



The Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

The sale of replica Smoke Eaters jerseys has been a financial success for the THS. The City of Trail assists us with this initiative by purchasing the jerseys from the supplier on our behalf. We repay the City as the jerseys are sold. Recently we realized we were paying the GST portion of the HST on the purchase of the jerseys which the City received a rebate for, effectively receiving the rebate benefit twice. In December, the City agreed to not charge us these taxes for the reimbursement of their purchases. This has saved the Society a

significant amount of money and we are grateful the City has agreed to our request.

Our annual Christmas luncheon for members at the Colander Restaurant was well attended and we again enjoyed great food and lots of stories. Try to join us next year if you couldn't make it this year.

In the Fall we were approached by the Editor of the Trail Times to run a photo/article on the community's history on a regular basis in the paper. We recently met with Guy Bertrand and we will start this feature in the last

Friday issue of March. The first article will promote the new Trail Journal of Local History. Thanks to the Trail Times for helping us celebrate our community's history and publicize the work of the Society.

The City of Trail will host the annual conference of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government Association in April. The Society has been asked to create a display highlighting the City's hockey history at the opening reception for conference delegates on April 19th.

2011 Annual General Meeting

The Trail Historical Society held its 59th *Annual General Meeting* on Tuesday, February 7th at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in East Trail.

While attendance was sparse, those who

attended enjoyed an informative presentation by Gary Ockenden with the Columbia Basin Trust who reviewed the issues surrounding the possible renewal or abandonment of the Columbia River Treaty,

which will be decided by 2014.

A reminder that if you have not yet paid your dues, they will be accepted either by mail or in person upstairs in City Hall.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Trail's Fruit Fair Building (above), formerly at the intersection of Bay Avenue and Portland Street, opened in 1912—100 years ago. Originally intended as a venue for fall fairs, by 1925, artificial ice was installed to accommodate curlers, hockey players and avid skaters. The Fruit Fair building was only the 4th rink in BC to implant artificial ice and the first between Vancouver and Winnipeg. The building was demolished in 1951 once the Cominco Arena was fully functional.

Columbia River, Heritage & Science Centre Initiative—Update

Plans to construct a facility in the City’s downtown area that will house a new museum and archives, the Teck Interpretive Centre, the Trail and District Chamber of Commerce offices and a new Columbia River Interpretive Centre are progressing well.



Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon.

In January, the stakeholders (the Society, the City of Trail, Teck, Chamber of Commerce and Lower Columbia Initiatives) received the consultant’s final report on the merits and feasibility of such a project. The business plan prepared by the

consultant was very positive. The consultant addressed the major issues associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility, including the size and development cost, demand and revenue projections, projected revenues and expenditures, financial planning considerations and estimated economic impacts.

The consultant’s analysis and recommendations will be presented to the stakeholder groups for their

approval and for the funding of the preparation of a second report. This phase will identify the spatial needs of each stakeholder in the facility and related costs, potential partners, facility management and marketing requirements, detailed project planning and design, and the preparation of a detailed implementation plan, budget and financial plan. We hope this work can be carried out by the Summer and final decision on the project by the Fall. We are getting close to seeing a new museum and archives for our City.

City Hall Renovations—Complete

The New Year saw the completion of the THS portion of City Hall renovations in our back storage spaces.

The collection was packed into another moving truck and brought back to City Hall, save a few larger museum pieces, finding a home in the newly renovated area.

The archival, museum and sports collections are now on site in one integrated area in the back of our offices and enjoy heat, increased air flow, new flooring and increased lighting.

The preservation of the collection will certainly be

enhanced by the changes made to our space and we are grateful to the City of Trail once again for accommodating our needs and the needs of the collection throughout the duration of this project.

Feel free to stop by the office for a viewing of the changes!

“The preservation of the collection will certainly be enhanced by the changes made...”

Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 4

Finally, we are pleased to announce the publication of the 4th Trail Journal of Local History. It contains a variety of articles on our community’s history that will be of interest to everyone. The cover feature article tells the story of Frank Hanna, co-founder of the City of Trail, before and after his

residence in our community. Member Greg Nesteroff has written an excellent article on the Waneta Bridge and there is an enjoyable interview with Spuds Pagnan. There are other articles on Ferguson’s Castle, the United Dairies and



Boris Karloff in Trail. The Journal, and all of our publications, is available from our offices in City Hall, at www.trailhistory.com and at Crockett Books. Pick one up. It is a deal at \$10.

2012 Grant Applications

The Trail Historical Society's Executive met recently to discuss plans for 2012 and the many grant opportunities available to us this season. A few major projects are on the radar this year that we hope will aim to decrease our operational costs, increase storage space and assist us in realizing our goal as a relevant and significant contributor to our local culture.

