



Trail Creek News

The Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

“Spirit ‘61”

On Saturday, March 12th, fans of the 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters were treated to a special commemoration of the team that brought home Trail’s second World Championship hockey title.

After nearly a year of planning, the *Spirit ‘61* Committee, consisting of representatives of the Trail Historical Society, the City’s Promotions Committee, Trail Parks and Recreation and media sponsors, launched an anniversary event like no other at Trail’s Royal Theatre.

The program was emceed fittingly by the “voice of the Smokies,” Tiger Milburn, who welcomed our honoured guests, Mayor Bogs, Mr. Mike Martin (General Manager of Teck’s Trail Ops) and also introduced a special video message from Don Freer, who traveled to Europe to take in the 1961 World

Championship Hockey Tournament in Switzerland.

The THS documentary, *For the Love of the Game* was screened, followed by unique footage of a Swiss newsreel, capturing scenes from the Canada-USA game, and the final Canada-USSR game. We also released radio broadcast of that final game on CD.

It was an extremely successful and heartfelt day. We thank all who came out to honour the team and share their memories.



Annual General Meeting

The Trail Historical Society held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, February 10th, at 7:00pm in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church meeting area.

Twenty members and guests attended the

meeting with guest speaker Sandy Santori, Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Initiatives Corporation.

Mr. Santori shed some light on the many economic development opportunities for the

Greater Trail area. He also spoke on the importance of arts, heritage and culture in driving economic development in communities such as ours. For more information on the LCI, visit www.lcic.ca.

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SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to those members who assisted with the Spirit ‘61 celebrations on March 12th. Brisk Smoke Eater memorabilia sales and a full house made for a busy day for our volunteers. After the dust settled, the THS made a profit of approximately \$5000 for the day, which included ticket sales, the raffle and merchandise sales. A big thank you to our valued volunteers who continue to work hard for this community.

2011 Grant Applications

The Trail Historical Society is gearing up for the annual season of grant applications and submissions. This year, the Society will be once again requesting funding from our usual sources.

Firstly, the current storage system for the archival issues of the Trail Daily Times, dating back to October 1896, is in desperate need of re-housing. Presently, these loosely-bound books of individual newsprint are stored vertically. With this method of storage, the newsprint can easily readjust inside the covers, causing edges to become exposed and irreparably damaged during the retrieval and



The ideal way to store newspapers: flat!

re-filing.

A new method of storage, which will see the roughly 150 books stored flat, will minimize

the risk to the paper and ensure that our most used resource is preserved for many more years to come.

An application has been submitted to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) for this project.

Next, we have developed an application that focuses on the

future of the Sports Hall of Memories. The Society recognizes our sports collection as containing some of our most interesting and valuable artifacts. We would like to assess the potential for this facility, as it is now in its 31st year, with few changes save some aesthetic and lighting upgrades. An application has been submitted to the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives program.

And finally, another application has been submitted to the CKCA for a portable exhibit case for display in local venues to showcase artifacts and THS merchandise.

2010 Financial Summary

The Society began the fiscal year with a bank balance of \$21,139.67 and ended the year with a balance of \$11,817.91. Our 2010 income statement shows a net loss of \$10,745.88 for the year. This loss is attributable to the THS utilizing surplus funds from the 2009 fiscal year to undertake extraordinary expenditures for operating and capital purposes. These include: increasing the Society's inventory

of vintage Trail Smoke Eater memorabilia, purchase of new office equipment, replacing the Museum's security system and adjusting to an increase in the maintenance fees for the Society's websites. In addition, work on the upgrade of the Sports Hall of Memories kiosk

began in 2010 using funds received in 2009. The statements show the THS in good financial standing and having a sound base in which to enter the 2011 fiscal year.

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Trail Journal of Local History, Issue Four

The editorial committee of the Trail Journal of Local history is busy working away on the fourth installment of the popular book.

Once again, Society member and local historian, Greg Nesteroff, is piecing the articles together for publication.

Articles in this issue include a biography of Frank Hanna (seen right), a history of the Waneta Bridge, a feature on Trail's cornerstones and time capsules, an interview with the late Mario



Frank Hanna, 1880

"Spuds" Pagnan, the filling of Bay Avenue with slag, among others. Additional articles from BC historian Ron Greene and THS member Sam McBride will also feature in this issue.

