



# The Trail Creek News

## Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## From the Desk of the President

The Executive of the Society would like to welcome Sam McBride as a new Director at Large. For the past two years we have been short a full complement of Directors and Sam will be a welcome addition to our team. Thanks to Sam for volunteering his time and energy to the Society.

Joy Biro, great granddaughter of Carroll Kendall, who played for the Smoke Eaters in the late 1920's, has agreed to loan a pipe to the Society that may have been the pipe Kendall picked up off the ice in the Provincial playoffs in Vancouver in 1928. For many years it was believed this incident lead the

Trail hockey club being named the Trail Smoke Eaters. This story has recently refuted by member Greg Nesteroff in his article in issue #2 of the Trail Journal of Local History. Still, the pipe is an interesting part of Trail's hockey history.

The Society recently created several large photographs for the City to put up in their entrance to the Council Chambers. The Society has received very positive comments from the public on how great they look and we are hoping to interest local businesses to purchase one or two to raise funds for the Society.

The membership would

like to thank Mark O'Flanagan (Sarah's husband) for painting the storage room behind the office. He really spruced the room up and it is now a much cleaner and brighter space to store our miscellaneous collections.

The City has agreed to advertise the Sports Hall of Memories and the Museum on the electronic message board on the Arena. We hope this will generate more visits to both exhibits.

Ferraro Foods has agreed to sell several of our books in their downtown store. We hope we can generate additional revenue from this location.

## Trail Museum Open for Summer!

The Trail Museum is once again open for the summer season! With financial assistance through the Federal Government's Canada Summer Jobs Program, the Society is please to introduce this year's summer student,

Evangeline Gifford, as our latest Museum Assistant.

Summer hours are Monday to Friday, 10:00am—4:30pm. Admission remains at \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students and free for

children 10 and under. Don't forget the Sports Hall of Memories on your visit, either!

If you are interested in volunteering a lunch hour or two this summer, please contact Sarah in the office.

### Inside this issue:

CRHSC Update	2
City Hall Renovations—Phase 3	2
Trail Times Historical Articles	2
2012 Grant Applications—Results	3
Artifact Acquisition Policy	3
Colombo Lodge Archives Project—Phase 2	3
VISAC—THS Collaboration	4

### TRAIL'S OLD BRIDGE FACTS

- Total length: 691 feet, 9 inches
- Penetration of deepest pier: 85 feet
- Weight of steel in piers: 300,000lbs
- Weight of steel in superstructure: 480,000lbs
- Number of rivets in piers: 50,000

## Columbia River, Heritage, Science Centre—Update

The plans to construct the Columbia River Heritage & Science Centre on the Esplanade, which will house a new museum and archives, has progressed a little since the last newsletter, although not as quickly as hoped for. The project steering committee made a presentation to City Council on March 26<sup>th</sup> to present our consultant's analysis of the merits of the project. We were well received and Council is in support of proceeding to the next phase, to prepare a detailed project concept plan that will include a cost estimate for the interior design of the facility and the costs of creating the exhibits.



One of the last sternwheelers to ply the Columbia River at Trail in the early 1900s

We had hoped to proceed with a proposal call for this work by the end of May, however this has been delayed pending further analysis by

the City of the future use of the Esplanade property and their financing options for the project. We hope these issues will be favourably resolved shortly so we can proceed with the next phase of the project.

## City Hall Renovations—Phase 3

Trail City Hall will be embarking upon the third phase of its interior renovation plans.

The third phase will include the construction of a lunch room in the space directly below the THS offices, which housed the old Bickle fire truck. The old truck has been parked at Public Works in Glenmerry and we hope to see this restored in the future.

The renovations will affect the THS office as new HVAC systems must be run through the floors to reach the roof. As a result, our offices will see some minor disruptions this summer.

On the positive side, we will receive new, energy efficient windows, which

should help regulate the fluctuating temperatures in the office.

As ever, we are grateful to the City for their consistent accommodation of our needs in City Hall.

*"...we will receive new, energy efficient windows..."*

## Trail Times Historical Articles

The Trail Historical Society was approached by the Trail Daily Times editor, Guy Bertrand, to consider contributing monthly historically-themed articles with photographs for publication in the paper.

Naturally, we agreed to participate in contributing local content to our

daily printed news source.

We have submitted three articles thus far, which included a story on our most recent journal, the 1962 Allan Cup winning Trail Smoke Eaters, and the 100th anniversary of



Trail Creek News office on Bay Avenue during high water in 1904

the old bridge.

The articles appear on the last Friday of every month and have been featured very prominently in each edition.

Be sure to pick up your copy at the end of the month!

## 2012 Grant Applications—Results

Our 2012 grant applications have all been submitted and reviewed. This year, we were fairly successful with those applications.

