



The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of a long time member of our Society, Ken Dimock, on June 27th. Ken attended every membership meeting, rain or shine, and always had a story or two to tell us about growing up in Trail. He will be missed. We have expressed our sympathies to Ken's family.

The security of the glass doors in the Sports Hall of Memories has been a concern to us for many years. Recently we had Glenmerry Glass assess our options to improve the locking hardware on the doors. Unfortunately, we will have to replace the current doors and modify the cases in order to install a more secure locking system. The cost is significant and the project has been deferred until after the museum referendum.

On September 7th, the owner of one of the vintage aircraft used by the CM&S for mineral exploration in the far north in the 1930's paid a special visit with the plane to the Trail Airport. The plane, called a Puss Moth, has been restored to flying condition and updated with modern aircraft navigation systems. The owner lives in England but stores the plane in Spokane and vacations annually in our region to fly the plane to air shows in the Pacific Northwest. It was nice to see a piece of Canadian mining history return to its home base in Trail after more than 80 years.

The 2nd quarter financial review of the Society's accounts has been completed and the Society remains in a strong fiscal position. Sales of merchandise are on budget and the Board hopes to

meet all of our revenue and expenditure targets for 2014.

In the mid 1980's, the City of Trail, through and initiative of our Society, purchased a 1946 Bickle Seagrave fire truck that was the primary fire apparatus of the Trail Fire Department for over 30 years. Several years ago the truck suffered damage to its engine and has not been driven since. Several members of the Regional Fire Rescue have shown an interest in having the truck repaired and used again in various community events. City Council has authorized the Society and the Regional Fire Rescue to prepare a plan over the next few months to determine the extent of the repairs needed, the relative cost, and sources of revenue available to us to make the truck road worthy again.

2014 Museum Season

This summer, the Trail Museum was busier than any year in recent history, with over 400 visitors over three months.

Summer student Ximena Abresch worked hard on the Trail Times Negatives project, presented two artifact viewings off site, and hosted youth and special needs groups

throughout the season.

We did experience more water damage again this year due to leaky roof drains, however Parks and Rec staff saw that all repairs took place immediately and we were back open again quickly.

If you have time this week, please feel free to drop in

and visit the museum. Our final day will be Friday, August 29th, closing at 4:30. Remember, admission is free!

We thank Ximena for her excellent work this summer and wish her the best of luck in her studies.

Inside this issue:

Riverfront Centre—Update	2
Riverfront Centre Open House—October 8th, 2014	2
Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 5—Update	2
2014 Grant Projects	3
Trail Times Negatives Project—Phase 2	3
eBay—Always on the hunt	3
2015 Trail Historical Society Calendar	4

REMINDER!

*A reminder to our members that this year's municipal election will also include the Riverfront Centre referendum, which will ask voters whether they support the proposed borrowing bylaw. To learn more, visit TrailHistory.com and click on the **Riverfront Centre** link! See inside for more details on the project and plans for the next few months.*

Riverfront Centre—Update

Throughout the summer the Society has been working with the Library Board and the City of Trail to prepare a plan to inform the residents of Trail on the benefits of having a new museum and archives and library constructed for our community. We have attended every market on the Esplanade with display panels depicting the conceptual plans for the facility and to circulating information on the project to the public. Feedback from those who stop at our booth has been very positive and we hope this is a sign the electors will support the referendum in November.

Barb Gibson, Chair of the Library Board, and our President made a presentation to the City's Downtown Opportunities and Action Committee in June seeking their



Concept drawing for the Riverfront Centre

support for the project. The Committee has endorsed the project and we hope the downtown business community will follow suit, recognizing the benefits the project will bring to the downtown area. We have also received letters of support from Hockey Canada, the Hockey Hall of Fame, the BC Hockey League and many local historical societies and museums.

September and October will be devoted to a major public consultation process to engage our residents by providing information on the project to ensure all voters are fully aware of the what is being proposed and securing their support. The referendum will be held on Saturday, November 15th in conjunction with the municipal elections. Thanks to Barb Gibson, the members of the Library Board, and the Friends of the Library for the work that they have done in support of the project. Thanks also to the City of Trail for their contribution to making the project a reality. Remember to **VOTE YES** on November 15th. Every vote counts.

For more information, contact the Society office or visit TrailHistory.com and click on the *Riverfront Centre* link at the top of the page.

Riverfront Centre Open House—October 8th, 2014

The board of the Trail Historical Society would like to remind all members that the next Riverfront Centre Open House will be held on **October 8th** from 4:00pm to 6:pm at the Trail Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

We ask all THS members to encourage anyone in our community with questions about the concept, the study, or our plans for the space to drop by and become

informed. Members of the THS board, as well as the library board, will be on hand to present the concept drawings and answer any questions.

As mentioned earlier, information about the project, including the

consultant's study and budget, are available on line at TrailHistory.com. The *Riverfront Centre* link sits at the very top of the homepage.

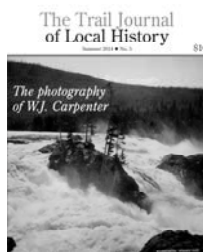
We hope to see you at the Open House! Mark your calendars!

"We ask all THS members to encourage anyone in our community...to drop by and become informed."

Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 5—Update

The 5th Journal of Local History is nearing completion. The articles have been completed and Greg Nesteroff is finalizing the layout of the Journal for printing. It will be available for sale for the Christmas gift buying season.

This edition of the Journal will have the same number of pages as the previous issues and will contain a variety of articles on our community that will appeal to everyone. Two articles will focus on a pair of exceptional early photographers that documented the City's development from the turn of the century to the



1940's. Another will describe the recruitment of CM&S workers of Italian descent to join an effort to unionize the workers at the Trail smelter.

