

NOW SHOWING THE GREAT FLOOD IN COLOR
RIGHT NOW ITS INTERMISSION



The Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

The Society successfully purchased commercial liability insurance for our Officers, Directors and staff in May. The final cost was \$2100. City Council agreed to reimburse us for this cost.

All the articles for the 4th Journal are now completed and Greg Nesteroff will now prepare a camera ready copy for printing by Hall Printing. This task has been delayed by Greg's work commitments but we hope to have the Journal ready for sale in the fall.

We have finally received the bronze plaque for the Fort Shepherd cairn. We plan to install it in the fall and to make some minor repairs to the cairn itself at the same time. The President and the Museum and Archives Director presented our History of Fort Shepherd to the public at the Rossland Museum on June 16th, which was well received.

The Society continues to remain on a solid financial footing. We have decided to close some of our



Original Fort Shepherd plaque

Maximizer accounts at KSCU and purchase a term deposit in order to generate more interest from our investments. These funds are maintained to cover any unexpected expenditures or a downturn in our revenues.

If you travel into the US through the Waneta border crossing you will notice construction trailers half way up the hill. The US plans to construct a new customs port at this area. On the east side of the road you will notice a

fenced area with two headstones within it. This is the cemetery of Boundary, Washington, which was located adjacent the current US customs building. US Archaeologists have surveyed the cemetery and the town site in order to protect any areas of heritage value when construction of the new customs building takes place. We have requested a copy of their report for the Archives when it has been completed.

The Museum & Archives Director recently completed a procedures manual for administration of the THS offices. The manual covers day-to-day tasks, from financial reporting to maintenance of our three websites, should members of the executive require access to our financial, database or filing systems.

Museum Now Open!

Thanks to another successful grant application to Service Canada, the Society has opened the museum for another summer season.

Stephanie Cinnamon is

our summer student this year and is ready to take you through the exhibits.

Admission to the museum, located in the Trail Memorial Centre, is \$2.00 per adult,

\$1.00 per child from 10-18, and free for children under 10. All members receive free admission.

Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 4:30pm.

Inside this issue:

Columbia River, Heritage & Science Centre Initiative	2
Recent Acquisitions	2
Kiosk Upgrade	2
Grants Update	3
Colombo Lodge Archives Inventory Project	3
Office Upgrades	3
City Hall Renovations	4

Did you know?

Late in June 1961 (50 years ago), the City of Trail experienced another devastating flood due to the rising waters of the Columbia River. During that flood, 150 feet of the protective flood wall along the Espalade was swept away, taking with it sidewalks, curbs, pavement and gutters. The waters reached a remarkable height of 45.10 feet that year, only 1.07 feet less than the previous high mark of 46.17 of the 1948 flood.

Columbia River, Heritage & Science Centre Initiative

Since our last newsletter, progress has been made towards the construction of a facility in the downtown area that will house a new museum and archives, the Teck Interpretive Centre/Chamber of Commerce offices and the Columbia River Interpretive Centre. This initiative is being coordinated by the Lower Columbia Initiatives office.

Terms of reference for the hiring of a consultant to prepare a business plan for the Centre were finalized in April and the proposal call was issued at the end of May. Deadline for submission of a proposal to

prepare the study is July 22nd. The project steering committee, on which we sit, will then select the preferred consultant for the approval of the stakeholders (THS, Teck/Chamber, City of Trail, LCI). We hope the consultant can start work on the study by early September.

The first phase of the study will focus on determining the preferred site for the Centre. Once the site has been agreed upon, the second phase will commence, focusing on preparing the business plan for the Centre including estimated capital and operating costs and revenue

sources, economic benefits to the region, an ownership and management structure for the facility, and the preparation of a concept plan. We hope to have the study completed by Spring 2012, after which a decision will be made on whether to proceed with detailed planning and public approval for the project.

Recent Acquisitions

The THS has been the recipient of some very interesting items since the last issue of our newsletter.

Following the *Spirit '61* event, the THS was proud to hang the original "The Moment" painting of the 1961 Trail Smoke Eaters following the final championship game. The painting was donated by team mem-

ber Harry Smith, and now graces the wall in the Sports Hall of Memories.