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance has provided the THS with two grants this year. The first will see the organization of our large collection of Trail Daily Times negatives that date back to the 1960s. The second grant, along with support from Columbia Power Corporation, will see our websites modified to accommodate a new hosting company.

Our panoramic digitization project has been funded by the UBC Librray and Teck Metals Ltd., and will see the digitization of our panoramic photograph collection



Homepage of the Historic Trail Smoke Eaters website.

and a curated online exhibit of industrial development in Trail.

We received our second Community Gaming grant from the Province of BC, with \$4000 towards our operating budget. Another \$1500 towards operating came from the BC Arts Council.

Our Canada Summer Jobs application was approved for \$5200 and has allowed us to hire our museum attendant.

Unfortunately, our application to the Columbia Basin Trust for a Sports Hall of Memories strategic plan was not funded.

## Artifact Acquisition Policy

With the advent of eBay and other auction houses on the internet and TV shows such as Pawn Stars and American Pickers, people are less willing to donate historical items of interest to museums and archives. Instead they are trying to sell them first. This has impacted every heritage society including ours.

We monitor online auctions and have to purchase items of value to our community that we would not be able to obtain otherwise. On the

other hand, we find items we never knew existed and benefit from the auction in that way.

In response, we have developed a policy statement to assist with the purchase of selected items for our collections. We have established a fund that will be used to purchase any item of historical value we feel is important to be returned to the community and be

*“...we have developed a policy statement to assist with the purchase of selected items for our collection.”*

preserved in our collection. The initial contribution to the fund will be \$1000. This money will come from the sale of Smoke Eater products in 2012. Any withdrawal from the fund to purchase an item will be replenished to maintain the fund at a minimum of \$1000.

## Colombo Lodge Archives Project—Phase 2

The second phase of the Colombo Lodge Archives project is now underway. The first phase, which was wrapped up just before Christmas last year, included a full inventory of the Colombo Lodge artifact collection located in the Lodge’s famous Archives Room.

In March, the THS conducted a workshop with members of Culture Committee to get a grasp of what sorts of artifacts the Lodge intends to collect, to identify important heritage values and to help create a cultural identity for Lodge in our community. With that



information, a collections policy will be drafted.

The Lodge received only partial funding for this phase, so the project will be re-assessed to accommodate the decrease in funding.

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!***

Trail Historical Society

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***We're on the web!***

[www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca](http://www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca)



[www.TrailHistory.com](http://www.TrailHistory.com)



[www.TrailSportsHistory.ca](http://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**

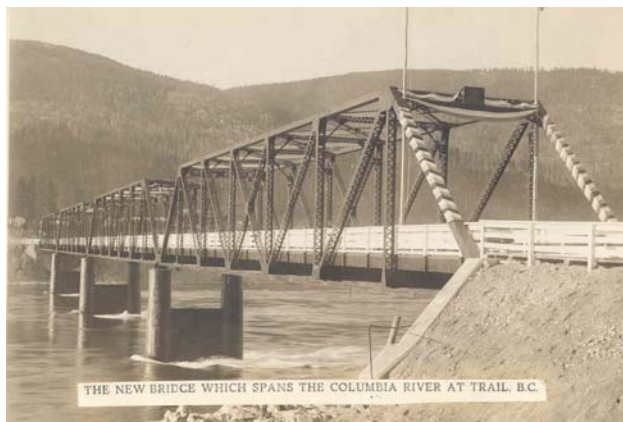
For an additional **\$20.00** you may obtain a one year's subscription to the *British Columbia History*, journal of the **BC Historical Federation**, at a savings of \$2.00 off the regular price. This high quality journal contains a variety of articles on BC's history and is a must have for students 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!

## VISAC-Trail Historical Society Collaboration

The Trail Historical Society and VISAC are joining forces to present a contemporary and historical look at one of Trail's oldest pieces of built heritage. One hundred years ago, Trail's "old" bridge was opened for traffic.

Prior to the bridge, passage across the river was done by either rowboat or the city operated cable ferry, both of which proved extremely dangerous and treacherous for passengers.

Followed by significant agitation from local residents, the Province of British Columbia agreed to fund the steel expanse, to the tune of \$170,000. After six months of work, beginning in November



*Trail's Old Bridge upon completion in May 1912*

1911, the bridge opened to much fanfare and celebration on May 24, 1912.

VISAC will be presenting a show featuring items from the Trail Museum collection, archival

photographs and documents, accompanied by contemporary art pieces provided by several local artists.

The show opens on Friday, September 7, 2012 in the VISAC Gallery (basement of the Greater Trail Community Centre) and will run for two weeks.

We encourage you to visit the gallery to catch a glimpse at one of the most interesting (and presently controversial) pieces of our local history.