



# The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## From the Desk of the President

We've had a busy summer season, and things are not slowing down for the fall. Both the Historical Society and the Trail Library have pursued constructing new facilities for many years. The Library Board supports a joint Museum/Library facility for the benefits it would bring to both organizations. On October 25<sup>th</sup> the Chair of the Library Board and myself made a presentation to City Council to underscore the need for a new Museum and Library in our community and that both organizations support a joint facility. We also urged Council to move forward with the Esplanade Project as soon as possible.

A replica of the 1939 Trail Smoke Eater jersey was recently donated to the City of Trail. It is made of wool with a very good quality crest. The City has agreed to allow the jersey to be offered for sale to the public via a raffle, with the proceeds to be split evenly between our Society and the Trail Junior Smoke Eaters.

Look for the tickets to go on sale soon.

The Society's fiscal year end is now December 31<sup>st</sup> so our Annual General Meeting will be earlier than in the past. The AGM will take place at the end of January or early February. Look for the meeting notice in the Trail Times if you do not receive one from the office by email.

The Society generates significant income from the sale of its merchandise which includes our history books and DVD and Smoke Eater memorabilia. In the past the pre-Christmas sales have been very good so we are again having a sale table at Waneta Plaza on November 20<sup>th</sup> and at the St. Michaels School Craft Fair on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Drop by and say hello if you are in the vicinity.

Our regular membership meetings are held every two months. For the December meeting we will convene at the Colander Restaurant for a brief

meeting and then a Christmas lunch. We will let you know the exact date in late November. Join us to celebrate the festive season and enjoy some pasta on us.

The proposal to establish a service for the conservation of heritage in the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary will be considered by the Regional Board on October 28<sup>th</sup>. I believe this service will provide much needed funding opportunities to those engaged in preserving our region's history. I hope it is approved and our Society can benefit from it.

Finally, our collection of oral histories is quickly growing, thanks to the efforts of resident interviewer and videographer, Rose Calderon. The Society is always in search of volunteers to help gather these histories and people who would like their histories on tape. Please feel free to contact the Society if you wish to assist in this ongoing project, or have a story you would like to tell.

## Ore Car Decision

The Society had requested City Council approve locating our CP Rail ore car in Jubilee Park in the Spring. Council chose to hire a consultant to determine the best place for the exhibit rather than endorse our request at the time. The consultant's report was presented to Council in July and referred to the Society for comment. The consultant analyzed 12 potential sites for the exhibit and rated each on a number of factors to determine

the preferred site. Their preferred site was the Chain Up area on Rossland Avenue with Jubilee Park also scoring high. The Executive met to discuss the report in September and agreed that the Chain Up area site would not be suitable for our purposes and in our view it would not achieve our goal of effectively describing the importance of industry in our community. It did not appear Council would support the Jubilee Park site and we

therefore have advised Council that we cannot agree to use the Chain Up area for the exhibit and the project will be put on hold for the time being. We hope that the Esplanade Centre and a new museum in that facility will become a reality soon and that the ore car may be incorporated into the overall design of the site that is acceptable to everyone.

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### Members-At-Large

A big congratulations to THS members, **Don & Lorna Nutini**, who were both featured in the Saturday, October 2, 2010 edition of the *Vancouver Sun* for their tireless volunteer efforts in our community.

For those of you who haven't seen the article, feel free to stop by the THS offices in City Hall for a look!

## New Website Launch! Historic Trail Smoke Eaters

The Trail Historical Society is thrilled to announce the official launch of our newest online offering, a look at the Historic Trail Smoke Eaters.

In 2009, the Society applied for a grant through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance to assist in the development of a new website devoted to telling the story of early hockey in Trail and the rise and domination of the many Trail Smoke Eater teams.

The site includes archival photographs, film footage



Home page of the Trail Historical Society's newest online offering at [www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca](http://www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca)!

from 1939 and 1961, as well as fun facts about the "Smokies" and hockey in our region.

The site links to the THS site for membership, donation and merchandise information.

If you have not yet visited this exciting website, please do so!

[www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca](http://www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca)

The Society extends its thanks to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and the Columbia Basin Trust. We are also grateful to Frank Communications for the design and WorldMarkit for the technical duties.

## Announcement! Members' Merchandise Discount

At the last meeting of the Trail Historical Society executive, it was decided that our THS members ought to receive more perks for their \$12, \$20, or \$30 membership fee.

Given our fantastic line of merchandise, including our historical publications and vintage Trail Smoke Eater memorabilia, the

executive has included a 10% discount on all THS merchandise to the list of membership benefits.

Given the launch of the new website mentioned above and the increased traffic to our current website, Society merchandise is becoming popular.

*"...the Executive has included a 10% discount on all THS merchandise..."*

The discount applies to all merchandise purchased from our e-store or from our offices. Be sure

to take advantage of this membership benefit when purchasing your Christmas gifts this year!

## Kiosk Update

The Society is currently in the process of upgrading the informative kiosk located in the Sports Hall of Memories. The current computer system is roughly 10 years old and is in dire need of replacement.

