We have been in touch with the daughter of former East Trail Dairy owner William Beetstra, who has kindly donated images of the dairy, once located where Miral Heights now sits (see photo at left). Ms. Alana Mann has also submitted a history on the dairy that may prove usable in future journal issues. Please see our website for more photos of the East Trail Dairy.

The daughter of Trail lacrosse player Marcus



Tinted portrait of lacrosse player, Marcus Smith, who married Jean Hood of Trail.

Smith, has donated several photographs and clippings documenting her father's sports career, as well as a lacrosse stick he used in

the 1940s. The stick and the portrait above will be placed on display in the Sports Hall of Memories.

The Society also received an old Smoke Eater jersey, thought by the donor to be one of the 1938-39 World Championship team. The jersey itself was stolen from the Trail Memorial Centre several decades ago by a Spokane player and it has been passed around the

Spokane area for decades. We have compared the it to a jersey of that year from our collection and have determined it must be from mid to late 1940s, as there are discernable differences. Nonetheless, it is in wonderful condition and has finally found its proper home.

And finally, the Society has purchased a new computer for the office, a Mini-DV camcorder (discussed later in this newsletter), and a flat file to replace our outdated map and oversized print storage system in the Archives.

AGM Announcement

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 20** at the Colombo Lodge (584 Rossland Avenue) in the Games Room at **7:00PM**. Guest speaker this year will be Leah Best, Executive Director of Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History. Leah will be

discussing the path that led to Nelson's arrival at a new museum, archives and art gallery facility. It should be an extremely interesting and useful presentation for our society and anyone interested in the project, as we work towards the same end. Please remember that Society dues will be collected:

\$12.00 regular member;
\$20.00 family member;
and \$30.00 corporate member. In addition, BC History journal subscriptions (\$18.00) will be also be collected.

Refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!

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DID YOU KNOW?

During the B.C. Savage Cup playoffs between the Trail Smoke Eaters and the Kelowna Packers, one of the worst brawls in the history of the Cominco Arena took place, in this month in 1960.

Museum and Archives Project Update

Planning for the City's Esplanade Centre is proceeding slowly and our Executive has been busy working to develop plans for the new museum and archives that will be included in the facility.

The City's architects were recently in town to meet with City Council and staff to discuss initial concept plans for the Centre and a schedule to involve the public in the planning process. The Society has hired noted museum architect Anthony Boni to design the museum and to work with the City architect on the overall design of the Centre. In addition to Mr. Boni's services, the Society will be hiring an exhibit designer to assist with the interpretation of the historical themes

we wish to include in the museum. Over the next several months detailed design of the museum and archives will be carried out and a construction

budget prepared. Council hopes to make a decision to proceed with the Centre or not in the Fall.



The Esplanade and river wall, 1950s, and the proposed site for the City's Esplanade centre.

City Council Shows Support

In December, the Society submitted its 2007 budget to City Council for their consideration and requested they provide us with an operating grant in the amount of \$28,758 for this year. We are pleased to report Council has accepted the budget and approved the grant in the amount requested. Council's continued support of the Society and our efforts to establish a new museum and archives for the City

is very much appreciated. Their annual operating grant enables us to maintain the services we provide to the community at a high level.

With the scope of the new museum and archives changing with our participation in the Esplanade Centre Project, additional funds are required for architectural services. City Council has

agreed to assume any costs for these services over and above the monies we have already secured from Western Diversification and the Columbia Basin Trust. The estimated cost of the additional services is \$18,000.

Thanks again to City Council for their continued support.

Katimavik Participation

The Trail Historical Society applied to the federally-funded Katimavik program, Canada's leading national youth service program whose mission is *"to foster the personal development of our nation's young people through a challenging program of volunteer community work, training and group interaction."* The Greater Trail, Castlegar and Nelson areas were selected as placements this year.

Our first volunteer, 18 year old Angus Miller from Truro, Nova Scotia, arrived in early December and processed a good portion of our archival backlog.

This group of 9 students has moved on to Sault St. Marie, Ontario for their second rotation.



Our second rotation group has arrived and interviews already held. With only 8 participants this round and 9 placements, the Trail Historical Society has opted out of this trimester to ensure that volunteers are placed where they are most needed in the community. We hope to receive two volunteers for the summer months, to assist in the museum.

Community Memories Project

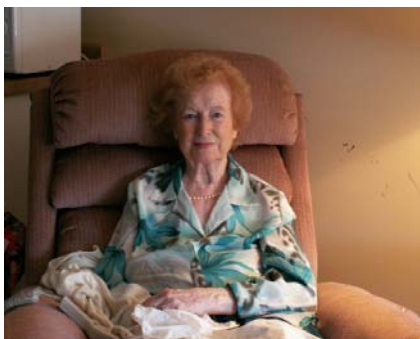
Last fall, the Trail Historical Society was contacted by Mr. Rafi Silver, Community Manager of Rose Wood Village, who was searching for methods to collect and preserve the life stories of the residents of Rose Wood. After a preliminary meeting, the Trail Historical Society felt this would be a very interesting and worthwhile project for the Archives.

