



# Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## Arts & Culture in Trail

The Trail & District Arts Council received funding in 2009 to prepare an Arts Plan for the Greater Trail area. The Plan will assess the current state of the arts and heritage organizations in Trail, Rossland and the Beaver Valley, determine their needs and wants, and make recommendations on how these organizations can be better integrated into the community and take a more active role in being an important part of the area's lifestyle. Heritage is represented

on the Plan Steering Committee by our President along with the Rossland Museum Association.

A consultant has been hired to prepare the Plan and just recently visited the area to meet with arts and heritage groups and to conduct a community workshop. The consultants are enthusiastic about what they found. In particular they were struck by the area's rich history and the influence of sports on the community.

They see heritage as

being an important component of the area's arts community and we hope they will give us some good direction for expanding our role in the community. The consultants will be meeting with the Steering Committee on March 2nd to present their preliminary thoughts and receive participant feedback. The Plan will be completed by May and then presented to the public.

We hope to see heritage highlighted in the Plan as an important component in our shared culture.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, February 4th at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. After a brief meeting, the membership enjoyed a presentation by Selkirk

College professor, Takaia Larsen, entitled "Remembering Renata: Faces, Voices and Landscape."

Membership dues were collected, as well as subscriptions to the *BC*

*Journal* magazine.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please remit your dues to the Society offices at PO Box 405, Trail, BC, V1R 4L7.

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### Did you know?

*The first issue of the 'Cominco Magazine' was published in this month seventy years ago (February 1940). Entitled "The Employees' Magazine," the issue features a forward by S.G. Blaylock, the Smoke Eaters, employee bios, the men overseas and the Con Mine in Yellowknife (pictured above).*

## Ore Car Update

Our plan to construct an exhibit using the CP Rail concentrate car in our possession continues to be delayed pending Council's approval of the proposed site in Jubilee Park.

The Society has requested Council approve locating the car in the northwest corner of the park adjacent Helena Street. The project will require removal of a third of a planter built by City stonemasons in 1971. This part of the project has been opposed by the Rock Wall Entusiastico Society. Council requested interested parties meet in an effort to try to resolve the conflict with the planter and yet see the project proceed. This meeting did not result in any resolution of the issue. The Society's Executive



The ore car is currently in storage at Teck. Plans include a complete refurbishment of the frame, with graphics to depict the CP logo from the 1960s.

continues to feel the site proposed is best suited for the exhibit versus other suggested sites.

The exhibit will describe the importance of industry to the history of the community and the molding of its culture. The rail car is the lure for the public to visit the exhibit where interpretive signage will explain what industry means to

our community. To do this, the car must be easily accessible to the public and be located in an area frequented by the public on a regular basis. Other sites proposed to date have not met this criteria and have been rejected by the Society.

Council has agreed to hire a consultant to consider the scope of the exhibit and review other possible locations that will meet our goals and objectives and report back to Council. The consultant has not been selected but we hope we can get the project finalized soon, along with a site plan and project budget, in order to seek funding. We remain optimistic we can construct the exhibit this year.

## 2009 Merchandise Sales

Last year's merchandise sales proved pleasantly profitable for the Society. Smoke Eater merchandise, in particular the 1939 jersey, sold exceptionally well, thanks to some very prominent mentions on provincial newscasts and the naming of the Smoke Eater jersey as one of the best in history by The Hockey News.

While book sales were down slightly, the supplemental Smoke Eater merchandise, like hats, mouse pads, magnets and pins, made up for this short fall.

The website is proving a very

*"The website is proving a very successful marketing tool..."*

successful marketing tool for our Smoke Eater merchandise and with the development of our new site (see story below), we hope to see an even greater increase this year.

## Historical Smoke Eater Website

We have begun work on the historical Smoke Eater website, which will be a stand-alone online destination separate from the current THS site.

The concept for the website is to inform visitors of the impact of hockey, particularly the Smoke Eaters, on the culture of our

community and the feats the many players over the years have accomplished at an international level.

The project was funded by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural



The original vintage Smoke Eater crest, recognized worldwide by hockey fans.

Alliance. The site will be designed by our current web hosting company, World MarkIt in Calgary.

