



Miss Trail Royalty, 1934

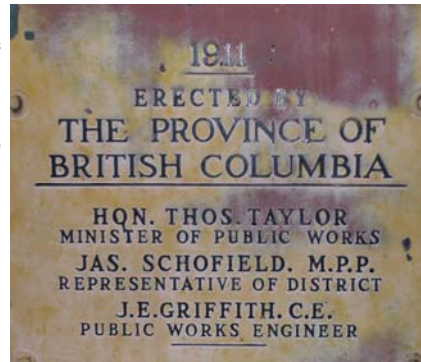
The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

I and our Museum and Archives Director made a presentation at the Rossland Museum on February 20th on sternwheelers and their importance to the initial growth and development of our region. The event was well attended and we have discussed having more of this type of thing with the Rossland Museum in the future.

It is with regret that the Board of the Society has accepted the resignation of Eleanor Gattafoni Robinson as Vice-President and Director of the Society. Eleanor is our Council liaison and recent changes in

municipal law have created the potential of a conflict if she is an elected member of our Board. Eleanor will



Plaque affixed to the top of the Old Trail Bridge, now in our collection.

continue to attend Board meetings in a non-voting capacity.

With the pending demolition of the Old Trail Bridge, we have

made arrangements with the City to remove the dedication plaques from each end of the bridge. They have been brought to our office for preservation.

We have reached an agreement with John D'Arcangelo to assist him with his publication of a book on the history of neighbourhoods in our community. John has been working on this project for over a year and we have applied to the Columbia

Kootenay Cultural Alliance for a grant to publish the book. We will hear if the application was successful at the end of May.

Museum Summer Season

The Society is pleased to announce that the funding application submitted to the Federal Government under the Canada Summer Jobs program has been approved for full costs of hiring a summer student this season.

The grant totals nearly \$5300 and will allow the

Society to hire a museum assistant from June until the end of August this year.

The museum will officially open on June 2, 2014 and our normal hours of operation will remain in place. We will once again be circulating our lunch-time volunteer schedule for those of you who are able

to assist with operations this summer.

Remember, your membership entitles you to free entry! Be sure to include the Trail Museum on your "to-do" list this summer!

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Trail Historical Society Board of Directors 2014

President	Jamie Forbes
Secretary	Sandy Hart
Treasurer	Lorna Nutini
Director	Sam McBride
Director	David Flux
Director	Fran Moll
Non-voting Member	Eleanor Gattafoni-Robinson

Trail Riverfront Centre—Latest Updates

City Council has endorsed the conceptual plan for the new Museum and Library, called the **Riverfront Centre**, and we are now proceeding to raise funds to offset the capital cost of the project and to consult with the public to ensure they are adequately informed of the nature of the project and to gain their support.

A committee of our President, the Library Board chair and the City's Communications and Events Coordinator has been formed to oversee this work. Council approved a budget to cover the expenses that will be incurred. The Society has applied to the Kootenay Savings Foundation for a grant to assist with the media costs and the



Rendering of proposed Riverfront Centre, at the corner of Bay Avenue and Helena Street.

Friends of the Library have agreed to assist with the promotion of the “**YES**” campaign leading up to the referendum in the fall.

Several large corporations have been identified that may be willing to contribute funds for the construction of

the facility and initial discussions with some of these have taken place.

The public consultation program includes two open houses, a City-wide mail out describing the project, displays of the architect's renderings in select locations in the city, meetings with community groups, media and social network advertising, and attendance at the downtown markets.

We hope these efforts will be successful in reaching as many people in our community as possible and in gaining support for the project.

Riverfront Centre Open House—May 13, 2014

The first open house to present the conceptual plans for the **Riverfront Centre** will take place on **Tuesday, May 13th** from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in the activity room of the Trail Aquatic and Leisure Centre. We look forward to having the opportunity to present our vision for a new museum and archives to our residents and to solicit the public's support for the project. A

“We look forward to having the opportunity to present our vision for a new museum and archives...”

second open house will be held on October 8th.

At the open house we will have renderings of the building and the interior of the museum and library. We will also have examples of

some potential exhibits to give the public an idea of what the new museum will present. Representatives of the Society, the Library, and the City will be present

to answer any questions attendees may have.

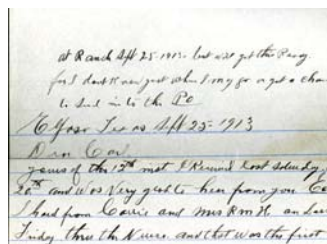
This is very important first step in a six month long effort to convince the residents of Trail this project is worthwhile, necessary, and that they should support the referendum at the November municipal elections.

We encourage you to attend this open house, raise your questions, and become involved!

Grave Marker and Hanna Letters

Our 1895 wooden grave marker once sitting atop the final resting place of Frank Hanna Jr. has received much needed conservation treatment, thanks to a grant received last year by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance. The marker was sent to Bowen Island for a good cleaning and then back to the Kootenays to be mounted and safely protected in a plexi-glass case. The marker is now far safer from environmental contaminants and will continue to remain a key piece in our artifact collection.

In other Hanna family news, our friend and Hanna Family descendant, Ann Medcalf, has kindly donated some very interesting letters from Frank Hanna to his wife's son in Seattle. The letters are dated from September 1913 to December 1913. Mr. Carl Signor was the son of Frank Hanna's second wife, Rhoda.