Teck Trail Operations provided a generous donation to this project and a grant application through the

Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance was also funded in order to get the kiosk in better shape.

At the moment, an entire new system and software is being assessed for suitability. The original software was purchased from a firm in England, however the conversion to a new version of software will be difficult and time-

consuming. A new system entirely may prove more economical, both in terms of cost and time.

We hope to have this project wrapped by the end of the year, in order to ensure the kiosk is functioning at its best for this busy season in the arena.

## Fort Shepherd Cairn Repair

In 2009, the Trail Historical Society received a project grant under the Community Initiatives Program through the Columbia Basin Trust to better interpret Fort Shepherd, the site of the former Hudson's Bay Company posts located across the river from Highway 22A in Waneta. Although now a component of the Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area under the purview of The Land Conservancy, the heritage value of the site remains of extreme importance. While signage was designed and installed across the river along the highway, the project did not receive enough funding to repair the



*The Fort Shepherd Cairn, erected in 1951, has seen better days.*

deteriorating cairn or replace the missing bronze plaque.

A small amount of funding is still available to do what we can for the cairn. The Society has been consulting with a

stonemason who we hope can repair the damaged north-facing corner, as

well as fill in any cracks in the mortar that loosen the stones.

There may also be an opportunity to replace the missing bronze plaque for a fraction of the cost that was initially estimated. Despite some excellent publicity in the West Kootenay Weekender, the Society was unable to determine the location of the missing plaque, which was thought to have been removed for safe keeping several years ago.

The project must be completed by the end of the calendar year. We will include an update in our next issue of the newsletter.

## Museum Update—2010 Season

This past summer, we were once again fortunate to have received a Canada Summer Jobs grant to hire a student to look after the museum.

The Society hired student Danielle Klassen to attend to the duties in the museum, which include exhibit interpretation, reception tasks and general maintenance. The summer

student also looks after the Sports Hall of Memories on the Red Floor.

Danielle made two off-site trips to Poplar Ridge and Columbia View Lodge with artifacts and also completed some transcription work from the

*"Visitor statistics were on par with the previous two years..."*

archival film footage collection.

Visitor statistics were on par with the previous two years, with little change in

numbers. Total visitors to the Museum this summer was 186.

## Museum Presentation Update

As reported in previous Newsletters, the Society wants to prepare a professionally made presentation package to use to inform the public on the benefits of a new Museum to the community and allow public input into our vision for the facility and how they would like to see our history portrayed. A budget has been prepared by the consultants that may design the exhibits in the Museum when it proceeds. The total cost is approximately \$13,000. In March, we

applied to the City of Trail for a grant in this amount from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program. Council provided us with \$6000, which leaves us \$7000 short of the budget needed. We do not want to reduce the scope of the presentation package if we can avoid it. We are therefore seeking other funding sources that may be able to provide with the funds needed to proceed in 2011. We recently applied to the Kootenay Savings Credit

Union Foundation for the balance of the funds needed to meet to meet our budget target. To date we have not received word on our application. We will update you in the next Newsletter. The presentation package will be an important tool to gain the public's support for a new museum and we want it to be the best it can be. Other funding sources will be pursued if the KSCU application is rejected.



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.

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 \$18.00 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% of all Trail Historical Society merchandise, including our vintage Trail Smoke Eater collection!

## 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters 50th Anniversary Plans

The 2010-2011 hockey season has officially started. This season is indeed a special one for players and citizens of Trail, as we mark the 50th anniversary of the Trail Smoke Eaters winning the 1961 World Championship in Geneva, Switzerland on March 12, 2011.

Although the team did not earn the title of Allan Cup champs in 1960, by a stroke of bad luck for the Chatham Maroons, the Smokies were offered the chance to represent Canada in the 1961 tournament. After a grueling 7-week tour, the team prevailed and brought home that coveted trophy to the residents of Trail for the second time.

On September 9th, the City's Promotions Committee organized a meet and greet event with some of the players of the 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters at the home opener of the Trail Junior Smoke Eaters. The hockey vets were on hand to

officially launch this commemorative season.

New merchandise was unveiled, including a t-shirt, puck (with the crest shown at left), and a historic booklet. All items are available on our e-store at [www.trailhistory.com](http://www.trailhistory.com)



Logo of the 50th Anniversary honouring the 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters.

Saturday, March 12, 2011 will be full of exciting events, aimed at bringing the community together in honour of this team. The THS will be participating in the celebrations with a very special matinee viewing of the documentary, *For the Love of the Game*, at the Royal Theatre on Bay Avenue. We will also be releasing, for the first time, the *Final Game Radio Broadcast* on CD. The project is in the final stages of production and should prove extremely popular for Smoke Eater fans.

Other celebratory events are still in the works for March 12, 2011. We are excited to be contributing to these commemorative celebrations. Considering the role sports, and particularly hockey, have played in shaping the culture of this city, we are more than happy to help honour the people whose dedication to their sport impacted an entire city.