



The Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

Another Successful Year

Another year has come to an end and the Trail Historical Society can be proud of its accomplishments in 2007.

A major theme throughout 2007 was hockey, both present and past. Our hockey documentary, *For the Love of the Game*, was launched during the World Junior A Challenge and the response was overwhelming, as you will read later in the issue. In addition, the THS received permission to replicate and manufacture vintage Smoke Eater memorabilia, which also has been well received.

The THS released another installment of the Trail Journal of Local History, with the dedicated assistance of society member, Greg Nesteroff. We are also awaiting the



"Championnat Du Monde, 1939" –The gold medallion won by the 1939 Smoke Eaters during their European tour. Kindly donated by local curling champ Isabel (Izzy) Morris, wife of Smoke Eater favourite, Jimmy Morris.

delivery of a print companion to the traveling display unit the THS shares with the Rossland and Beaver Valley historical societies. These projects, along with many others, have served to raise the THS profile in the community, which is reflected in substantially higher website usage and

research enquiries.

It has also served to increase artifact and archival donations to the THS. This past month, Isabel (Izzy) Morris, wife of the late Jimmy Morris, donated her husband's coveted gold medal, won during the 1939 World Championship tournament in Europe. Along with the

medallion, Mrs. Morris included a series of pins collected on the tour. The THS will create a special exhibit of this donation, for display in City Hall.

We look forward to an even busier 2008, where our focus will be placed on the Esplanade project and equipment upgrades.

Annual General Meeting

It is that time of year, yet again. The Trail Historical Society's Annual General Meeting will be held **Thursday, March 27, 2008** in the **Colombo Lodge** Games Room (584 Rossland Avenue), at **7:00pm**. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.

Guest speaker will be Rick Fillmore of the Trail Wildlife Association to discuss The Land Conservancy's plans for Fort Shepherd.

A reminder that membership dues and BC History Journal subscriptions will be collected:

\$12.00-Regular; \$20.00-Family; \$30.00-Corporate. Members enjoy BC History Journal (published by the BC Historical Federation) for \$15.00.

Everyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Inside this issue:

Guide to Trail's Historical Buildings & Places	2
Communities in Bloom Neighbourhood Signage	2
Smoke Eater Memorabilia & DVD Response	2
Community Memories Project	3
THS Strategic Planning & Communications Plan	3
BC150 Years Grant	3
Big News for KC Educational Heritage Society	6

Did you know?

It was in this month in 1968 that the community of Tadanac signed an Amalgamation Agreement with the City of Trail to create one municipality.

Guide to Trail's Historical Buildings and Places

With funds provided by the Columbia Basin Trust and Trail's Communities in Bloom Committee, the Trail Historical Society is wrapping up an exciting and long-over due project that will highlight Trail's historic buildings and places.

With generous support from the Columbia Basin Trust and the Communities in Bloom, the THS hired Rossland Museum manager, Joyce Austin, to research and compile information on a variety of buildings and neighbourhoods, to expand on the plaque project which began two years ago. The information will be combined with archival photographs in a historic buildings and places tour guide. Kathy Verigin has been hired to look after the graphic design.



Lacrosse game at Butler Park on Empire Day in 1914. This image, along with many other archival photographs, will be featured in the guide to Trail's historical buildings and place.

The guide will include histories on the many historic buildings and their past

The success of the plaque project, undertaken by the THS and Communities in Bloom, was the precursor to this guide. Many more plaques will be installed this spring and summer. All plaques currently up are included in the guide.

We hope the publication of this heritage guide, as well as the presence of the additional plaques, will positively influence the Communities in Bloom heritage component score, which has received extra attention this year.

occupants within the downtown core and the Gulch. It will also recount the development of our city's residential areas, like Glenmerry, Tadanac and Sunningdale, among others. The historically-themed downtown murals, as well as a selection of rock walls, will also be featured.

Communities in Bloom Neighbourhood Signage

In an effort to improve the score the Communities in Bloom judges give our City for its heritage preservation initiatives, the City's CiB Committee has approached the Society to assist with preparing signs for each neighbourhood in the City that will describe the history of the area and identify interesting landmarks to be visited. The program is being undertaken in conjunction with the City's program to install new directional and information signs throughout the City.

The first heritage sign will be installed at the bottom of Glover Road and will describe the history of Columbia Heights.

Others are planned for Tadanac, East Trail, Gyro Park, Sunningdale, Shaver's Bench/Miral Heights and Glenmerry. Work on the content of the signs will start shortly. These signs will be attractive and informative

and be of interest to both our residents and visitors. We are pleased to be able to assist the Communities in Bloom

Committee to improve our rating for heritage preservation in the annual competition.

"These signs will be attractive and informative and be of interest to both our residents and visitors."

