



# The Trail Creek News

## Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## From the Desk of the President

The 1939 World Cup won by the Trail Smoke Eaters has been found. The Cup was brought home by the team and never returned, presumably due to the outbreak of WW II. It was discovered in Jimmy Morris' basement in 1961 and then disappeared. We have been searching for it for a while. We had been advised it was not in the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto but a recent second inquiry has confirmed it is in the Hall and on display in their International Hockey Exhibit. It appears it was sent to the CAHA by Jim Anderson and then found its way to the Hall. Too bad it is still not in Trail, it would be a nice addition to the Sports Hall of Memories.

Speaking of World Championship memorabilia, Jackie McLeod's jersey from the 1961 World Championship is currently up for auction on Classic Auctions. We intend to place a bid on it if funds can be found for its purchase. The auction ends at the end of October. Again, it's too bad this type of memorabilia so important to our cultural and sports history is sold rather than being donated into our care where it belongs.

We are constantly seeking grant opportunities to undertake projects for the betterment of the Society and the Archives. We are currently working on a project to digitize the large

panoramic photos in the collection. These photos, which number close to 50 including negatives, are outstanding. They were taken by the photographic firm Hughes Brothers and date to the late 1920's and 1930's. They range in size from 8 to 10 inches in width and between 3 and 5 feet in length. We will be applying for funding for this project in December and if successful, these wonderful photos will be available for viewing on our web site next year.

Our Fort Shepherd interpretive sign on Highway 22A was vandalized this summer. A large section was broken off and scattered about the site. We have ordered a replacement but we can ill afford this senseless vandalism.

In what is surely becoming a broken record, the fourth Trail Journal of Local History is nearing completion. All the articles are completed and Greg Nesteroff is currently preparing the proof for printing. We hope it will be available for Christmas sales.

May 24, 2012 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Old Trail Bridge. The Society hopes to commemorate the occasion in an appropriate fashion. Discussions with the City of Trail are underway to determine how this special anniversary can be properly celebrated in our community. If you have an

idea that would recognize the importance of the bridge to the City, please let me or Sarah know and we will bring it up in the discussions with the City.

I regret to advise that long time member of our Executive, Rose Calderon, has resigned from her position of Director at Large. Rose has been a valued member of the Executive for many years and has worked hard for the betterment of the Society. She will be missed. The Executive has decided not to appoint a replacement at this time and the position will remain vacant until the AGM in January.

Finally, a very special announcement. Our Museum and Archives Director, Sarah Benson, has been awarded a Diploma in Cultural Resource Management from the University of Victoria. Sarah has been taking courses towards the diploma since she started with us and the knowledge she has gained through the program has been invaluable in moving our Society forward in preserving and protecting our community's history. In support of her efforts the Society assisted with the cost of tuition and the travelling costs to Victoria once a year. **CONGRATULATIONS, SARAH!!!**

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### DID YOU KNOW?

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the official opening of the Victoria Street Bridge (see picture above at left). The ceremony occurred on October 2nd and welcomed dignitaries such as the Province's highway minister, Hon. P.A. Gaglardi. Construction of Trail's "new bridge" began in 1959.

## Columbia River, Heritage & Science Centre Initiative

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Our plans to have a new museum for our community are progressing. The Lower Columbia Initiatives Economic Development office has brought our Society, the City of Trail and Teck and Trail District Chamber of Commerce together to develop a plan that would see the construction of a facility in the downtown area that would house a new museum and archives, the Teck Interpretive Centre/Chamber of Commerce offices and a Columbia River Interpretive Centre. The preferred site is the City's land on the Esplanade.

Funds were raised to hire a consultant to prepare a business plan that will identify the financial feasibility of the project. The consultant will assess the proposed development site, conduct a market demand assessment, prepare financial projections and a financial plan for the facility, conduct an economic impact and tourism assessment and then prepare a report for the stakeholders' consideration. Following the completion of the report the stakeholders will decide whether to pursue the project further.

The consultant met with representatives of the stakeholders and others in the community in September and they have commenced the market demand assessment. Their report will be completed at the end of November.

Let's hope it is positive and we can move forward with the next step toward the construction of a new museum and archives.

## 2011 Museum Season Recap

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The Trail Museum was open again this past summer for the months of June through August, thanks to a grant through the Federal Government's *Canada Summer Jobs* program.

Local student Stephanie Cinnamon was hired to look after museum visitors and also tackle the

captioning of Orbit newsletters from our archival collection.

The museum saw a total of 204 visitors this year, with a surge of attendance during the BC Senior Games which was held in the Trail,

Castlegar and Nelson communities.