Board member Sam McBride has written a summary of his book on the exploits of his Great Uncle, Fritz Peters, in both World War I and World War II. Peters was awarded the Victoria Cross for his service to his country in both wars. Sam's book is available at local bookstores. Other articles include a history of the Rossland Winter Carnival hockey tournament in the early 1900's,

when the winner was crowned the Provincial Hockey Champions, the development of the Murray Gardens on Riverside Avenue beside the Old Bridge, and the history of the Northport (Washington) Power and Light Company. The development of Bay Avenue will be chronicled in a four page photo essay and we will learn about Doris Robinson who ran for Mayor of the City of Train in 1922. Put this issue of the Journal on your Christmas shopping list. The price remains at \$10.00. Our thanks to Greg Nesteroff for again volunteering his time and expertise to allow us to publish the Journal at a reasonable cost.

2014 Grant Projects

The THS has been successful with grant applications this year. In the spring, we learned our major capital grant submitted to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) was approved in full for \$20,000 towards the proposed Riverfront Centre.

In addition, the CKCA will partially fund the publication of society member John D’Arcangelo’s book project entitled *A Trail to Remember*. John is still awaiting a few stories from local contributors, but we expect the book to be ready for sale by the end of next summer.

The Community Initiatives program through the Columbia Basin Trust allowed us to purchase another bank of newspaper shelving that will be installed in the archives space. The Trail Times has kindly allowed the THS to retain

another 15 years of hard copy newspapers for research purposes. This project coincides with phase 2 of the negatives project on which we have been working.

Our Canada Summer Jobs application was once again approved by the Federal Government, which allowed us to hire our museum summer student.

The LeRoi Foundation provided a grant for the purchase of a new laptop, which was very much needed. We were also successful in obtaining a \$1500 grant through the BC Arts Council, \$4000 through the BC Gaming Branch, and



The current Trail Museum, open once again for the summer season thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

\$1000 through artsVest. These funds went directly to our operating budget.

In all, approved 2014 grants totaled \$35,700. We are grateful for the continuous support of our local heritage funders and look forward to another successful year of projects and service to our community.

Trail Times Negatives Project—Phase 2

The Trail Times Negatives Project—Phase 2 is still in the works at this time. Phase two involved the indexing of the published negatives.

In December, the THS hired Sheila Cosmano with funds received through a Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance grant that allowed us to employ her until the beginning of August. In addition, our summer student Ximena took on some of the work load, which contributed significantly to the indexing of the collection.

We have reached 1980! The collection runs until roughly 1998, with limited images in the mid to late 1990s. We are noticing fewer local images were published as we move on in the collection. With the onset of digital cameras in the 1990s, the negative collection becomes fairly thin in those years.

While not quite finished, we don’t expect this phase to take much longer. It has

been an interesting project to undertake and we are certainly more familiar now

with the contents of the collection and its importance to our archives.

The project has opened up a tremendous amount of much needed space in the archives storage, as well,

and with a complete index, the collection will be put to excellent research use in the future.

“...we are certainly more familiar now with the contents of the collection and its importance to our archives.”

eBay—Always on the hunt

In late June, we observed an early photo of the office of the Trail Creek News was up for auction on eBay (at right). We regularly monitor eBay for items of interest to us to add to our collection.

It was a glass plate negative that we had never seen before and we quickly entered the bidding. Unfortunately, we were out bid



with 3 seconds left in the auction and lost an opportunity to have one of the finest early photos of our city in our collection. This is an example of what we are up against to acquire meaningful additions to our

collection in the burgeoning collectors market for historical photographs.

We remind our members to consider the archives when looking to clean out your closets, attics, and basements of old photographs and records.

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

PO Box 405

Trail, BC V1R 4L7

Phone: 250-364-0829

Email: history@trail.ca

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% off all Trail Historical Society merchandise, including our vintage Trail Smoke Eater collection!

2015 Trail Historical Society Calendar

The Society is delighted to announce the arrival of its second historic calendar, on sale next week!

Photograph selection for the calendar is never easy, despite the treasure trove of images from which we have to choose. The goal for our calendar projects is to select more "vintage" or "retro" photographs, as opposed to the truly archival images. Our goal is to jog the memories of longtime Trail residents or those who grew up here with images that remind them of days gone by.

We continue to work with local graphic designer Stephanie Gill of **Burntstick Graphic Design** for layout and design. As usual,

THS corporate member, **Hall Printing** took care of our printing needs.

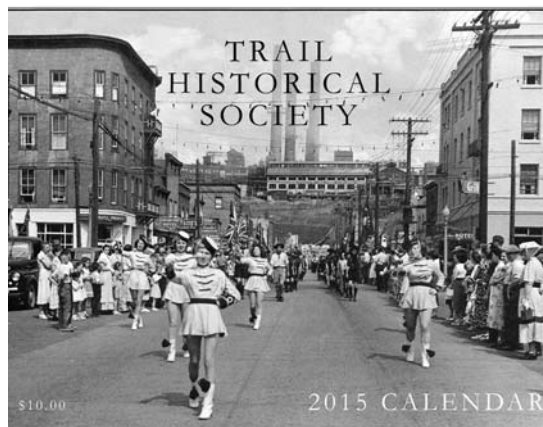
This year, we opted to reduce our print run to 300, so be sure to get your copy early as we don't expect

to see a surplus.

The Society will be present at the remainder of the Esplanade markets selling the newest addition to our publication lineup.

You will also find the calendar on sale in retailers around Trail, specifically **Artisan** and **Shopper's Drug Mart** downtown, and **Crockett Book Company** in Waneta Plaza.

We hope you enjoy the 2015 calendar and we thank you for continuing to support these projects that allow us to fully utilize our amazing photograph collection in such a meaningful way.



The cover of the 2015 Trail Historical Society Calendar