Smoke Eater Memorabilia & DVD Response

Response from the public to our initiative to market items honouring the importance of the Trail Smoke Eaters to our community has been overwhelming. Replica jerseys of the 1939 and 1961 World Championship teams have sold well and we had to place a second order to the 1939 jerseys in January. With the success of the Fall sale, we have purchased more hats as well and also created mugs and a banner with the

Smoke Eater logo. We will be developing a website devoted to the sale of this memorabilia so we can attract more sales. The products are available for purchase from the Society's website at:

www.trailhistory.com



1939 Replica Smoke Eater Jersey, now available at City Hall and www.trailhistory.com

The DVD on the history of hockey in Trail has also been well received. The initial order of 500 copies is almost sold out and we are in the process of placing an order for 300 more. The reaction to the DVD has been very positive and we will also be seeking ways and means to market the documentary outside our area.

Community Memories (Virtual Museum of Canada) Project

Last year, the Trail Historical Society submitted an application to Canadian Heritage for the Virtual Museum of Canada's Community Memories Program. The program allows historical societies and museum organizations to expand the viewership of their collections or exhibits to a wider audience. The application proposed that the THS interview seniors in the community who either immigrated or whose parents immigrated to Trail from another country. We would attempt to answer three key questions: why did you leave, what brought you to Trail, and what made you stay? The website will tell the story of development of Trail and what triggered the mass immigration to the area. It will incorporate text, audio/visual components, and artifacts and images.

The proposal was funded and we are back into the swing of things. Rose Calderon, project coordinator, has been busy

Many more interviews have been conducted, with the help of society member, Greg Nesteroff.



Identification card belonging to a young Doreen Cusator (née Horne), of Sunningdale.

The THS has also been fortunate to acquire the services of Lisa Vanness, who will be looking after content and website development.

A mini studio has been set up in the Trail Museum for interview purposes. Interviewees are asked to bring along personal treasures, like the photograph pictured left, which are scanned or photographed and logged for future use in the website.

scheduling and promoting the project.

Anyone interested in telling their story is encouraged to contact Rose at 364-3008.

Strategic Planning & Communications Plan

The Society's Strategic Plan for the years 2007-2012 was adopted by the membership at our regular meeting on January 15th. The Plan was prepared in the Fall by VisionLink Consulting of Nelson as part of our preparations to create a new Museum and Archives for the community in the Esplanade Centre.

The purpose of the Plan is to fully articulate new and reformatted directions for the future and to provide broad guidance to address them over the next

five years. The Plan identifies where we are today and where we want to be in 2012. The Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure our targets are being met and the Plan remains current. Copies are available from the Archives office.

At the same time the Strategic Plan was prepared, we developed a

"The Plan identifies where we are today and where we want to be in 2012."

Communications Plan for the public consultation process that will accompany the approval of the Esplanade Centre by the electorate. This Plan identifies how best to inform the public of our plans for a new Museum and Archives and what value it will bring to the City.

Grant Applications

At the January meeting the membership agreed to apply for a grant from the BC150 Years Grant Program offered by the Province. However, after careful review of the application guidelines we felt we did not qualify for funding and the application was not submitted.

Two other grant programs will be pursued. Applications for the 2008 Columbia Basin Trust Heritage Grants

are now being accepted. The Society plans to apply for funding to purchase much needed shelving for the Archives and Museum storage areas. If we receive this funding the storage areas in City Hall will be rearranged to better store the collections and give staff better access to the Archives, which is used frequently by the public.

The CBT's Community Initiatives Grant Program for this year will be announced shortly. There will be a change in how Greater Trail local governments will distribute these funds this year and we are hopeful this will improve our access to them

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

www.trailhistory.com

The Trail City Archives is located on the
2nd floor of City Hall
1394 Pine Avenue, Trail.

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.

Big News for the Kootenay Columbia Educational Heritage Society

Last year, the Trail Historical Society was asked to prepare and submit a grant proposal on behalf of the Kootenay Columbia Educational Heritage Society to the New Horizons for Seniors Program to assist in the development of an archives housing School District #20 records and artifacts. In addition to the creation of the archives, the application also proposed the development of educational programs, based on the contents of the collection, to be delivered in local elementary schools. These programs would offer students a look back at what education was in SD20 in its early days.

The application was approved for \$24,440 in early January. The KCEHS, consisting predominantly of retired teachers and former SD20 employees, has hired local genealogist Helen Smith to

undertake the task of arranging the collection and developing a functional and accessible archives. This will involve adherence to Rules for Archival Description, or *RAD*, which is the standard to which most Canadian archives strive. The archives will also be equipped with the same database software used in the Trail City Archives.



Central School in 1911. Wings were added in 1916 and 1918.

Upon completion of phase one, which should take about 5 months, a program developer will be hired to assist the KCEHS in piecing together an engaging curriculum that will use the collection to paint a picture of our education heritage for students.

The project will be undertaken in Sunningdale School, where the archives and artifacts are held and the KCEHS meet on a regular basis. The THS will be providing technical support for the KCEHS and wishes them the best of luck with this exciting project.