A Community Memories Project Committee was established, with Society member Rose Calderon assuming the role of coordinator. Rose has worked tirelessly to prepare a detailed project plan and has scheduled and participated in all interviews to date.

Rose Wood Village owner, Endre Lilljard was also kind enough to donate a new DV camcorder to the Society.

In addition, Rose secured the support of the Italo-Canadese, the Colombo Lodge and School District No. 20, all of whom

have contributed letters of support and confirmed their participation in the



Mrs. Barb Bowen, a former teacher in Trail and our first interviewee. This photo was taken February 18, 2007 in her home at Rose Wood

coming months, either through interviews, translation services or content gathering and production support.

Last week, the Trail Historical Society submitted an application to the Virtual

Museum of Canada's Community Memories Program, which provides successful applicants with interactive software to present a more engaging on-line exhibit and \$5000 towards any additional costs that may be accrued during the production and editing phases of the project. Our theme will be: *Similar Journeys, Different Trails: One Destination*, whereby we will identify the circumstances that led to the migration of Europeans and other Canadians to our city and what compelled them to stay here. We look forward to working with our new community partners on this project and anticipate an interesting learning experience for us all.

The Society thanks all volunteers of this project: Rose Calderon (coordinator), Greg Nesteroff (interviewer), Alex Le-Rose (J.L. Crowe student) and those who have donated their life stories to this worthwhile endeavour thus far.

Journal Update

As reported in the last issue of this Newsletter, the Society has assumed responsibility for the publication and sale of the Trail Journal of Local History. We reprint issues #1 and #2 as retail sales dictate and have been working on issue #3 for the past several months.

An editorial committee of Sarah Benson, Jamie Forbes and Greg Nesteroff have assembled 15 articles for the next issue and Greg has prepared a draft for printing purposes. This issue will have approximately 50 pages. We believe issue #3 will be well received and everyone will enjoy the variety of

"We believe issue #3 will be well received..."

articles. The Journal should be at local bookstores by the end of March. Cost per journal remains at \$10.00.

FortisBC Project

Last fall, FortisBC contracted with the Trail Historical Society to organize, rehouse and digitize its large archival collection that dates back to the days of the West Kootenay Power & Light Co. Thus far, the Society has tackled the large photograph and negative collection. This caption shows an sample image from the fonds.



Construction of the Corra Linn Dam, September 12, 1931.

Prints did not require much sorting, however several negatives and smaller photographs were in an unstable condition and required immediate rehousing in appropriate storage. The collection is just ready for digitization and we hope to have a copy of the database

ready for FortisBC in the spring.

The collection itself will remain housed in the Trail City Archives for research purposes. We feel it will prove a valuable resource for any one conducting research on the early days of the West Kootenays.

**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
Website: 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 **\$18.00** you may obtain a one year's subscription to the *British Columbia History*, journal of the **BC Historical Federation**, at a savings of \$2.00 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.

Latest Promotion

We have been active in promoting the Society and our collections this past season. Here is an example of a few:

The recently formed Heritage Federation of South East BC, of which we are a member, was instrumental in securing excellent advertising rates in the Kootenay Rockies Tourism brochures. With such a large number of heritage members placing advertisements, it brought individual costs down significantly. The KRT brochure has a shelf life of 2 years and covers both East and West Kootenays and the Boundary.

We also took out advertising space in the 2007 Greater Trail & Area Guide, sponsored by the Trail and District Chamber of Commerce. This guide is widely distributed in the area and to Visitor Info Centres in BC and will

offer us some great exposure.

In addition to the local promotion, our website has seen a dramatic increase in visits over last year's statistics, particularly for the month of January. We attribute this to CBC's Hockey Day in Canada event in Nelson, which produced a fantastic segment on Trail, the 1961 World Champions and featured our very own Norm Lenardon, Cal Hockley, Dave Rusnell and Seth Martin in the Sports Hall of Memories.

The Trail Historical Society began working with producers of this piece back in December. The Trail City Archives provided a number of photographs and put the producers in touch with some of our hometown hockey legends.

We requested a copy of the segment

and also permission to upload it to the Society's website. The CBC does not generally allow this and prefers that a CBC link be added to the site instead. They intended to upload the segment to their site, however their technicians had a problem doing so. We were kindly permission to upload the video to our site.

If you missed the CBC News: The National's broadcast on January 11, 2007, you can view our feature at www.trailhistory.com and find the "Smokies on Hockey Day in Canada" link on the left hand side of the page.

We are very proud of this and thank Norm, Cal, Dave and Seth for being willing participants. We also thank the CBC for permission to offer it to our community.