

# The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## Summer has arrived!

You win some, you lose some. When applying for grants to undertake projects or to assist with our operations, this philosophy is a good one to remember. Recently, we were informed of the outcome of three grant applications made over the past eight months. The results are: Trail Arts Council – Approved for \$1000 to assist with operations of our choice. We will be purchasing shelving for the Archives with these funds. Columbia-Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CBT Funds) – Denied \$4710 for the purchase of shelving and a laptop computer. City of Trail (CBT funds) – Approved for \$13,900 to digitize our photograph and Museum collections. The shelving has been ordered and the digitization project will commence in August or September. Two out of three isn't bad.

The Community Memories Project is still in the works.

With some recent hiccups holding the process back, the Society has been granted an extension until October 2008. We have nearly all the interviews transcribed and are working hard on the content development. The virtual exhibit will feature at least one hundred photographs, artifacts and/or soundbites that illustrate the story we are trying to tell. We hope to best impart the reasons people came to Trail and why they chose to stay.

Donations this year have been a little slow, however those we have received are of extreme interest. These include a Register of Additions from 1924-1928 that belonged to the smelter. Also donated was a Register of Severances from 1927-1932. These ledgers list a multitude of names of people who came to and left the smelter for one reason or another. In addition, we have been fortunate to receive three docu-

ments compiled by descendants of Frank Hanna and Mary-Jane Hanna Topping. They include vital statistics (birth, death and marriage records) of the many family members as well as homestead land records of Frank Hanna in Texas and Mexico. They are extremely well developed and will prove an invaluable addition to our collection of Trail's first family.

Finally, longtime member of the Trail Historical Society and past treasurer Doreen Downie notified the Society in the spring that she will not be renewing her membership with the Society. The executive and membership wish her the best and appreciate her many contributions over the years with the Phoning Committee, the Antique Appraisal Day and countless summer hours in the museum, among many, many projects. Good luck, Doreen!

## DVD Production & Licensing Issues

The issues surrounding the second run of our hockey documentary, *For the Love of the Game*, have recently been resolved. Licensing was required for the use of a specific song found during the 1938 Allan Cup banquet scene. The Society has contracted with

the CMRRA and submitted the license fee for that clip.

Additionally, a brief interview with Frank Selke required licensing from the CBC as well as permission from the estate of Mr. Selke. Both were obtained and the paperwork has

been signed.

Although it has been a long process, we are happy to order another run of this DVD. Current supplies are down to about 10. This means nearly all 500 of the first run sold in a matter of months.

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### Did you know?

*It was 60 years ago this month, in 1948, that Trail's worst flood occurred. It's peak measured 46.17 feet, the greatest since the records were kept. Many remember water reaching the box office window at the Odeon Theatre on Bay Avenue. Sandbagging and emergency efforts were undertaken by countless volunteers eager to protect their city and its residents from the raging waters of the Columbia. The Trail City Archives houses several photos of this flood.*

## Summer Student—Funding Issues

This year, the Trail Historical Society, along with many other heritage organizations across the county, has gone unfunded through the Canada Summer Jobs Program, administered by Human Resources and Development Canada. For the past two years, applications have been awarded points based on specific criteria set out by HRDC. Maximum points are awarded to organizations, (both for-profit and non-profit) who intend to hire visible and language minorities or disabled individuals. In addition, points are awarded to organizations whose services cater to specific groups within the community (i.e. youth at risk, children, seniors, etc.). For larger urban centres, these criteria are much easier to meet. However, for smaller, much less diverse demographics, organizations such as ours are not able to commit to these intentions. In addition, the funding is made available to applicable organizations throughout our riding,



The Society's new museum attendant, Andrea Page.

which reaches as far as Princeton and makes for stiff competition.

Society president Jamie Forbes contacted the Service Canada officer dealing with our region's applications, who could not provide him with any further information

other than our graded application. He then made contact with the office of Alex Atamanenko, which was much more helpful and sent a letter of support on behalf of the Society to our Program Officer.