It will feature multiple archival photographs and film footage. We hope it will not only be source of information, but act as a marketing tool for our merchandise sales.

## Council Presentation

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The Executive of the Society met in December to discuss our goals and objectives for 2010. Fundraising will be a main focus of the Executive this year to increase our capacity to provide our services to the public. Our plans for a new museum will also be a major focus of our work plan.

We are disappointed there has been no progress on the Esplanade Project which included the new museum. Despite the delay, the Executive believes we must keep pushing forward with our plans. The first step in this process will be to present our vision for a new museum to City Council. We

need Council to fully understand what kind of museum we are proposing for the community and ensure that they are in complete support of the project. We have prepared a presentation for Council that will describe the limitations of the current museum, our vision for a new museum and what a new museum will mean to the community. We will request Council to publicly support the need for a new museum and the Society's plans for the facility.

The Society will be applying for funding from the Columbia Basin Trust to prepare a high quality presentation that can be taken to the

community over the coming year. To be successful in this endeavour we need the public's support. Our goal in the next 10 months is to convince our residents we need a new museum and ask they support its construction soon, and endorse the financial plan needed for it to become a reality.

The presentation to Council will be made in March. If funding for the community presentation is received, work will begin on it immediately with meetings to begin in the Fall.

## Kiosk Upgrade

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The Society is working hard to upgrade the state of the software on our kiosk station, located in the Sports Hall of Memories in the Trail Memorial Centre. The upgrade includes the installation of current touch-screen software, which will replace the version that was installed back in 1999. In

addition, a new touch-screen will be purchased. This will be our third screen, which guarantee about five years of longevity.

The Society is grateful to Teck

*"The Society is grateful to Teck Metals Ltd. for funding the upgrade..."*

Metals Ltd. for funding the upgrade and continuing to support our efforts in preserving our history.

Our thanks are also extended to Glenn Wallace, who has been taking care of all technical issues and installations.

## West Kootenay Power Archives Transfer

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The remainder of the West Kootenay Power Archives was moved late in 2009 from storage in the FortisBC building into our repository in City Hall. With the photograph catalogue complete, work on the textual records will begin this year.

The textual collection contains ledgers, contracts, plans, multi-

media and many other types of documents. Much of the collection is arranged pertaining to subject matter, however the collection in its entirety will require closer assessment and re-housing in proper storage.

This collection is of extreme importance, not only to our organization, but also the

community. The Trail City Archives receives several enquiries annually from researchers looking to access this important piece of our history. We thank FortisBC for recognizing the need for preservation and access of this valuable collection.

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

1394 Pine Avenue, Trail.

The Trail Historical Society meets bi-  
monthly, the 2nd Tuesday, in  
Committee Room 2, upstairs in City  
Hall, at 1:30 PM.

Meetings held February, April, June,  
September, November

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)

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.

## 1961 Smoke Eater Anniversary Plans

Next year commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters winning the World Championship for the second time, a feat never matched by any other community in the world.

The Society has been giving this celebration considerable thought and several ideas have been thrown around. The launch of the historic Smoke Eater website will be timed well for the commemoration, but we have been hoping to make use of the many gems housed in the archives that have not yet been totally accessible.

Grant applications are currently being prepared to see the re-mastering and reproduction of the final game against Russia, where Norm Lenardon scored the winning goal. The archives

houses a taped broadcast and is currently in the process of obtaining copyright in order to legally reproduce the broadcast. Copyright law stipulates that news broadcasts belong to the distribution company for fifty years before the broadcast finds itself in the public domain. As we hope to have the CD available by next spring in time for the celebration, we must obtain



*The World Championship Trail Smoke Eaters, 1961.*

legal copyright over the broadcast, as copyright will not expire until the end of 2011.

The CD insert will feature photographs of the team and tournament, statistics and, with luck, an interview with Bill Stevenson, the sports announcer. We have been in touch with Bill in the past in our search for film

footage of the game and he recalls this game as one of the highlights of his long career in sports announcing.

We hope other events will begin to materialize throughout the course of this year to best honour the men of this team and indeed the community who rallied to see them through.

Stay tuned!