



Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

All About Hockey

We had another fantastic Christmas time for Smoke Eater merchandise, thanks to Waneta Plaza and Shaw Cable. We were invited to set up a table during Waneta Plaza's annual bake sale in November and got some great exposure. Shaw Cable ran two features for us, which included our merchandise and the launch of our Virtual Museum of Canada online exhibit. With some recent coverage on Global TV, we now have nearly 20 1939 jerseys on back order.

The Nelson Daily News Cup suffered some water damage in the Sports Hall of Memories in November

and we are currently having it repaired. We hope to have it back on display this spring.



1939 Gold Medal and pins, a new addition to the SHM

Also to go on display in the Sports Hall of Memories is the 1939 gold medal donated last year by Mrs. Isabel Morris, whose husband, Jimmy, was a member of the 1939 team. It was recently framed with some select pins from the 1939 tour.

And in other 1939 Smoke Eater news, we were recently contacted by the grandson-in-law of Mr. Dick Kowcinak, a member of the 1939 Smokies. Mr. Kowcinak is alive and well in Sarnia, Ontario and continues to skate every day. We have been in touch with Mr. Kowcinak who has agreed to sit for an interview for the archives, which will make a welcome addition to our growing collection of 1939 memorabilia and recollections.

Look for us at the BC Pee Wee Provincial Championship mid-March at the arena!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 26th** at 7:00 pm in the **Colombo Lodge Games Room** (564 Rossland Avenue). Election of directors will take place.

Jamie Forbes will

present his discussion and PowerPoint on Fort Shepherd, which looks at the importance the Fort played in the area and also in determining the US-Canada boundary.

Memberships will be renewed, along with

subscriptions to the BC History Journal. Cash or cheques are accepted.

Refreshments and goodies will be provided.

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DID YOU KNOW?

It was 70 years ago, February 12, that the Trail Smoke Eaters won the 1939 World Championship Tournament in Switzerland. The team let only one goal the entire tournament, against Mike Buckna's Czechoslovakian national team.

Ongoing Digitization Project

We are still working steadily on the digitization of our museum, sports and photograph collections. Rossland Museum manager, Joyce Austin, was hired in the fall to undertake this massive project which is roughly two thirds complete.



This bowl has undergone the digitization process. A worksheet was prepared, indicating its condition and any visible markings, donor information recorded and the artifact photographed. This Molina Grocery bowl was donated in 2007 by Society member, Sandy Hart.

Joyce began in the Sports Hall of Memories, documenting and photographing each item. She then moved into the museum and our storage areas in City Hall. She is currently finishing up the large collection of museum pieces in our many storage areas throughout City Hall.

The next phase of the project will involve developing criteria for image selection. We do not intend

to digitize every image in our large and continually growing photograph collection, as some are not in a condition for reproduction or do not hold much historical significance. Once the criteria is laid out, the images that are suitable for digitization will be scanned at

various resolutions. A low resolution is required for linking the image to its corresponding database record. A high resolution is required for reprinting and reproduction purposes. A high quality TIFF file will then be created for storage on archival CDs and will be kept off site in the event the building or our storage areas suffer any type of disaster, such as fire or flood.

We hope the completion of the project will give us a better handle on our collection and give us some insight into how best to develop our acquisition policy for the future.

A sincere thank you to the Columbia Basin Trust for funding this important project.

Fiscal Year Change

In November 2008, Society members passed a motion to request a fiscal year change from the Charities Directorate in order to be better coincide with the City's fiscal year.

The City's fiscal year ends December 31st, where the Society's concludes February 28th.

A change in our fiscal year would eliminate the process of reporting to Council a portion of the previous year's books. Additionally, budgeting for the following year would be simplified.

"A change in our fiscal year would eliminate the process of reporting...a portion of the previous year's books."

In January, we were informed of the Charities Directorate's approval of a fiscal year change. This will mean next year's reporting will be much

simpler, as will the budgeting process.

City of Trail Funding Announcement

In November, the Society submitted its 2009 budget to City Council for their consideration and requested they provide us with an operating grant in the amount of \$30,000 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

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efforts to deliver on our mandate is very much appreciated. Their annual operating grant enables us to maintain the services we provide to

the community at a high level. This year's funding will continue to cover wages of our Museum and Archives Director, as well as the operations of the museum, archives and Sports Hall of Memories.

Thanks again to City Council for their continued support.

Upcoming Grant Applications

It is grant application season, once again. This year, we are focusing on heritage signage and website development.

