



Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

Welcome

You are holding the first issue of the Trail Historical Society Newsletter. The newsletter will be published 3-4 times a year & distributed to members of the Society & made available to the public at selected locations. Each newsletter will bring you

up to date on the activities of the Society, news on projects we are undertaking or planning, short vignettes of Trail's history, & information about the Museum, Archives & Sports Hall of Memories. We hope you enjoy this edition and feel free to offer ad-

vice or contribute news for our members information and enjoyment. Please contact Jamie Forbes, Society Curator at 364-1262 or our Museum/Archive Director, Samantha Poling, at 364-0829.

Happy Birthday to us

The Trail Historical Society is 50 years old this year.

The Society was first organized as the West Kootenay Chapter of the BC Historical Federation & incorporated as the Trail Historical Society in 1977 to better reflect its mandate. The Society manages the Trail Museum, Trail City Archives & Sports Hall of Memories.

The Society was formed in 1953 when a small group of history enthusiasts met in Elsie Turnbull's house to discuss preserving & protecting the area's

history. Soon after, the West Kootenay Branch of the Federation was established. The first AGM was in December, 1953.

Collection of historic photos & artifacts began, initially being stored in Elsie's house. The first meetings were held there as well. In 1956, a committee was formed to look into developing a museum. It was not until 1976 that a museum became a reality. The City donated space in the second floor of City Hall & the Trail Museum opened in July, 1977. It was relocated to its current location in the Trail

Memorial Centre in 1989.

The Trail City Archives was established in 1978 & is located in City Hall. The Trail Sports Hall of Memories was established by Allan Tognotti in 1979 & is located in the Trail Memorial Centre. It consists of 22 cabinets displaying trophies, uniforms, photos, etc. celebrating Trail's rich sporting heritage.

The Society members meet regularly to further the legacy Elsie & her group left to us.

Antiques Appraisal Day

On June 14th the Trail Historical Society held an Antiques Appraisal Day at the Trail United Church to raise funds for the operation of the Museum, Sports Hall of Memories & Archives. It was a highly informative & successful day, & both spectators & appraisers

had a great time. Mr. Al Bowen, antique & special collections appraiser from Vancouver, kept onlookers enthralled with entertaining & informative appraisals. The Historical Society made a modest profit & looks forward to building on its success.



1951 Barbie Doll appraised at \$10,000 at THS Antique Appraisal Day (I'm not kidding!)

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HISTORY BITES:

Did you know Steve Saprunoff, a long-standing and highly valued member of the Trail Historical Society, was wearing Mickey Brennan's 1939 World Championship Smoke Eaters sweater when he was shot down over Berlin during WWII? That sweater probably saved his life—the German guard at the holding cells where Steve was taken to before being moved to a camp, recognised the Smokies sweater from the 1939 World Championships, and would routinely smuggle food into Steve's cell. The guard was a huge fan of the Smokies!

Sports Hall of Memories Renovations

During October, we will be starting renovations on the Sports Hall of Memories in the Cominco Arena. The interiors of the display cases are beginning to look shabby due to numerous nail holes & an outdated colour scheme, & are in desperate need of a facelift.

Each of the display cases will be emptied of their contents, holes filled & sanded, cases primed, with some cases being painted & others being wallpapered with an historical photo collage. All of the cases will have new lighting installed to better protect the contents of the cases from UV damage & to pro-



The Sports Hall of Memories in the Cominco Arena.

vide brighter lighting than the old florescent lights.

The City of Trail has generously donated funds for the improvements to the cases, & the Historical Society also received funding from Columbia

Basin Trust to install a new secure display case. Previously, any items that were valuable could not be displayed due to the security concerns of the existing cases. This new case will not only be secure but will also be deeper, allow-

ing artifacts that are too big to be displayed in the narrow existing cases, to be shown.

So, keep you eyes open for exciting changes!



Three of the hockey display cases in the Sports Hall of Memories—the Smokies sweater was worn during the 1939 World Championships, the first of two World Championships the Trail Smoke Eaters would win.

