



**Trail Creek News**  
Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

# Out and About:

## THS in the Community

The Trail Historical Society has been busy getting involved with our typical summertime activities. Research has begun again into our local buildings and businesses in an effort to increase the number of historic plaques around the downtown area. This initiative is being undertaken by both the Society and the local Community in Bloom committee, whose judging criteria includes a historic component. More plaques will be up before this year's judges arrive in town at the end of July. In addition to this project, the Society is once again involved in the preparation of the latest murals to be

painted on our bare downtown walls. Steven Skolka and Tyler Toews are back once again this summer, preparing for a Trail Creek Landing and sternwheeler seen slated for the wall of the KP Hall (Shoppers Drug Mart). We look



Sample of the historic plaques

forward to yet another artistic depiction of our city's history and cooperating with the CiB.

The Society received an invitation to attend the arrival of the David Thompson Brigade on Saturday, July 7 at Gyro Park. Two members, Nola Landucci and Rose Calderon, attended the event on behalf of the

Society and enjoyed a City hosted luncheon.

The City of Trail and RDKB sponsored a photographic documentary presented by Mr. Chris Weicht featuring the aviation history of Trail. Mr. Weicht has written several books about the history of aviation in BC and the Yukon and has years of experience as a commercial and military pilot. The Society organized the event and received a complimentary copy of his latest publication, Trans Canada Airway, An Aviation History, volume four in a series of seven that tracks this interesting history across Canada. The book is now in our library shelf.

## History of Trail Hockey: A documentary

Darryl Taylor is well into production of the documentary on the history of hockey in Trail. He has conducted over 25 hours of interviews with former players and has collected material from the Archives that will be used to tell this important story from our

community's history.

The DVD will be produced in October, in time to be launched at the World Jr. A Challenge, which will take place in early November in the Cominco Arena.

We hope the documentary will be well received by the public and prove a profitable fundraiser for the Society for years to come.

### Inside this issue:

Esplanade Project Update	2
Smoke Eaters Replica Jerseys	2
Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 3	2
Community Memories & the VMC	3
Heritage Federation of Southeast BC	3
Canada Summer Jobs Program	3
Fall Projects in the Archives	4

### Did you know?

*Trail's first wedding was conducted in the Meakin Hotel on August 3, 1896. The happy couple were Ms. Edith Ellis of Waneta and Mr. Donald Dewar, well-known teacher and principal in Trail's earliest schools.*

*The Meakin Hotel, built in 1896 by Mary Anne Meakin for a cost of \$6000, was situated at the corner of Cedar and Spokane Streets, where Fields now sits.*

## Esplanade Project Update

The City's planning for the Esplanade Centre has been delayed pending confirmation that Teck Cominco would be willing to relocate its Interpretive Centre to the new facility. Discussions with Teck are underway and it is hoped there will be a decision on whether Teck Cominco and the Trail and District Chamber of Commerce offices will be included in the project shortly.

The Executive has met to develop the storylines of the exhibits that will be installed in the new museum. These will be forwarded to the Society's architect to determine spatial needs and prepare a cost estimate.



Site of the proposed Civic Centre that would potentially house the Museum & Archives, the Library and City Hall offices.

The focus of the exhibits will be on the people of Trail as opposed to the traditional historical narrative of the City's growth and development. Emphasis will be placed on the city's social and cultural mosaic and what occurred in the community over the

past 100 years that makes Trail what it is today.

Fundraising for construction of the new museum will commence once the City of Trail confirms the project will proceed.

Highland Development Consultant's final report on the operation and management of the new museum has been received and will serve as a reference tool should the project be undertaken.

## Smoke Eater Replica Jerseys

Interest in the Trail Senior Smoke Eaters, and their hockey memorabilia, is at an all time high. A recent eBay auction of a 1950's era crest saw it hammered down at \$186.00!

The Society has decided to take advantage of this desire to connect with our hockey history by producing replica jerseys of the 1939, 1961 and 1963 Team Canada teams, two of which were World

Champions. Permission has been obtained from the City of Trail and Hockey Canada, copyright holders of the Smoke Eater crest and Team Canada logos respectively, to produce the jerseys. We hope to have them available for sale at the World Jr. A Challenge

in November. The professional quality jerseys will be sold for \$125.00.

*"The Society has decided...to connect with our hockey history by producing replica jerseys..."*

We are very confident this initiative will be an excellent fundraiser for the Society and look forward to spotting these jerseys in the

stands at the Challenge and Smoke Eater games.

## Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 3

The third issue of the Trail Journal of Local History is on bookstore shelves. The Journal has 48 pages celebrating our community's interesting history, including two articles on CJAT radio, an interview with former Trail Times and Cominco Magazine editor, Craig Weir, the evolution of the Columbia Gardens Airport, and a visit to Trail in 1957 by Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis.

We are very proud of this issue and would like to thank Society member Greg Nesteroff for his contributions to the Journal and for producing the layout. This saves us considerable time and money and will assist in increasing our revenues from sales.



Cover of the third issue of the Trail Journal of Local History, featuring Joe Kobluk and his time at CJAT.