A collection of boxing memorabilia and textual records was generously donated by Neale Morrison, whose father, Murdo, was a key fixture in the local boxing circuit.

Other artifacts include the player piano that once at in the Kootenay Hotel, donated by Mike McMahon on behalf of his late father. We hope to make use of this wonderful artifact in our new facility, as it is still in working condition.

Kiosk Upgrade

The Sports Hall of Memories is now even more advanced with the completion of our informative kiosk. The update included a new operating system, which replaced the original computer installed ten years ago, a new touchscreen and an entire new software format.

Another great feature of the kiosk is

its online presence. The software, purchased through an American company called SquareSpace, is online-based, which allows for simple and quick modification to the kiosk from any computer.



THS Director Sarah Benson and designer Kale Stanchuk view the new kiosk.

The project was generously funded by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and designed by Ten Twenty Three media, based in Trail. Please visit at trailsportshistory.ca.

Grants Update

The THS applied for several grants again this past spring season and was successful with most. The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance has funded our application for newspaper shelving. The new storage solution will assist in preserving the already deteriorating collection by storing them flat. The shelving is due to arrive in early August.



The state of the current newspaper shelving in the Trail City Archives.

The CKCA chose not to fund our application for a portable display cabinet which could be used to exhibit merchandise or artifacts outside of the museum.

Trail City Council also chose not to

fund our project that would assess the future of the Sports Hall of Memories. We hope this project will come to fruition through the new museum facility planning

process.

The Trail and District Arts Council has provided \$1500 in operating funds for the THS. We apply annually for this funding.

And finally, as mentioned on page one, Service Canada has once again funded our summer student application. Minimum wage saw an increase this year, which raised our grant to \$4120 for the summer.

The LeRoi Community Foundation also provided funding for office furniture, which is discussed later in the newsletter.

Colombo Lodge Archives Inventory Project

The Colombo Lodge Culture Committee recently applied to the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives program for funding to complete a thorough inventory of their artifact collection and prepare a tailored and definitive collections policy which will assist them in building a unique and

meaningful collection for their organization.

The project was only partially funded, however the inventory portion of the project is to be undertaken this summer. The Trail Historical Society's Museum &



Archives Director will be taking on this project, which will act as a revenue stream for the THS.

Office Upgrades

As mentioned earlier, the THS was the recipient of \$750 from the LeRoi Community Foundation to be put towards an upgrade in office furniture for our volunteers and researchers.

A new conference table and additional chairs have been purchased for our main office

space. The upgrade in our furniture ties in nicely with the renovations completed in the summer of 2009, which saw the installation of new carpets and a fresh coat of paint.

With new shelving arriving for our newspapers, we hope to move that collection into the main office for faster research and retrieval.

The larger table will also be a benefit to our volunteers, who currently work on a much smaller table.

The THS is grateful to the LeRoi Community Foundation for this funding and we intend to put the new fixtures to work in the future.

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

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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 **\$20.00** 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!

City Hall Renovations

Trail City Council has decided to renovate the current City Hall as opposed to constructing a new building. In 2011, they will be renovating the area on the second floor occupied by Committee Room No. 2. The plans call for the removal of two offices at each end of the room currently used by the Society for the storage of artifacts and Sports Hall of Memories collection.

This will mean these collections will have to be moved into the storage areas at the rear of our offices. As a result, we will have to carry out renovations to these areas to accommodate the material. Discussions have taken place with the City to

include our renovations in the tender call for the Committee Room renovations.

Our work includes the removal of storage lockers in the area immediately off of the office area,



Laying the cornerstone of City Hall, 1928.

removal of walls at the end of the Archives to create more space in that area, the removal of all plumbing fixtures in this area and the capping of water lines. We also hope to have the carpet in the

Archives replaced and more lighting installed. Eventually we would like to see the City Hall HVAC system extended into the Archives as well.

Tenders will be called soon and the work should commence in September. The City will be covering the cost of the renovations.