The Salmo Ram

The “Salmo Ram” is a full bodied mount of a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. It was killed illegally on the



The Salmo Ram being unloaded. It will be placed on the red floor in the Sports Hall of Memories.

Kootenay Pass highway in February, 1993 & seized. Because it was of trophy size, it was mounted & put on display in the Fort Steele Heritage Town.

The Trail Wildlife Association repatriated it to Trail for display in the Trail Museum. It has now been placed in a display case which will be installed adjacent

to the Sports Hall of Memories in the Trail Memorial Centre.

The Ram has been assessed by the Boone & Crockett Club and ranked 24th on their list of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep trophies & is #3 in British Columbia.

The Ram is owned by the City of Trail & is insured to \$130,000.

Website Development

The Trail Historical Society has been working with Funktion Design from Nelson on the development of a website, which should be up & running on the net by the end of October.

The website will showcase each of the facilities that the Historical Society operates & maintains & will contain information, such as operating hours, location & various policies, about each of these facilities. It will also have a gift store where visitors will be able to purchase

the Historical Society’s publications & art cards, & will contain biographies of the inductees into the Home of Champions.

But more importantly, visitors will be able to search our photo database, making our collection more accessible to the public & researchers. Visitors will be able to order various sized prints of the photos.

BC Hydro & Columbia Power Corporation have generously given us funding for the project.



Hanna Block, Crown Point Hotel, Arlington Hotel, tramway from river to smelter, refinery, sternwheeler at the landing.

Summer Students

Over the summer holidays we had two summer students working at the museum & archives. Heather Potter was employed under a HRDC grant and was the museum attendant. She did a fantastic job of keeping the museum clean & acting as a tour guide & tourist information officer for visitors to the museum. She also worked on indexing Cominco em-



Heather Potter looks at what she might have been wearing to work if she lived in the 1940s and worked for Cominco during WWII

ployees who appeared in photos in the Cominco Magazine from 1942 to 1971. Heather completed about half of the magazines. This database will prove to be an invaluable genealogical resource containing names of plant & office staff of CM&S, & later Cominco.

Our other summer student was Natalie Bowie, who shared her time between us & the Library. The project Natalie worked on was scanning photos from the Trail City Archives photo catalogue & linking them to the photo database already containing

approximately 9,000 records. Natalie scanned approximately 3,000 images twice, once at 150 dpi for the database & again at 600 dpi for reprinting purposes. During this process, Natalie also conducted an inventory of the photo collection by identifying photos that were missing & photos that did not have an accompanying record in the database. This was a monumental project & Natalie certainly proved herself to be up to the task.

There are about 5,000 more images to scan & link—I guess that will be a job for next year's student!

Thank you to both students for their hard work.

Mike Buckna Nomination

The Trail Historical Society has nominated hockey star & long time owner of the Montana Hotel, Mike Buckna, for induction into the International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame. Mike is known in the Czech Republic as the 'Father' of Czech Hockey.

Mike was born in Trail of Czech immigrants & visited his parent's homeland in 1935. He remained in the country till the outbreak of WW II to play for & coach a hockey team in Prague. He made such an impression he was also appointed Director of the Czech National Hockey Program. Under his tutelage the Czech National Hockey Team won the European Championship in 1938 & 1939.

He returned to the Czech Republic in 1946 & resumed his coaching duties. In 1947 the Czechs won their first World Championship & in 1948 again won the European Championship. In the 1948 Olympics, Mike guided the National Team to a Silver medal. Mike left the Czech Republic after the Olympics when the Soviets took over the country.

Mike taught the Czechs the Trail Smoke Eater style of play—a fast



Mike Buckna coaching in Switzerland.

paced physical game with quick passing, break outs from the defensive zone & a strong fore-check. Conditioning was emphasized as well. The Czechs adopted his program & have been successful in the international game since.

The next time someone says the Czechs play like Canadians, you will know why!

We hope to hear if our nomination is successful by the end of the year.