The first application will see a request for funding to re-build two of our websites and transfer hosting duties to a local company. Featured in our last newsletter, this project has been in the works for several months. An application to Columbia Power Corporation is currently pending and the remainder of funding for this

project will be requested from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.

Our second application, also to be submitted to the CKCA, will see the selection, culling and re-housing of the Trail Daily Times newspaper negatives, which have been in our possession for nearly 10 years. The collection takes up considerable storage space, contains duplicate images and desperately requires stable storage solutions.

Topping off our project-based applications will be an application to the Columbia Basin Trust for funding to develop a strategic plan for the Sports Hall of Memories. The SHM, boasting our most impressive and valuable artifacts in

the collection, is in need of an overall assessment and we hope funding will be forthcoming for this facility that so proudly displays our renowned sporting history.

An application has been submitted to the Province of British Columbia in search of operating funds from the Community Gaming pool of money. The THS has been successful in the past with this program and with funding restored to heritage programs such as ours, we hope support will be provided.

And finally, an application was also submitted to the Federal Canada Summer Jobs Program to cover wages of our 2012 museum assistant.

City of Trail 2012 Operating Grant

The Society relies heavily on the annual operating grant we receive from the City of Trail. Without this financial support we would not be able to provide the services we are able to. Since 1999, The grant has been used to offset a portion of the wages and benefits paid to employ a full time Museum and Archives

Director. For 2012, the Society proposed the City assume the full costs of this position by 2014. This required an annual increase of the operating grant of \$3333 over the next three years. We are happy to announce that Council has approved this proposal. We feel this will give the Society some

financial stability for our operations and enable us to maintain the Director's position for the future. Council also agreed to again cover the costs of the Society's liability insurance coverage. Thank you to the City of Trail for their continued strong support of the Society.

Teck's Health & Wellness Checks

During February, the Trail Historical Society was invited to attend Teck's latest round of Health Checks, held at Trail Ops. The THS runs photograph preservation and genealogy courses through The Learning Centre at Teck, a company initiative that provides learning opportunities for Teck employees and promotes active living.

The health checks saw more than



200 employees over two days receive BMI, cholesterol and blood sugar testing. They also had an

opportunity to familiarize themselves with community organizations such as ours.

Our 10' display unit was installed and a laptop ran a series of archival images from the Teck collection.

The photographs were of particular interest to the younger employees. Many shared personal anecdotes of Trail and the smelter.

Events such as these provide the THS with an opportunity to engage with the community and promote our facilities, our collections and our mandate. We thank Teck's Health & Wellness Committee for the invitation and hope to participate again next year!

The Trail City Archives is located on the
2nd floor of City Hall

1394 Pine Avenue, Trail BC

The Trail Museum & Sports Hall of
Memories are located in the Trail
Memorial Centre

1051 Victoria Street, Trail BC

CONTACT US!

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We're on the web!

www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca



www.TrailHistory.com



www.TrailSportsHistory.ca



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: \$15.00**
- **Family: \$25.00**
- **Corporate: \$35.00**

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!

Upcoming Heritage Exhibits

The Trail Historical Society will be active in three local heritage exhibits scheduled for later this year and early in January.

The THS is partnering with VISAC Gallery to prepare an exhibit entitled "*Trail Constructs.*" The exhibit will chronicle the days of early construction in Trail and will feature a special look at the Old Bridge, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this May. The THS will contribute artifacts, archival images and maps to this exhibit. It opens in early September.

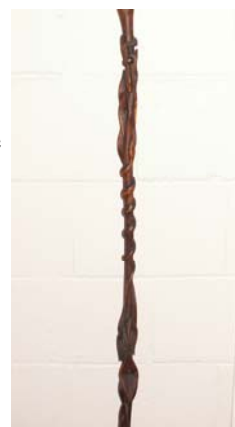
In addition, VISAC is developing an exhibit on early childhood education in Trail. The exhibit will feature artifacts, archival images and artists' renderings of "*The Golden Age of Childhood,*" and

will open in October.

We are very excited to partner with VISAC on these two projects. With the museum closed in the fall, the gallery provides those with an interest in local history an additional venue in which to learn.

Finally, the THS was invited by the Rossland Museum to participate in an extremely innovative exhibit slated for January 2013.

The exhibit, entitled "*Objects of Significance,*" includes a selection of artifacts from either the Rossland Museum's collection or private pieces that speak to the culture and history of the City. It will highlight the fact that interpretation of culture



Topping's cane, currently on display in the Trail Museum.

and history are subjective and vary from person to person.

We have attempted to select an object from our collection that speaks to the unity and shared history between Rossland and Trail and are currently considering Topping's cane and the Crown Grant purchased by Topping in 1892.

"*Objects of Significance*" will be presented at the Rouge Gallery in the old Bank of Montreal Building in Rossland.