We expect an early summer release for this issue. Cost will remain at \$10.00 per copy.

Kiosk Upgrade

Having served the Sports Hall of Memories for over ten years, the current kiosk system presently at work will soon be re-launched after a complete overhaul of both hardware and design.

With generous support from Teck Metals Ltd. and the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, the THS purchased a new operating system, along with a new LCD touch screen. The new software will allow for a multitude of beneficial features, including more dynamic graphics and the ability to launch the kiosk online.

Not only will this increase the THS web presence, but will also make for easier updates and repairs when needed.

The THS has entrusted the new retrofit to Kale Stanchuk of Ten Twenty Three-Media in Trail. Kale has been busy entering data and re-creating the feel of the website to reflect a more vintage, historic theme.

We expect installation to take place in April. A special thank you to the Trail & District Public Library for allowing us use of their internet connection for the kiosk. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Home page of the new interpretive kiosk and website for the Sports Hall of Memories.

Vintage Smoke Eaters—Recent Additions

Some new items have made their way into our collection of Smoke Eater memorabilia. This line of souvenirs and merchandise account for a considerable portion of THS revenue annually and continue to serve us very well.

Another batch of 1961 Team Canada jerseys was ordered before

Christmas in anticipation of decent sales surrounding the *Spirit '61* event. Our predictions were correct and sales have been steady since March 12th.

The new audio CD of the final game radio broadcast was launched on March 12th. For a cost of \$10, you, too, can hear the exciting

moments of that game, re-mastered for quality.

Finally, we reproduced the orange and black 1963 Team Canada jersey. These have considerable appeal, as they feature the “Smokie” colours. All items are available at City Hall and our website, www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca.

Fort Shepherd Update

The Trail Historical Society closed the file on the Fort Shepherd Interpretive Signage and Plaque Replacement project it began back in summer 2009.

After interpretive heritage signage was erected along Highway 22A north of the US/Canada border in Waneta in August 2009, the quest was on for an affordable way of replacing the missing plaque that once marked the cairn at the site of the former Hudson's Bay post.

Media exposure in the local paper piqued the interest of a few members of the Trail Wildlife Association, who recalled the plaque being found and stored away. Despite this, the original plaque has never been found.

The Society requested the assistance of Bill Clark at Personal Alternatives Funeral Services, who, with remaining funds from

the grant, ordered a plaque with the exact wording of the original from his distributor. Spring time will see the re-attachment of the plaque, as

well as some reconstructive rock work on the 60 year old cairn, which is experiencing some deterioration.

Special thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust and Personal Alternatives Funeral Services.



THS President Jamie Forbes pointing to the space once occupied by a bronze plaque on the Fort Shepherd cairn in Fall 2010.

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.

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

Phone: 250-364-0829

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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 **\$20.00** 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. In addition, members now received 10% of all Trail Historical Society merchandise, including our vintage Trail Smoke Eater collection!

Trail Heritage & Culture Centre Initiative

For over ten years, the primary goal of our Society has been to build a new museum and archives for the community. In two different concept plans, the City has included a new museum and library in a civic development that would be built on the Esplanade. Neither proposal has made it past the planning stage. However, we remain hopeful an opportunity will present itself soon that will make construction of a new museum a reality.

In the past year, there has been interest in developing an interpretive centre in Trail that would describe the history, ecology and social benefits of the Columbia River, in addition to its impact on industry in the southeast area of the Province. The Lower Columbia Initiatives, the new economic development office in the Greater

Trail area, has agreed to assist in determining if such a facility is feasible. Through their office, discussions have taken place between the Society and Teck to consider if a new museum and archives and the Teck Interpretive Centre can be included in a joint project with the proposed Columbia River interpretive centre.

Fundraising to conduct a study to determine the merits of such a project is currently underway. A terms of reference for a request for proposals from qualified consultants is being prepared, as well. The study will provide the stakeholders with the information necessary to determine if they wish to participate in such a development, where it would be located, what the capital and operating costs will be, and how it will be managed. The Society is

contributing \$6000 towards the cost of the study.

We hope this initiative will be successful and a new museum and archives will become a reality in the near future.