We are currently budgeting for a Fort Shepherd signage and plaque replacement project, which will see the installation of proper heritage signage across the river from the site, as well as the fabrication and replacement of the missing bronze plaque for the cairn at the Fort Shepherd site. We intend to request this funding through the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives program, which will again be administered by local municipalities. This project is most suited to the Community Initiatives program, as we can



Stone mason Frank Plati in front of the Fort Shepherd cairn, 1953. Photo courtesy Eileen Pedersen

through which to apply for funding. We have opted to apply for the Heritage Innovations grant to help develop a new website focused solely on Smoke Eater history. Since creating our hockey documentary, we have a wide variety of multi-media virtually unseen by the general public. We

access the City of Trail and Area A & B for funding.

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance provides organizations and artists with several programs

hope this website will push us further into the technological age while supporting our operations.

Finally, we have once again applied to the Federal Government under the Canada Summer Jobs program which, we hope, will assist us in hiring a summer student to attend to the museum this year. Last year, we, along with many other heritage organizations, were unsuccessful in obtaining this funding. After much lobbying and the recent budget announcement, we hope there is enough funding to provide each non-profit organization with at least one position. Updates on these applications will be made in the next issue.

Plans for Sports Hall of Memories—Allan Cup Replica Donation

The Society is planning a few major changes in the Sports Hall of Memories this spring. As was mentioned earlier, the large display area suffered some water damage in the fall due to a roof leak and all trophies and jerseys in the exhibit were removed. The exhibit space is now empty, however it will be filled with items from our merchandise collection, as a pseudo-storefront.

The two Babe Ruth baseball cases will be re-vamped, with all the large plaques removed, to be replaced by one plaque indicating each year's winner. The empty case will be filled with lacrosse memorabilia.



Replica Allan Cup, donated by Bobby Kromm.

The case featuring items from the collection of the late Andy Bilesky will be emptied and replaced with other items from our collection.

One final addition of interest is a replica Allan Cup trophy donated by Bobby Kromm. The trophy, while smaller in scale to the original, is a unique item and will sit nicely along side the Savage Cup.

Community in Bloom—2009 Plans

The Community in Bloom committee is once again partnering with the Trail Historical Society to develop a series of historic signs to be placed at the entrances to the various residential communities throughout Trail.

The signage will reflect the same information that was published in our tour guide, released last year. We hope to include a variety of

photographs and text, as well as develop a heritage style for the signage.

Additionally, the Community in Bloom will be looking at another heritage mural in the downtown core.

We intend to install informative signage to the current five murals, as well. This information was also compiled last year and published in

our tour guide.

We continue to work closely with the CiB, particularly on heritage issues, as they contend yet again in the national competition. The competition's heritage component is of extreme importance to the overall score and we continue to partner on new projects that help to visibly depict the history of our city.

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

The Trail Historical Society meets bi-
monthly, the 2nd Tuesday, in
Committee Room 2, upstairs in City
Hall, at 1:30 PM.

*Meetings held February, April, June,
September, November*

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

www.trailhistory.com

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.

2009 Story Writing Contest—Promotions Committee

In conjunction with Heritage Week, which was held from February 16th to 22nd and touted the theme “A Legacy of Learning: The Heritage of Education”, the Promotions Committee and the Trail Historical Society announced a story-writing contest entitled “*Celebrating the Spirit of J.L. Crowe.*”

With the new high school nearing completion and the many celebrations planned for the coming spring and summer, the Promotions Committee saw it fitting to honour the Crowe in such a way that the many memories and stories could be preserved for years to come.

The Committee is asking aspiring authors to complete one of the following thoughts:

1. My fondest memory of CROWE...
2. My most poignant experience at CROWE...



J. Lloyd Crowe Secondary School, 1952.

3. CROWE taught me...

Stories can be a maximum of 500 words and must be an original, unpublished work. One photo or illustration may be included in the submission.

For full contest details and regulations, please contact the Trail City

Archives at 250-364-0829 or visit www.trail.ca.

Two prizes of \$500 each will be awarded to one adult winner and one student winner, age 17 and under.

All entries must be received by June 30, 2009 and will be judged on originality, emotion, focus, clarity, writing style and how well the work influences others about our city.

We encourage all our members and Crowe alumni to submit their stories. Entries are accepted at City Hall or at promotions@trail.ca. All entries will eventually be deposited into the Trail City Archives.

Good luck!