



# The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## THS & Hockey Fever

The Society received some much needed public exposure this month with the World Junior A Challenge coming to Trail. We were given the opportunity to sell our wares at the tournament, substantially raising our community profile.

As we mention later in the newsletter, the DVD arrived just in time, as did the 1961 replica Smoke Eater jersey. Sales at the tournament, which lasted from November 5 to November 11 totaled just under \$4500, a remarkable achievement. We welcome the revenue, as we were unable to undertake two major revenue generating projects this year for various reasons (Teck Cominco Photograph Collection Phase 2 and the

Antiques Appraisal Day). Our big seller was, of course, the newly released DVD, For the Love of the Game, discussed in the article below, and the 1961 replica jersey. We hope sales will continue throughout the Christmas season. Be sure to check the webstore for additions to the Trail Smoke Eater Memorabilia line-up.

The end of the year will be busy collecting the West Kootenay Power & Light Co. Ltd. textual records from the FortisBC offices and transferring them to City Hall for arranging and

accessioning. The textual collection will be interesting and a key resource for people researching the development of hydroelectric power in the Kootenays.



Construction of the South Slocan Dam, FortisBC Collection (West Kootenay Power & Light Co. Ltd.)

We have been preparing for the coming year and will submit our 2007 report and 2008 budget to City Council before the end of the month for consideration. We look forward to another productive and exciting year to come!

## History of Hockey in Trail Documentary

In the Spring, Trail City Council was approached to fund the production of a documentary on the history of hockey in Trail. Council referred the project to our Society to raise the funds necessary to produce the documentary in DVD form.

Our Society was successful in raising \$17,100 to fund the project. Total expenditures

were \$20032, with the Society contributing \$2932 to the cost of the production.

The DVD arrived on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and it was on sale at the World Junior A Challenge. Purchase price is \$25.00. The documentary does an excellent job of describing what hockey means to Trail and the archival film footage is awesome. Purchase yours today.

Thanks to Darryl Taylor and Catherine Manna for their hard work in producing the documentary and to our sponsors who generously supported the project financially. The DVD is available on the Society's website and from our offices in City Hall. Other retail outlets will be sought to enhance sales before Christmas.

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### Did you know?

*It was in this month, 56 years ago, that business was officially transferred to the Hudson's Bay Company by the Company Store. After three years, the Hudson's Bay Company would demolish the old structure and erect a new building on the same site.*

## Trail Historical Society Strategic Plan

As part of our efforts to construct a new museum and archives for the City, it was deemed necessary to evaluate our current governance structure and to prepare plans to make adjustments where required to allow the Society to effectively operate and manage a larger heritage facility and a different set of demands on the organization.



View of the Esplanade and River wall from long ago. It is also the potential site of the new museum & archives, among other valuable community resources.

which to work as we move forward to the establishment of a new museum and archives.

Fiona will also produce a communications strategy for the members to use to inform the public of the benefits a new museum and archives will bring to the community.

Fiona Glass of VisionLink Consulting was hired to lead a strategic planning session with the Executive and interested members. The purpose of the session was to create a vision for the Society, develop a mission statement and to establish goals and objectives for the

organization for the 2008-2012 period.

The Strategic Plan for the Society will be completed by the end of November and will be shared with the membership. We are confident this plan will be a strong foundation from

## Trail Smoke Eater Memorabilia

Interest in the Trail Smoke Eaters of the past is at an all-time high. Our offices regularly receive enquiries seeking Smoke Eater memorabilia. This interest led to our decision to replicate the 1939 and 1961 World Champion jerseys.

With the positive response from the public to the jersey initiative, the Society sought permission from Trail City Council to produce other Smoke Eater memorabilia items. Further, we requested Council designate the Society as the sole distributor of Trail Smoke

Eater products (the City of Trail has a trade mark on the Smoke Eater crest, seen below, and name). Council agreed to both requests.

To take advantage of the opportunities presented by the World Junior A Challenge, we produced a small number of ball caps and mouse pads to test the market for these products. Both were well received and we will reorder these items for sale



Original vintage senior Smoke Eater crest.

on our website. We are also going to produce fridge magnets and other souvenir items.

This has the potential to be a long term source of revenue for the Society and we thank City Council for their support of this initiative.

## Trail Smoke Eater Replica Jerseys

The Society is always seeking a means to raise revenue to offset our operating expenses. One initiative undertaken this summer was to produce replica jerseys of the 1939 and 1961 Trail Smoke Eater World Championship teams for sale to the public.

An unscientific public survey was carried out in July which showed there was a reasonable interest in purchasing both jerseys and plans proceeded from there. The 1939 jersey will be produced by Van Hellemond Sports of Trail. Problems in

locating the material of the exact colour of the original jersey has delayed its production. We now hope to have the jerseys ready for sale by Christmas.

