



# The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## From the Desk of the President

In the Fall of last year, the Trail and District Arts Council initiated the preparation of an “Arts Plan” for the Greater Trail area. The purpose of the Plan was to effectively lay out a plan to strategically integrate arts and heritage into the larger community and identify how arts and heritage could add to the cultural life of the community and contribute to the economy of the area. Consultants were hired to prepare the study and visited the area in March to interview stakeholders and to view the cultural landscape we enjoy here. Their final report was received in May and they have identified heritage as a major focal

point for the arts and culture sector of our



*Historic view of the Esplanade.*

community. They were impressed with our region’s history and recommend we use it as a framework for events and activities undertaken in the arts sector and the community at large. They also support the construction of a new museum for Trail and the a cultural and heritage facility on the Esplanade. Copies of

the report are available in our office in City Hall.

The Heritage Conservation Service Study being prepared by the RDKB is well underway. The consultants held public meetings in the region in April and their first draft of their report is to be submitted to the Regional District by mid-July. The study will review the needs of the heritage sector in the region and make recommendations for the establishment of a regional service ( a means to provide funds) to support heritage conservation in the Region.

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### Museum Now Open!

The Trail Historical Society is pleased to announce the opening of the Trail Museum, located in the Trail Memorial Centre.

The Society received funding from the Federal Government under the Canada Summer Jobs

Program, which funds the employment of a summer student. This year, the Society has hired Danielle Klassen. Danielle attends school at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA and is proving a very capable Museum Assistant.

Among her duties in the Museum, Danielle is transcribing several oral history interviews in the Archives.

The Museum is open from 10:00 - 4:30 weekdays. Remember, all members receive free admission!

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#### Up and Coming Events:

- BC Sports Hall of Fame Exhibit, Trail Memorial Centre, July 9th - July 10th
- Downtown Historic Walking Tours, July 14th and August 17th
- Heritage Federation of Southeast BC Workshop, September 25th, in Creston

## 2010 Grant Applications

The Society made funding applications to all the usual funders this year for a variety of different projects. The following is a run-down of our many proposed projects and the results of the applications.

In February, the THS applied to the Canada Summer Jobs Program, funded by the Federal Government, requested money to hire a summer student. Once again, we have been successful in that application, receiving \$4100 to hire a student.

With the anniversary of the 1961 Trail Smoke Eater's second World Championship win, the THS is planning to reproduce the final game onto CD format. The LeRoi



Thanks to another Federal Grant, the Trail Museum is again open for business for another summer season.

Foundation generously awarded the THS \$1000 towards that project.

The BC Arts Council has granted \$1200 to the THS in operating funds, which will most likely be put towards

the 1961 rebroadcast project.

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance has awarded the THS a \$1500 grant to upgrade the current software and operating system of our Sports Hall of Memories kiosk.

And finally, the THS was relatively successful under Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiative program, which granted \$6000 for a new museum plan, which will include artist conceptions of what a new heritage facility for the City could look like.

Ultimately, grant season for the Society was fairly successful and we look forward to seeing these projects develop throughout the remainder of the year.

## Historic Smoke Eater Website

The website plans for the historic Trail Smoke Eaters website are well underway.

Our new maintenance provider has contracted with Frank Communications of Salmo to help develop the site, which will include photographs, videos, and a comprehensive history of early hockey in Trail and the development of our two world

championship teams.

The site will link to our current e-store, where visitors can browse our selection of historical publications and vintage Smoke Eater merchandise. We feel the timing of

*"...the timing of the launch will coincide nicely with the upcoming 50th anniversary of the 1961 world championship win..."*

the launch will coincide nicely with the upcoming 50th anniversary of the 1961 world championship win in March 2011.

Periodic updates of progress will be posted on the "Projects" page of our current site, [www.trailhistory.com](http://www.trailhistory.com).

## 1963 Replica Jersey

After 3 years of great sales of our replica 1939 and 1961 World Championship jerseys, the Society has ventured yet again into the Smoke Eater merchandise market by reproducing the 1963 World Championship jersey worn by the Trail Smoke Eaters.

Although they did not win that year, the jersey is a wonderful representation of Trail, with the staple orange and black colours, as

opposed to the standard red and blue.