Despite this lack of funding, the Society has hired a summer student and is pleased to introduce Andrea Page, a first-year University of Calgary student, from Rossland. Andrea will be in the museum every Monday to Friday (except statutory holidays), 10:00am to 4:30pm. **Admission fees are: Adults-\$2.00; Students (10-18)-\$1.00 ; Children (10 & under)-FREE!**

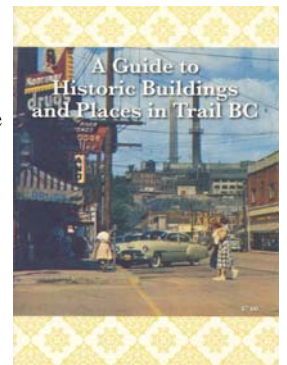
Be sure to drop in and browse the exhibits. Don't forget to view the Sports Hall of Memories!

## A Guide to Trail's Historic Places—Tour Guide Published

The Guide to Trail's historic buildings and places has arrived and is now on sale. This project was a joint effort of the Society and the City of Trail Communities in Bloom Committee. We received a grant of \$4500 from the Columbia Basin Trust and the CIB Committee matched it to produce this informative and entertaining book. The funds were used for research and writing costs, graphic design and the printing of 500 copies of the book.

The Guide includes the history of important buildings and places in our community, our neighbourhoods, wall murals and rock walls. It is 50 pages in length, produced in an easy to handle format and contains three maps locating each of the historic buildings and places. The price is \$7.00 and all proceeds will be used to reprint the book as necessary. The Guide is available at City Hall, Crockett Books, the Glenwood, Trail Library, the Cham-

ber of Commerce, and of course the Museum. Pick one up today!



## Smoke Eater Memorabilia & Marketing

With the great response from the public over the Smoke Eater replica jerseys, the Society has decided to expand its range of vintage Smoke Eater memorabilia. Items being considered at this time are pucks, golf shirts, key chains, and aprons, among several other items.

At a recent meeting, a motion was put forward to expend some of the profits from the Christmas book sales on a sepa-

rate website for these products. The motion carried and staff has been busy pricing out website design and hosting from a few companies.

A site featuring vintage Smoke Eater memorabilia, we feel, will act as a much more effective marketing tool than the Society's site alone. The user will browse the



Vintage Smoke Eater crest.

web using a search engine and will quickly find our products, as opposed to searching for Trail history first.

We hope to get moving on this sometime in the summer months and look forward to bringing more vintage Smoke Eater items to fans.

## HFSEBC—Annual General Meeting

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The Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Federation of South East BC was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Creston. President Jamie Forbes represented the Society at the meeting. The Federation now has 37 institutional members and 9 individual members and represents the interests of heritage organizations in the East and West Kootenays and the Boundary area.

The Federation has been successful in convincing the Columbia Basin Trust to establish a funding program for Heritage in the Basin separate from that which exists for the Arts. For the 2007-08 fiscal year the CBT allocated \$100,000 to the program and has increased the funding to \$200,000, given the demand for funds and success of the first allocation. This is a significant accomplishment for the heri-

tage community in Southeast BC and we are grateful to be able to have these funds to improve our heritage institutions. There are currently two members of the HFSEBC who assist in the application adjudication process and award CBT funds to applicants .

The Federation sponsored a resolution submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities by the Cities of Trail and Rossland in the Fall, calling on the Provincial Government to provide more funding for heritage in the Province. The resolution was approved and submitted to the Government. Unfortunately, the resolution fell on deaf ears and no new funding for heritage will be forthcoming any time soon. The Federation will continue to lobby local governments in our region to

support our request for adequate funding from the Province for the protection and preservation of our local history.

The Heritage Federation of South East BC meets every spring and counts as its members most heritage organizations in southern British Columbia.

## New Museum & Archives Update

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There is no news from the City of Trail with respect to the schedule for the public's approval of the proposed Esplanade Centre and a new Museum and Archives for our community. We will have to wait for their direction before we can begin our planning for a new museum.

In anticipation of the public's support for the project, the Society has been able to secure the services of the noted exhibit design firm of Aldrich Pears. This firm

has designed museum exhibits throughout North America and Europe and we are very pleased they have agreed to design our Museum's exhibits.

Our presentation to the public in support of our new Museum and Archives will not be too involved in order to keep costs to a minimum. Our architect, Anthony Boni, will assist us with producing our presentation materials. Detailed design of the facility will not be undertaken until

City Council has given its approval for the project to proceed. Keep your fingers crossed.

Please encourage your friends and neighbours to support the project when it is presented for the public's endorsement. It may be the last chance we have to create a new museum and archives for the City for a long time. We are committed to create a facility of which the entire community will be proud.