*"The museum saw a total of 204 visitors this year..."*

The majority of visitors came from the Trail area, with lower mainland tourists coming next.

The Society thanks Stephanie for her hard work this summer!

## Trail Daily Times Newspaper Collection Upgrade

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The Society received funding through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance this past spring to purchase new horizontal shelving for our rapidly disintegrating newspaper collection. The new shelving has been installed in the Society office.

The Trail Daily Times newspapers,

which date back to 1896, were previously stored vertically and did little to prevent breakage of the brittle paper loosely bound between their covers.

We are awaiting another shipment of shelving to store the remainder of the



1960s and 1970s. Housed in our main office, the newspapers will experience less damage through handling and open up valuable shelf space in the Archives for our growing collection.

*New horizontal shelving now located in THS offices for easier access.*

## City Hall Renovations

The renovation of the second floor of City Hall is well underway. The City is renovating the area occupied by Committee Room No. 2. This has necessitated moving portions of our collection that occupied former offices at each end of the meeting room as well as our book storage. The City agreed to carry out improvements to our storage areas in the back of our offices to accommodate the collections being relocated. Demolition of the area commenced in September and all our collection had to be moved to other areas of our offices or offsite. The artifacts have been moved to the museum and the former Sunningdale School. The books have been relocated to the Trail Memorial Centre. The archives collection has been moved to at the

area at the rear of our office. Special thanks to Sarah, her husband Mark, and Lorna and Don Nutini, as well as the Career Development Services employees for undertaking the move of material and shelving.

While the work has been disruptive to our operations and a royal pain, we are happy the area we occupy of City Hall is being upgraded that will pay significant benefits to the Society and the care of our collections. The renovations will bring all of our collection into one area of the building making its management more efficient and environmentally friendly. We will have easier access to the archives and better utilization of the space. New shelving has been installed in

our offices for the storage of the Trail Times newspapers making access for research purposes more convenient and allows a better means to store the papers. We will have heating and air conditioning in the storage areas for the first time and the area will have new linoleum, additional lighting and will be painted.

Completion of the renovation is slated for the end of October after which will move the collection back into our new space. Thanks to the City of Trail for their support in meeting our numerous special requests needed to protect our valuable collection of artifacts and archival materials.

## Colombo Lodge Inventory Project

The Colombo Lodge's Culture Committee approached the Society late in 2010 to review the current state of their Archives Room and rapidly growing collection of artifacts, textual records and photographs. As a popular attraction for visitors to the area, members of the Lodge are seeking to tell their story through an engaging exhibit space.

After several meetings, it was decided that a thorough inventory of the collection was necessary in order to determine what sort of plan should be laid out for the future of the room. A grant was secured from the CBT's Community Initiatives Program for

*"...members of the Lodge are seeking to tell their story through an engaging exhibit space."*

this work. From there, a definitive collections policy will be developed to flesh out the collection in the appropriate way.

The Society director has begun this work and hopes the project will be wrapped up by mid-November.

## Sad News—Margaret Powell

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Margaret Powell, a former and very active member of the Trail Historical Society.

Margaret served as treasurer of the Trail Historical Society during the 1970s and 1980s. She and her husband, Art, were instrumental in establishing our first museum in

1977, which was located in City Hall (see photo).

A donation in her memory was made to KBRH Foundation (Poplar Ridge) by the Society.

*Margaret Powell (seated) at the opening of the Trail Museum in City Hall in 1977.*



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 **\$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!

## Website Hosting Changes

The Trail Historical Society has been steadily adding to and modifying its online presence in the last two years, with the addition of two new websites to the world wide web. As a result, the Society incurs certain costs associated with operating, maintaining and updating its websites.

After our initial Nelson-based hosting company closed its doors, the Society contracted with Calgary-based WorldMarkIt, who looks after all hosting duties, as well as content management that cannot be handled by Society staff. At a cost of nearly \$400 annually for each site, in addition to supplementary charges for repairs, the two sites currently managed by WorldMarkIt are proving pricey, with nearly \$1200 spent in 2010



company, *SquareSpace*, whose annual fees are significantly lower and content management is much more accessible to the client.

At the present time, the Society is seeking funds (approximately \$3500) to cover the costs of converting our two WorldMarkIt-hosted sites to the *SquareSpace* format. This change will save the Society valuable operational funds in the future, support a new local business, and make content modifications much simpler.

alone on website management.

With the creation of the new kiosk website, the Society contracted with local firm Ten Twenty-Three Media ([www.tentwentythree.ca](http://www.tentwentythree.ca)) to host the site through a US-based

We hope funding will be forthcoming for this project and look forward to working further with Ten Twenty-Three Media to bring our local heritage to the online community.