A scan of one of the 3 letters written by Frank Hanna in 1913.

These letters prove to be a valuable glimpse into the personal life of Frank Hanna, who made his way to El Paso, Texas after dissolving both his partnerships with Topping and his wife, Mary Jane.

Little is known about Frank's life post-Trail Creek and we are delighted that his family continues to share their findings with us.

Trail Times Negatives Project Update

The second phase of the Trail Times Negatives Project is progressing very well. The second phase consists of indexing the thousands of 35mm negatives that were published in the Trail Daily Times from 1969 to 1998. All local photography taken prior to 1969 were destroyed in the disastrous Trail Creek flood of that year.

Previously taking up one entire shelving unit in the archives vault, as well as over 20 milk crates in 4 columns stacked nearly to the ceiling, the collection has been reduced to 16 binders holding negative sheets.

The Society earned two major project grants from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance in 2012 and 2013, totaling \$19,000 to complete this massive task.

The project has provided our archives room with considerably more space in our for our growing collection.



A binder containing Trail Times negatives from 1971, along with a book of 1971 original newspapers.

The negatives originally came into our possession roughly 12 years ago, as the paper was unable to house them any

longer. Not wanting to see the collection destroyed, the archives acquired the negatives and they sat untouched for several years. With plans for a new facility, the project in its entirety was an important one to complete, as it has left the collection in a manageable, organized, and portable state.

While we have no plans as of yet to include this collection in our database system, we hope it will make these images a more usable and accessible element in our archives. In addition to the Teck photograph collection, the West Kootenay Power Archives, and the Colombo Lodge Archives, we are fortunate to have access to this, our most "homegrown" collection of them all. The Trail Times will kindly be donating original papers up to 1998, in order to finish this tremendous project.

2014 Grant Applications

Grant applications for this year's projects have been submitted, with a few results already received.

As mentioned earlier, our Canada Summer Jobs application has been funded, which will allow us to open the museum this summer. In addition, our application to the Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives program was approved, which will allow us to purchase an additional few banks of newspaper shelving to house the hard copy Trail Times needed to complete the

indexing process.

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance received two applications from the Society this year, requesting funding for John D'Arcangelo's book and for capital funding towards the Riverfront Centre capital costs. The CKCA applications will be adjudicated in early May.

Our \$4000 Community Gaming grant, distributed by the Province of BC, has been approved and received, which contributes to the wages of the Museum

& Archives Director.

This year we were also fortunate to have hired Sheila Cosmano, whose wages were partially covered by a wage subsidy program administered by Kootenay Employment Services.

A request for funding to assist with the new facility's communications campaign was also submitted to the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, which will be adjudicated shortly.

In total, over \$42,500 has been requested, with almost half already approved.

Sports Hall of Memories Security

For many years, we have been concerned with the security of our **Sports Hall of Memories** exhibits in the Trail Memorial Centre. On many occasions, there is limited City staff working in the building and the area is vulnerable to vandalism.

With the cooperation of the Parks & Rec staff, we have enlisted the services of **Matthes Architects** to review the options

available to us to limit access to the Red Floor area when required.

Once this work has been completed we will present a plan and budget to City Council for their consideration.

We would be remiss if we did not exercise due diligence to protect these important exhibits.



The Sports Hall of Memories, proudly exhibiting our community sporting heritage in the Trail Memorial Centre.

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

1394 Pine Avenue, Trail BC

The Trail Museum & Sports Hall of
Memories are located in the
Trail Memorial Centre

1051 Victoria Street, Trail BC

CONTACT US!

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We're on the web!

www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca



www.TrailHistory.com



www.TrailSportsHistory.ca



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: \$15.00**
- **Family: \$25.00**
- **Corporate: \$35.00**

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% off all Trail Historical Society merchandise, including our vintage Trail Smoke Eater collection!

Antiques from the Attic: What's it Worth?

Once again, the **Trail Historical Society** and the **Friends of the Rossland Museum** welcomed **Mr. Peter Blundell**, Canadian Professional Appraiser, to conduct another lively and engaging antique appraisal event. Held in Trail this year, the event took place over March 28th and 29th in the Trail United Church Hall.

While last year we saw a large amount of china and tea sets, this year seemed to be more about art and framed prints. With 28 sessions booked, Mr. Blundell looked at everything from 150 year-old dolls to a top hat and a school chemistry desk. We saw two items valued at \$4500 or more.

Mr. Blundell brings with him his very knowledgeable wife, Marian, who helpfully locates research

books from their massive traveling collection.

Peter and Marian are former antique dealers, having worked in the business for several years in Ontario before



THS President Jamie Forbes with appraiser, Peter Blundell.

heading west. Currently based out of Vernon, Peter specializes in fine art and early prints, First Nations art and artifacts, North American Oak furniture, sterling silver, earthenware, porcelain and pottery, pressed glass and oil lamps. He has also authored several books.

Peter will be back in the Kootenays in June at an appraisal event in Nelson. Be sure to check local events calendars should you wish to attend!

We wish to thank the generous funders of this exciting event:

Teck Columbia Basin **trust**

Nelson & District
CREDIT UNION **>>>** *Logically. Locally.*