## Trail's Katimavik Program Cut Short

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For the past two years, the Trail Historical Society has been a work partner with Katimavik, a federally-funded leadership program designed to assist youth in developing their leadership skills while gaining experience in the workforce by volunteering with local non-profits. Each year, a group travels to three different communities in Canada to lend a hand to the non-profit organizations. This was Trail's second year as a placement.

Unfortunately, several second trimester participants left the program, one of which was working with the Society. This was a widespread occurrence across the country and as a result, the summer trimester in Trail has been cancelled due to the decrease in numbers.

**Katimavik**



**30<sup>★</sup>**

Katimavik celebrated its 30th birthday on May 24, 2008 assisting at the Kinsmen Park in Sunningdale.

It is an unfortunate circumstance for the Society, who came to rely on its Katimavik volunteers to assist in the Museum throughout the summer.

The program will be returning to Trail for the coming year, however the Society will not be participating with the next project.

**Trail Museum, Sports Hall of Memories  
and Trail City Archives operated by the  
Trail Historical Society**

**Phone: 250-364-0829**

**Fax: 250-364-0830**

**Email: [history@trail.ca](mailto:history@trail.ca)**

**[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:

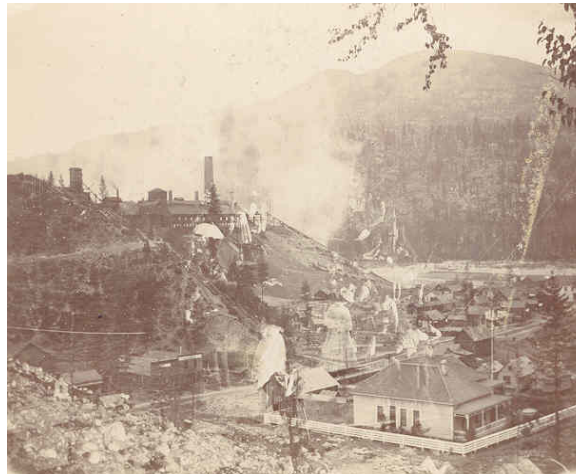
- **Regular: \$12.00**
- **Family: \$20.00**
- **Corporate: \$30.00**

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.

## Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives Program 2008

In April, the Trail Historical Society submitted a detailed grant proposal to the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives Program for 2008. Our last few major projects have produced some excellent results: the tour guide, Trail Journal of Local History Issue III, tri-societies newspaper, to name just a few. This year, we felt it necessary to focus on the collections, both archival and artifact. Of specific concern is the digitization of both collections. Currently, roughly half of the photograph collection is scanned. This makes for a slower research and retrieval process, as often descriptions are not as illustrative as an image itself. This means staff must retrieve the image from its storage and expose it to light and contaminants in order to determine its suitability. We wish to avoid this process by digitizing the images we know we will use or that will serve a specific purpose to a researcher.

In addition to the safety of the image and faster retrieval system, digitizing the collection will allow for off-site storage of the entire collection, in digital form. This is a precaution taken by most major archives in the event of flood, fire or loss.



*An example of a double-exposed photograph that would not prove useful for reproduction purposes. In this image, the Hanna House has been superimposed by an image of a ferry carrying fans to a baseball game. An unfortunate circumstance, as the Hanna House is of particular importance in the history of our City's early development. The photograph dates from 1897.*

If the originals were to sustain severe damage, we would have high quality, digital copies to replace them.

Furthermore, the museum's artifact collection is to be digitized (in photographic form) for better record keeping and research. We hope to reconcile the acces-

sion register with the artifact collection itself, in order to best get a handle on our holdings in preparation for exhibit design and a potential move into a new facility.

We are following the lead of the Rossland Museum, which undertook the same project last year, with very successful results.

The project was pitched to Trail City Council, who distributed the funds this year, on Monday June 16th at a public meeting to discuss the allocation of CBT funds to local community organizations. The Society has recently been informed that our application was successful and the project has been funded (nearly \$14,000) to purchase a new scanner and digital camera to digitize the holdings and for wages for one employee.

We hope to begin this project in September, once the museum is closed for the season. We anticipate the project will take roughly 34 weeks to complete, with the main focus on the photograph collection.