



The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

It is with great pleasure I advise the membership that our Museum and Archives Director is expecting a baby on August 10th. Sarah's last day with us before commencing a one year maternity leave is July 17th. We wish her all the best with the delivery of her baby. The Board has hired Joyce Austin, former Manager of the Rossland Museum, to work with us until Sarah returns. Welcome aboard, Joyce.

The Society has been approached by Columbia Power requesting permission to install three graphic panels at our Fort Shepherd turn out site on Highway 22A near the border. We have agreed to support this initiative which will enlarge and enhance the site and attract more visitors to our sign.

The Heritage Society of BC will be holding their AGM in Rossland on October 2nd and

3rd. The program has not been released yet but if anyone is interested in attending any of the sessions please contact our office.

The Federal Government recently announced a number of grant opportunities available to cultural organizations to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017. Unfortunately we would not qualify for any grants from these programs. We will keep an eye on future announcements in the hope we can obtain some funding for the Riverfront Centre project.

The Columbia Power Corporation intends to honour the completion of the Waneta Dam Expansion Project by erecting a sign at the Waneta bridge that describes the history of the bridge. Greg Nesteroff has provided a condensed version of his article on the history of the bridge that

appeared in Journal #4 for use on the sign. We are delighted to have had the opportunity to assist with this project.

In our last newsletter, our members were advised that a letter has been prepared and given to the local funeral home urging family making arrangements to dispose of a person's estate to consider donating items to the local historical society. I neglected to mention that this is joint initiative between ourselves, the Beaver Valley & Pend d'Oreille Historical Society and the Kootenay Columbia Educational Heritage Society. It is a good example of how the four regional heritage groups can work together to preserve our community's history.

2015 Summer Student Project

Thanks once again to the federal Canada Summer Jobs Program, the THS has hired its summer student to undertake an interesting archival project.

Kelsey Perehudoff was hired to compile an Artifact Catalogue, which identifies suitable artifacts

from our sports and museum collections that will illustrate the selected exhibit themes for the new museum. Kelsey is working hard sifting through artifact records and condition reports and, by summer's end, will have compiled a long list of artifacts that may be

used in the new facility.

The Trail Museum is closed for the season in order to undertake this important project. We hope the final document will assist the exhibit design committee in developing innovative exhibit ideas.

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Did you know...

...firemen tested their strength, endurance, and efficiency through competitions like hose reel races? Above are the Trail Firemen in 1902 following their hose reel race win on Dominion Day (Canada Day).

2015-2018 Strategic Planning

Following the successful conclusion of the referendum on the construction of the Riverfront Centre, the Board agreed that a strategic plan was necessary to guide them with the management of the Society and the operation of the new museum and archives over the next three years. In February, a Request for Proposals was issued to seek qualified consultants to assist with the preparation of the Plan. In March, the Board accepted the proposal from KEI Space Design from Vancouver. Their proposal met all of our requirements and its principals are very experienced in working with museums and historical societies of our size. Their budget for the project is \$13,860.



The award of the contract was subject to the Society receiving funding in the amount of \$9500 from the Columbia Educational Cultural Alliance. The Board agreed to contribute \$4000 the Society finances to the project.

Regrettably, our application was not successful. At their June 17th meeting, the Board discussed whether to proceed with the project or defer it until external funding could be found. The Board agreed preparation of the Strategic Plan is critical to the Society at this stage of the planning for the new museum and archives. It is essential that we have a strong and articulated action plan as we move into a new era for the Society. The Board has therefore agreed to fund the preparation of the Plan using the Society's own financial resources. We are in very good shape financially and the cost of the work can be easily managed.

We hope to commence the Plan process in September.

Recent Acquisitions

The Society recently acquired by donation three important items related to our community's hockey history.

The family of long time member, Ken Dimock, donated a



gold watch and fob that was presented to Ken's father Dick by the City of Trail when the Trail Senior Hockey Club won the Provincial championship in 1927 and 1929. Dick was Manager of the team. Coincidentally, we received a

similar watch from the family of

Barney Potter. He was given his watch when the team won the Championship again in 1931. Barney was the team trainer. We have also been given a jersey from the Trail Smoke Eater team in the early 1970's. All are prized additions to our sports collection and we are thrilled that both families considered the Society when making these donations.

New Workstation

Thanks to a generous grant from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program, the THS office has been outfitted with a brand new workstation for the Museum & Archives Director's work space.

