



# The Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## Fall has arrived!

As hockey season gets into swing and with some recent donations begging to be seen, more additions were made to two hockey cases in the Sports Hall of Memories. The sweater worn by the 1943-44 Junior Smoke Eaters (Memorial Cup Finalists) is now on exhibit. Kindly donated by former player Ivo Toffolo, the jersey is in mint condition and completes this case very nicely. Also, the family of the late Frank Turik were kind enough to donate the red HBC “blanket” jacket worn by the 1961 Smoke Eaters on their European tour.

In addition, the Daily News Cup is finally



*Daily News Cup back in place in the SHM.*

back where it belongs after sustaining severe water damage in the fall of 2008. Special thanks to John Harasin for repairing the base of the trophy.

The annual BC Museums Association Conference was held in Osoyoos earlier this month. Museum & Archives Director Sarah Benson attended

the conference, which saw a change in format from lecture sessions to 3-hour workshops. Sarah enjoyed the conference and left armed with useful bits of information.

We will be wrapping up two major projects that have been on the work schedule for the past several months. The digitization project, funded in 2008 by the Columba Basin Trust’s Community Initiatives Program will be completed, once the remainder of the photograph collection is scanned and linked to the database. In addition, the West Kootenay Power Archives will see the arrangement of the textual records.

## 2009 Museum Season in Review

This year, the Society was fortunate to receive a grant from the Canada Summer Jobs Program to hire a summer student to fill the position of Museum Assistant. Katie Moorhead was hired in June to look

after the operations in the museum and also delve into the digitization of the archival photograph collection.

The Museum saw 199 visitors this summer and three visits were made to

the residents at Poplar Ridge with artifacts.

Numbers were slightly up this year compared to previous years, which is certainly a surprising outcome.

### Inside this issue:

Ore Car Exhibit Update	2
Sports Hall of Memories Kiosk Issues	2
2009 Report to Council	2
THS Office Renovations	3
2010 Fundraising	3
Fort Shepherd Signage—Update	3
2010 Plans	4

### DID YOU KNOW?

*The grand opening of the Royal Theatre (formerly the Odeon) took place in this month forty years ago. The opening night feature show was “Where Eagles Dare!” starring Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood and Mary Ure.*

## Ore Car Exhibit—Update

As many of you are aware, the Society acquired a CPR concentrate car from the railway in 2002. The car was one of the last remaining of over 300 used to transport lead and zinc concentrate from the Sullivan Mine in Kimberly to the Trail smelter since the 1930's.

Our plan was to refurbish the car and display it in Jubilee Park as a lasting symbol of what the mining and smelting industry means to our community. In 2005, Council approved the placement of the car in the Park.



Society President Jamie Forbes with the ore car at Teck in 2002. The ore car will be completely refurbished to resemble the ore cars of the 1950s and 1960s.

We hoped to add a caboose to the exhibit that would contain displays of our industrial heritage but were unable to find one.

The car is currently stored at Teck's operations and they have requested we move it. We are therefore proceeding with the project without the caboose. A revised site plan has been prepared which will require the removal of approximately one-quarter of one of the flower planters constructed by City stonemasons in 1971. Our request for the revised plan will be considered by City Council at their November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. If approved, a budget will be prepared and funding for the project sought. We hope to proceed sometime in 2010.

## Sports Hall of Memories Kiosk Issues

This past summer, the kiosk located next to the library entrance in the Sports Hall of Memories suffered a hard drive failure. The current operating system is nearly ten years old and it finally gave out after many years in service.

The Society has recruited the help of Glenn Wallace, a tech whiz, to assist with getting the kiosk up and

running again.

Issues include upgrading the kiosk software from its original version nearly ten years old and how the software will work with the proposed new operating system. Additional problems may include the current



Home page of the Interpretive kiosk in the Sports Hall of Memories

touchscreen, which is showing signs of age.

Funding will be sought to ensure this integral piece of the Sports Hall of Memories is repaired and functional for the many visitors who visit the arena each day.

## 2009 Report to Council

It is budget time for the Society and we have been asked to submit our Annual Report and request for our operating grant to City Council by the end of October.

The Annual Report provides Council with a summary of our activities over the past 10-12 months, statistics related to archival enquiries and web site visits and notable acquisitions to our collections over the past year. We

also inform Council of our plans for the coming year. A copy of the report may be obtained by contacting our Director in the office in City Hall.

Our 2010 Budget projects an operating deficit of \$8000. We will have to work hard to generate revenue to reduce this figure. Over the past five years our annual grant from the City has been between \$28,000 to \$30,000. For 2010, we

are seeking an increase in the funding by \$5000 to \$35,000. The additional funds will be used to offset the increase in salary for our Director, agreed to in 2008.

We are confident Council recognizes our value to the community and will approve the funding request in what promises to be a difficult budget year for the City.