Three hundred copies have been printed and they are available at local bookstores, City Hall, regional museums and, of course, the Society webstore at [www.trailhistory.com](http://www.trailhistory.com).

Get your copy today!

## Trail's Community Memories and the Virtual Museum of Canada

---

Back in February, the Trail Historical Society submitted a proposal to the Canadian Heritage Information Network in response to the Virtual Museum of Canada's *Communities Memories* program. This program offers heritage organizations an opportunity to exhibit certain aspects of their history in digital form by creating an interactive website, useable by anyone, anywhere. The Trail Historical Society, after being approached by Rose Wood Village, began a series of oral history interviews with residents of the facility and went on to conduct further interviews with members of our Italian community. These stories will form the basis of our project entitled: *Similar Journeys, Different Trails: One Destination*, whereby the Society will present a mélange of personal histories illustrating

the various, yet often similar, circumstances that led to the significant migration of job-seeking Canadians and European immigrants to BC's smelter city.

In early June, we were informed that our project proposal had been approved for investment as a result of the last call for proposals. Project approval translates to a \$5000 investment which will assist in paying for additional support and supplies we may require down the road and also the *Community Memories* software, which will allow us to develop our website in-house.

We have been allotted nine months to complete the project, which will be due mid-April 2008. More interviews will be required yet, as well as the digitization of our subject's personal photograph and

artifact collections. We hope to effectively and accurately tell an interesting story of the social and economic conditions of the various parts of the country and Europe during the early 20th century and the social and economic factors that drew immigrants to our city, compelling them to remain here.

We will receive this software in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we will be busy developing a storyline and compiling a list of potential photographs and artifacts that will prove suitable for the exhibition.

The Society thanks all those who have participated thus far, Canadian Heritage and indeed our project manager Rose Calderon and interviewer Greg Nesteroff for their hard work and dedication.

## Heritage Federation of Southeast BC

---

The Federation held its Annual General Meeting in Creston on Sunday, May 26th with over thirty members attending. The primary focus of the meeting was developing criteria for the dispersal of the \$100,000 grant the Federation has received from the Columbia Basin Trust for heritage organizations in the Basin. This funding has been sought for over seven years and we are excited that the

CBT has finally supported heritage as distinct from the arts and culture sectors.

The guidelines for obtaining a grant from the fund were drafted and just announced by the CBT. The application deadline is late September. Any project funded must be completed by

*"This funding has been sought for over seven years..."*

March 31, 2008.

Our President, Jamie Forbes, has one more year to serve on the Executive of the Federation.

## Canada Summer Jobs program

---

After much debate among our nation's museums due to the recent changes to the evaluation system within the Canada Summer Jobs Program, most, if not all, museums and heritage institutions across the country were once again granted funding towards the employment of a summer student, if they received funding the previous year.

The Trail Historical Society, although

initially denied, eventually received the go-ahead which afforded us the opportunity to hire Andrea Sidey to attend to the duties of the museum.

Andrea is currently on a softball scholarship studying in Kansas. Her interests include history and education and thus made her an excellent fit for the position.

The Trail Museum, located in the Trail Memorial Centre at 1051 Victoria Street, is open Monday to Friday, from 10:00am to 4:30pm. Admission is \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student and free for children under the age of 10.

Be sure to drop by this summer to brush up on your knowledge of our City!

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 **\$15.00** 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.

## Summer & Fall Projects in the Archives

We once again have help in the Archives thanks to the Katimavik program. Louiselle Young comes from Quebec and has done some excellent work getting our film library recorded, our vertical file caught up to date and our archives room tidied up. Louiselle has also been taking care of the lunch hour in the museum.

The Teck Cominco Photograph Archives is one step closer to completion with the establishment of a separate database and the task of transferring records from one catalogue to the other done. The Society hired for a temporary position back in May to undertake this tedious task and it was recently completed by Tina Rieberger, who worked tirelessly to ensure records and image files were transferred and accurate.

The Teck Cominco Photograph Collection is now completely separate from that of the Trail City Archives and we have a much better handle on the collection.

This project has been discussed since last year and the Society was in a position this summer to rectify the problem. We thank Tina for her work.

The FortisBC/West Kootenay Power Photograph Collection is nearly half



Image of sturgeon caught at the Lower Bonnington dam, April 7, 1925

- West Kootenay Power Photographic Fonds.

digitized and is proving quite the collection. It will remain housed in City Hall and a copy of the database provided to FortisBC upon completion of the

project. We will begin the next phase of this collection nearer to the winter, which will see the transfer of the textual records to the Trail City Archives.

In addition to the many archival contracts currently on the go, the Society plans to undergo an exercise in vision and mission planning and goal setting. This practice, while necessary for our new facility planning, will prove beneficial whether or not a new facility is constructed. We will be working with a consulting firm from Nelson that was influential in the strategic planning phases for the Nelson Museum. We are aiming for early October to undergo this exercise.

The Society also congratulates member **Greg Nesteroff** on the BC Historical Federation's 2006 Anne and Phillip Yandle Award for best article. Greg's story entitled *Boris Karloff in British Columbia* was featured in Volume 39, #1 of *British Columbia History*, the BCHF's quarterly magazine.