Corporate Sponsors

In early September, the Society sent out membership forms to approximately 60 businesses, & have had a positive response to date. We would like to thank the following businesses who have generously taken a corporate membership:

- **L&J Books**
- **Remax All Pro Realty**

- **Bella, Konkin & Partners**
- **McEwan, Harrison & Co.**
- **L. Soligo & Associates Ltd.**
- **The Colander Restaurant**
- **Italo Canadese Society**
- **Firebird Semiconductors Ltd.**
- **Teck Cominco Metals Ltd.**
- **Hall's Basics & Gifts**

- **Maglio Building Centre**
- **Councillor Al Graham**
- **J. Balfour & Sons Ltd.**
- **Knights of Pythias**
- **Trail & District Public Library**

Again, thank you for your generous support!

Trail Museum, Sports Hall of Memories
 And City of Trail Archives operated by
 Trail Historical Society
 Box 405, Trail, BC V1R 4L7
 Phone: 250-364-0829
 Fax: 250-364-0830
 Email: spoling@cityoftrail.com
 Or history@cityoftrail.com

Archives located on 2nd floor City Hall
 1394 Pine Avenue
 TRAIL

The Trail Historical Society meets
 On the 2nd Tuesday of every month
 On 2nd floor of City Hall



Nurse, wounded man & officer, WWI

Membership: March 1st to February 28th
 Single: \$12 year
 Family: \$20 year
 Corporate: \$30 year
 Benefits of membership: Free admission to
 Museum for members and their immediate
 family, and semi-annual newsletter.

Museum Hours and Admission:

Museum open May to September, 10am to
 4:00pm.
 Adults \$2
 Children 10-18 \$1
 Children under 10 free
 School tours 50 cents per child, accom-
 panying adults free

If you would like a tour of the museum dur-
 ing winter, please phone the archives to
 make an appointment.

Archive Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

Affiliations:

Trail and District Arts Council
 B.C. Museums Association
 Kootenay Heritage Association
 BC Historical Federation
 Archives Association of BC

For your gift list:

Trail of Memories 1895-1945: The pio-
 neers of Trail and their descendants tell
 their stories. \$50

Historical Portraits of Trail: A pictorial
 history of the City of Trail, and a portrait
 of Trail's cultural and social fabric. \$20

*Trail on Ice: A Century of Hockey in the
 Home of Champions:* Traces the roots of
 BC amateur hockey and Trail's enor-
 mously successful hockey program. \$20

*Topping's Trail: The first years of a now
 famous Smelter city:* Elsie Turnbull's
 masterful account of Trail's humble yet
 colourful beginnings. \$16

Trail Journal of Local History: A compi-
 lation of historical articles about colourful
 characters, early families and industry in
 Trail. \$5

Velen Fanderlik Artcards \$6.00
Velen Fanderlik Greeting cards \$2.50
*Historical 8x10 photo reprints of early
 Trail scenes, framed \$30*

Teck Cominco Project

Teck Cominco Metals Ltd. have en-
 gaged the services of the staff of the
 Trail City Archives to undertake an in-
 ventory of its photograph collection
 and to organize, catalogue and store the
 photographs and negatives to accepted
 archival standards.

In its early years, Teck Cominco
 (formerly CM&S) had many photogra-
 phers on staff for publicity and research
 purposes. The staff photographers took
 numerous photos of CM&S's various
 operations around the province and of
 the communities that grew up around
 these operations. Many photos were
 printed in the Cominco Magazine, the
 Metallurgical News (a newsletter for
 plant staff at the Trail smelter) which
 later became the Reporter, and various
 publicity and internal reports.

Community oriented photos in the col-
 lection will be transferred to the City

Archives with photos of the company's
 operations re-
 maining in the
 Teck Cominco
 offices.

Once the project
 is complete, the
 collection of al-
 most 10,000 im-
 ages will be eas-
 ily accessible to
 company staff
 and the public
 through printed
 and electronic
 finding aids.

Phase one of the
 project was com-
 pleted in 2003
 and phase two is
 planned for 2004.



*Soap box derby on Spokane Street, one of the thousands of photos from the Teck
 Cominco Collection.*