Using Norm Lenardon's original jersey, the Society was able to replicate the look and *Hockey Canada* was happy to work with us again.



The jerseys arrived in early May and are now available at City Hall, the Trail Museum and, of course, online in our e-store.

Cost for this jersey is \$120. Cash, cheques and credit cards are all accepted. Sizes Large and X-Large are available.

*The 1963 replica jersey is now available for purchase through the office and online.*

## 1961 World Championship Final Game Broadcast

As mentioned earlier in our grant applications article, the Society has received funds to assist in the reproduction of the 1961 World Championship final hockey game, where the Trail Smoke Eaters edged past the Soviet team to win the coveted title for the second time.

Considered the underdog, the Trail Smoke Eaters proved their well-honed skills were more than adequate to defeat the best teams in the world.

The Trail City Archives has been in possession of the final game broadcast which was heard by many a hockey fan in Trail early on the



*"The Moment." The 1961 World Championship Trail Smoke Eaters celebrate their win.*

morning of March 12, 1961.

Astral Media, who now owns station CNFB which broadcast the game, has

transferred copyright to the Society for reproduction and royalty purposes. In addition, we have been in contact with Bill Stevenson, the announcer who called the game. Bill has agreed to provide us with some insights into the game, the sentiment at the time and what the win did for hockey in Canada.

Kathy Verigin has once again been commissioned to look after our graphics for the CD.

We are delighted to finally make use of this valuable recording and are pleased it will coincide with the 50th anniversary celebrations in March of next year.

## Kiosk Upgrades

Thanks to a generous grant from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and Teck, further upgrades can be made to the dated touch screen and kiosk software currently in use.

The kiosk has seen one minor upgrade since its installation, which was a new LCD touch screen in 2005.

The new software will require the conversion of the current files used to view text, photographs and videos, which could take some time. The Society will need a technician to look after the file conversion and installa-

*"The new software will require the conversion of the current files used to view text, photographs, and videos..."*

tion of the new, updated software. We hope to see the work completed by the fall.

The kiosk is currently still active in the Sports Hall of Memories.

## Recent Acquisitions

Some interesting donations have made their way to our repositories over the past six months that are worth mentioning.

In February, the Society received a pair of leather hockey gloves, worn by Tommy Johnston during the 1930s and at the 1939 World Championship tournament, donated by Rod Mitchell. In March, a large collection of Girl Guides memorabilia was

received, including several examples of various uniforms, sashes and badges, by the Trail Guides.

In January, a Trail Figure Skating Club dress from 1970 was donated for display by Lisa Vanness.

And just this month, a collection of recordings



A 1970 Trail Figure Skating Club dress, donated by Lisa Vanness, worn by her mother.

featuring Trail Historical Society guest speakers was donated by Bert Green.

Our collections continue to grow with interesting documents, photographs and artifacts. A reminder that the Society is happy to consider any donation you may wish to make to our collections.



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 \$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.

## From the Desk of the President, cont.

We are hopeful this will include the operations of local museums and archives. If the Board agrees to establish such a service it is hoped it will be in place for 2011.

The City of Trail has entered into a license agreement with the Vancouver Canucks to allow the hockey team to use the crest of the 1939 Trail Smoke Eaters for promotion purposes in GM Place. They intend to produce jerseys for sale on a limited basis with the City receiving a 15% royalty on the net proceeds of the sales. The City has agreed to transfer these funds to our Society. We hope this agreement will generate a modest revenue stream for us and expose our Smoke Eater merchandise to a wider audience. Thanks to City

Council for supporting us with this endeavour.

We were successful in receiving funding from the CBT through the City of Trail to assist us in preparing a public presentation package on the



Jubilee Park, the preferred THS location for the concentrate car which

merits of establishing a new museum for the community. However, we only received half the funds we need to proceed. We will be having further discussions with the CBT in the hopes the additional funding can be obtained directly from them. We remain optimistic we can prepare the package this Fall.

The consultant hired by the City of Trail to identify possible locations for our ore car exhibit has submitted their report to City Council. The report will be considered by Council and then referred to the Society for comment. We anticipate receipt of the report in early July.

We have a busy few months ahead with some promising opportunities. We will keep you posted!

Jamie Forbes, President