## Trail Historical Society Office Renovations

During the past summer, City Council approved the renovations of the Trail Historical Society main office. This office space was shared with the City's Engineering department to house their many boxes and cabinets of files.

The renovations saw a fresh coat of paint on the walls and the removal of the old carpet, which proved daily to be a tripping hazard. Electrical issues were also considered in the proposal, however given the age of the building, any expense spared to address the electrical problems would have been exorbitant.

The door was framed in properly and trim was placed around it, to

hide the exposed brick of the original building. The City's engineering files were moved into the middle room between the archives and the office, to give the engineers a space of their own for



*The newly-renovated main office of the Trail Historical Society.*

excess filing.

The results from the renovation have been extremely positive. Not only is the space much more aesthetically pleasing, but the room is cleaner and more conducive to our operations. With a few more archival photos for the walls, the space will be complete.

The Society wishes to thank Councillor Gattafoni-Robinson for spearheading this initiative and City Council for approving the budget. We encourage everyone to drop by and take a look at the new space!

## 2010 Fundraising

One of the most difficult tasks any non-profit organization faces is raising the necessary funds to operate its programs or deliver its services to the public. We are no different. Our annual budget averages between \$50,000 and \$60,000. The City provides \$30,000 to us annually and we must raise the rest of the revenue needed to operate. Sale of merchandise is a big revenue generator for us, and grants from a variety of sources are also sought. However, this source

of funding is starting to dry up.

The Provincial Government has eliminated the funding programs that were accessible to us in the past and the competition for other funding programs is increasing. Fundraising for our operations has therefore become one of our most urgent needs.

This Fall we are conducting a raffle to generate some revenue. The winner will receive \$1000 in cash. Tickets are on sale now and we will

be at Waneta Plaza on Friday evenings and Saturdays the month of November. Drop by and purchase a ticket.

If you have any ideas we can pursue to generate revenue for the Society please contact Sarah at 250-364-0829.

Draw date is November 30th, 2009 at City Hall.

## Fort Shepherd Signage—Update

In May, the Society was awarded just under \$4000 from the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives Program to prepare interpretive roadside signage along Highway 22A to inform the public of the historical significance of Fort Shepherd. Kathy Verigin of Castlegar was once again commissioned to design the signage.



*New signage installed along Highway 22A, just north of the border crossing.*

According to Ministry of Highways regulations, the site had to be

prepared to accommodate at least two vehicles and brought to grade with the highway. A contractor was hired to look after the site preparation.

The sign itself is now installed for viewing. If you find yourself heading towards the border, be sure to stop by and take a look!

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](mailto:history@trail.ca)

[www.trailhistory.com](http://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.

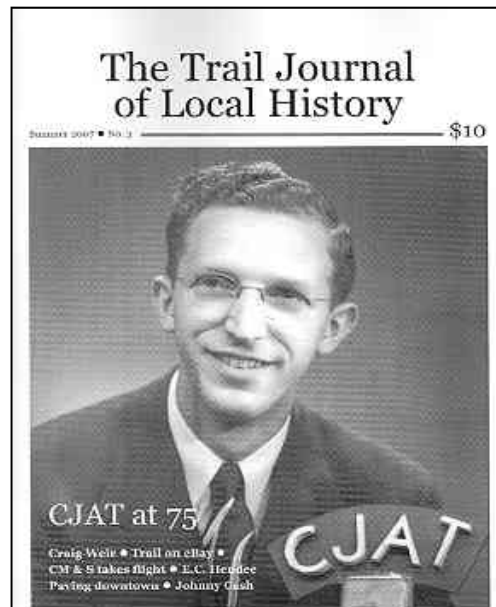
## 2010 Plans

After a busy year packed with a variety of community projects, numerous research enquiries and grant applications, the Society is looking forward to the coming year and focusing efforts on organizational issues.

The first in the long list of priorities will see the development and adoption of a well-structured collections policy for the archives, museum and sports collections. The collections policy will guide staff and board members towards a more deliberate method of collecting, taking into account duplicate objects, missing areas in the collection and storage issues. With a written policy, acquisitions and rejections can be easily justified and defended.

Next year will also see the launch of a new historic Smoke Eater

website that will feature much of the content we've collected over the past several years throughout our



Cover of the 3rd issue of the Trail Journal of Local History, available for sale at City Hall and [trailhistory.com](http://trailhistory.com).

interviewing and collecting processes. We hope it will provide fans and researchers with a valuable resource for historic information and increase the Society's profile in the online community.

Finally, the fourth installment of the Trail Journal of Local History is slated to hit the shelves in the fall. We will once again partner with Society member and award-winning historian Greg Nesteroff to put together another interesting journal filled with local historical anecdotes and written submissions made to the archives since the last edition. This issue will feature Frank Hanna and his activities outside of Trail and BC's oldest bridge in Waneta, among many other fascinating topics.