The new station replaces the "relics" that served us well over the years. The purchase also means we are one step ahead for our move to the new facility, where new furniture and office equipment will be necessary. The THS

would like to thank Trail City Council for their decision to fund this much-needed purchase and both the outgoing and the incoming Museum & Archives Directors are more than grateful for the new, comfortable, and spacious desk.

The desk complements the large conference table that was purchased a few years ago with LeRoi Community Foundation funds. It also accommodates our growing collection of scanning and printing equipment

necessary to maintain a modern archives.

The space is proving extremely functional and effective and we are thrilled with the upgrade!



2015 Grant Applications—Results

All applications for this year's board-approved projects have been reviewed by their respective adjudication committees and results have been received. We are happy to report that all but one project proposal have been approved. The approved projects include:

- Canada Summer Jobs Program (summer student hire/Artifact Catalogue Development)
- BC Arts Council (operating funds)
- Community Gaming Grant (operating funds)
- Columbia Basin Trust Community

Initiatives Program (workstation)



- LeROI Community Foundation (2016 Calendar)
- Teck Metals Ltd. (2016 Calendar)

As mentioned earlier, our application for strategic planning to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance was not funded on account of mass over-subscription to that specific program.

We thank all our funders for their confidence in our projects and our ability to complete them.

As always, we are grateful to the City of Trail and City Council for their ongoing support of our efforts as we continue to grow and enhance our operations.

Exhibit Planning

While we wait for word from the City regarding the schedule for construction of the Riverfront Centre, the Board has decided to begin preparation of the storylines that will be used in the exhibits in the new museum.

In 2011, we prepared a vision document for the museum in which we identified nine themes for the major exhibit areas of the museum.

Together they represent the overall history and development of our community. They are: Italian and European immigration to Trail; Smelting history; Wartime history; Education history; Labour/union history; The Arts; Sports heritage; Prelude to settlement; and Settlement to WWII.

In addition, we have since decided to include exhibits that describe the history of hockey in our region.

For each theme we have identified key components of the exhibit, the general story to be presented in the exhibit and the expected outcomes of the exhibit.

Over the next several months a committee of the Board will refine the exhibit components in greater detail and prepare draft storylines for each exhibit theme. We will then meet with the partners in our museum planning to get their input. At the conclusion of this work we hope to have a blueprint for the design of the exhibit galleries.

This blueprint will be used by our exhibit designer to prepare the plans for creation of the exhibits, including how

best to present the story to the visitor and the estimated cost of each exhibit. The plan will also identify what items from our artifact and archival collections will be used in the exhibits. The project on which our summer student is working will help inform the board and the designer of our collections holdings and where we are lacking in tangible content.

This phase of the planning for the new museum is critical to its success and will be challenging and exciting at the same time.

2016 Historic Calendar

The THS is continuing its new calendar program for a third consecutive year, after considerable success in previous years. We are delighted to have raised one third of the costs through grants from the LeROI Foundation and Teck Metals Ltd., which will assist considerably with printing and design costs.

The calendar will once again feature

images from the archival collection, dating anywhere from the early 1900s to the late 1960s. Three images have been kindly loaned for the project by generous members of our community.

The calendar will be available for sale at all fall markets, beginning in September for the same retail price of \$10.00. Also find them at City Hall, Crockett Book Co., Shopper's Drug

Mart, and Artisan. Be sure to pick up your copy early, as a limited print run will once again be ordered.

We expect to get have our calendars ready for sale come September.

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

A Trail To Remember— Book Launch

The Trail Historical Society and John D'Arcangelo were on hand on June 27th at Trail Festa Italiana's *Family Day at the Piazza Colombo*, where *A Trail To Remember* was officially launched and feted by the community.

Despite the heat, the crowd was abundant and just as excited to see the book in its completed form as we were when they arrived in our offices.

Complete with a commemorative book mark, sales at the event were rapid. All contributors were offered the opportunity to reserve their copy before sales of the remainder began, in order to ensure that anyone who helped see this book come to fruition would have a copy.

We were thrilled to see the 120 copies brought to the book launch sell out in two hours. The THS supply has officially been depleted. Should anyone wish to purchase a copy, you are encouraged to contact John D'Arcangelo, who had an additional batch printed.

The book was financially sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, Trail Festa Italiana, Colombo Lodge and the Trail Historical Society. A significant thank you must be extended to the design staff at Hall Printing who worked so diligently to see this project completed on time, on budget and professionally.

On behalf of John and the THS board, we thank all contributors to

this project, all those who purchased copies, and our generous sponsors. We hope you enjoy it!