The 1961 jersey was produced through Hockey Canada. They were received on October 30th and sold at the World Junior A Challenge. They



The replica 1961 jersey now on sale at City Hall and the Society's website: [www.trailhistory.com](http://www.trailhistory.com)

are now available through the Society's website and our offices at City Hall. Retail price is \$110. One hundred jerseys have been produced

## Columbia Basin Trust Heritage Sector Grant

As noted in the next article, the Society was successful in obtaining a grant in the amount of \$4400 from the Columbia Basin Trust to produce a visitors guide identifying the City's historic buildings and places. The CiB Committee will match this amount from their budget.

The CBT Heritage Sector Grant Program was established this year through the efforts of the Heritage Federation of Southeast BC. Local heritage organizations had been lobbying the Trust for over seven years to provide funding for heritage in the Basin separately from the Arts and Culture funding program. The Federation was successful in obtaining

\$100,000 in funding for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Work will begin to produce the booklet immediately. A researcher will be hired to collect background information on the historic buildings and places to be identified in the publication.

The CBT has requested the booklet be launched during Heritage Week in

February. We are confident the guide will raise the profile of our community's heritage for visitors and residents alike.



One of the many murals visible around downtown Trail, this one located on the Coldwell Banker building on Bay Avenue. Historical explanations of the murals will be featured in the guide.

## Communities in Bloom Competition

In 2007, the City of Trail participated in the International Communities in Bloom Competition. One of the eight categories in which the community is evaluated by the judges is Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation.

In the 2006 National Competition, the City scored a mark of 82.8% in this category. In the 2007 Competition, the mark slipped to 76.4%. This is a concern to the CiB Committee and the category has been identified as needing improvement if Trail is to be successful in the 2008 Competition.

The CiB Committee has approached the

nity's heritage buildings and places, wall murals, trails and rock walls. The history of distinct neighbourhoods will also be included. Funding for the publication will come from the CiB budget and the Columbia Basin Trust;

- Continuation of our program to place descriptive plaques on historic buildings;
- Research and photos for at least 3 wall murals;
- Installation of interpretive signage in selected neighbourhoods, significant rock walls and local trails. This project will be

carried out in cooperation with the Rock Wall Project Entusiastico Society and the City of Trail.

We are confident these initiatives will improve the City's score in the Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation category in the 2008 CiB Competition.

## Provincial Heritage Grants

The Province has announced two new grant programs in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the colony of British Columbia in 2008.

Deadline for the first program is January 16<sup>th</sup>. This program is geared to supporting local museums and the Society will be applying to purchase equipment and conservation items for exhibits in the Museum.



The grave marker of Frank Hanna Jr., on display in the Trail Museum: just one of the many artifacts in our collection in need of specialized conservation.

Trail Museum, Sports Hall of Memories  
and Trail City Archives operated by the  
Trail Historical Society

Phone: 250-364-0829

Fax: 250-364-0830

Email: [history@trail.ca](mailto:history@trail.ca)

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

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

The Trail Historical Society meets on  
the 2nd Tuesday of every month in  
Committee Room 2, upstairs in City  
Hall, at 1:30 PM.

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: \$12.00**
- **Family: \$20.00**
- **Corporate: \$30.00**

For an additional **\$15.00** 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.

## Recap of a Busy Year

As mentioned already, we will soon be submitting our annual report to Council, along with the 2008 budget for consideration. Going over the past year's activities is always a healthy exercise as we compare our accomplishments to the goals we set out last fall.

All in all, the majority of the goals we set for 2007 were met. A small few projects were shelved for the time being, for example, the Antiques Appraisal Day and the Cominco Magazine Anthology publication, due to illness of our regular appraiser and printing costs, respectively. In addition, phase three of the Teck Cominco Photograph Collection was put on hold due to time restraints.

In the meantime, we handled over 150 research enquiries, with nearly 2600 minutes spent (roughly 43 hours) researching a variety of historical topics.

The website saw an incredible jump in statistics. Actual visits to the website totaled 142,991. Last year's numbers totaled only 32,180. Hits (generated by search engines, like Google), totaled a remarkable 1,133,670. Last year's hits

Archives Assistants. Trail was fortunate enough to receive another placement for 2008 and the Society will benefit again from such an important program.

We also sought grant monies from a variety of sources and were extremely successful in obtaining funds for our various projects. We received over \$17,000 from organizations like the Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Power Corporation, Teck Cominco and FortisBC, along with many generous local businesses, to produce the hockey DVD. We also received \$5000 from Canadian Heritage for our Community Memories Virtual Museum and another \$4400 from the CBT to research and publish the walking tour booklet mentioned earlier in the newsletter.

We hope the year to come affords us the same fortunes and brings us closer to our ultimate goal of a new combined heritage facility for the citizens of Trail.

Katimavik



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work was completed by the two volunteers, acting as Archives Assistants. Trail was fortunate enough to receive another placement for 2008 and the Society will benefit again from such an important program.

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