



The Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

For over 15 years City Council has provided our Society with a significant grant to support the full time operation of our offices. In 2012, we entered into an agreement with Council that by 2014 the annual operating grant would equal the wages and benefits provided to our Museum and Archives Director. Last year the City grant was \$47,500. This year the Board agreed to increase the wage rate paid to the Director commensurate with her education and experience and the valuable service she provides to the Society. The Board requested Council increase our operating grant for this purpose to \$59,500 for 2015. Council has agreed to provide the Society with a grant of \$55,000. Despite this being less than was requested, the Board has

agreed to increase the wage rate as initially promised.

Thanks again to Council for their generous support of our Society.

Over the years we have heard horror stories of children of deceased parents clearing out homes in preparation for its sale. In many cases, material, records or photos that may hold historical value are disposed of. In hopes of countering this practice we have prepared a one page pamphlet that will be given to families making funeral arrangements, urging them to consider donating items that may be of historical interest to a local heritage group. We hope this will stem the tide of items we would like to have heading to the dump. Thanks to Bill Clark of Alternative Funeral & Cremation

Services for agreeing to help us with this initiative.

After 36 years at the helm, Joyce Austin has retired as Manager of the Rossland Museum. The Museum has hired Joelle Hodgins as her replacement. We recently met with Joelle to introduce ourselves and to begin developing the same close relationship we had with her as we had with Joyce.

The Trail and District Public Library also has a new manager. Kathryn Foley joined the Library in February and Sarah and I recently met with her to update her on our plans for the new museum and archives and our role in the community. We look forward to working with Kathryn as we move forward with the planning for the Riverfront Centre.

2014 Annual General Meeting Report

The 2014 AGM was held on January 21, 2015 at the Colombo Lodge with 33 members and guests in attendance. A few adjustments were made to the Board of Directors, which saw Lorna Nutini stepping down from Treasurer to Director and Fran Moll taking on the

roll. David Flux was also instated as the Vice-President from his Director's position. Lana Rodlie was welcomed as the newest member of the board.

The group was treated to an interesting discussion by Richie Mann on the historic Dewdney Trail.

The yearly report, as well as the 2014 income statement were presented to the group. To receive a copy of either, please contact the THS office.

We thank the Colombo for the use of their games room and look forward to a successful year ahead!

Inside this issue:

Riverfront Centre Update	2
THS Strategic Planning Session	2
Trail Journal of Local History, Issue #5 Release	2
2015 Grant Applications	3
Trail Times Negatives Project—Phase Two	3
2016 Historic Calendar	3
<i>A Trail To Remember—A Remarkable Journey, Indeed!</i>	4

2015 Board of Directors

Jamie Forbes	President
David Flux	Vice-President
Fran Moll	Treasurer
Sandy Hart	Secretary
Lorna Nutini	Director
Sam McBride	Director
Lana Rodlie	Director
Councillor Gattafoni-Robinson (City Liaison)	

Riverfront Centre Update

Discussions were recently held with representatives of City Council regarding the timetable for the planning and design of the Riverfront Centre.

Council has prepared a four year action plan that identifies major projects they believe needs their attention during their term. In particular, the plan has prioritized projects they wish to undertake in the next year based on Council and City staff workload.

As a result, Council has decided to delay the planning and design of the Riverfront Centre until the Spring of 2016. It is estimated construction of the Riverfront Centre will not



Proposed Riverfront Centre façade, as presented during last year's referendum campaign.

commence until late Fall 2016 or early Spring 2017.

Council has requested City staff prepare a report for their consideration by this September that will identify the options available to design the facility and propose a schedule to proceed with the project.

We are disappointed the project will not be proceeding this year, however we will continue to develop our plans for the museum exhibits and to

formulate a plan to raise the funds necessary to create the museum galleries.

Trail Historical Society Strategic Planning Session

In 2007, the Board prepared a strategic plan that was designed to guide the operations of the Society until 2012. The plan was not always followed and is now out of date.

With the pending construction of the new museum/archives and then a brand new era of operating these facilities, the Board felt a new strategic plan was in

order. The plan will focus on the needs of the Society and its Board to prepare for planning a new facility and changing how we operate.

A consultant has been selected to assist the Board in

"The plan will focus on the needs of the Society and its Board to prepare for planning a new facility..."

preparing the plan and we hope to begin the process in June. This project is subject to the Society receiving the funding necessary to hire the consultant from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CBT funds).

We will be notified of our grant request by the end of May.

Trail Journal of Local History, Issue #5 Release

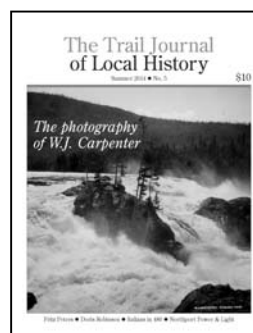
The fifth issue in our publication program of the *Trail Journal of Local History* was released in January and is currently available for retail sales.

Local carriers of our publications include:

City Hall, Shopper's Drug Mart, Artisan, Crockett Book Company and in Nelson at Otter Books. In addition, the THS web store is an active market place using PayPal.

This issue was a long time in the making and we have to thank Greg Nesteroff, once again, for his dedication to this program and his meticulous attention to detail, both in research and in layout. Additionally, we thank all contributors to this issue, including Sam McBride, Ron Verzuh, Roger Boulet, as well as

Jamie Forbes and, of course, Greg.



Special thanks to the Trail Times for their continued support of our advertising efforts, which have proven valuable.

Should you have a submission for consideration in our next issue, please share! We are always delighted to receive articles of historical interest.

2015 Grant Applications

All applications for this year's board-approved projects have been submitted to our usual funding sources for consideration. Our operational funding sources include:

- Canada Summer Jobs Program
- Community Gaming Grant (BC)
- BC Arts Council

Project funding this year was requested from the following organizations:

- Columbia Basin Trust's Community Initiatives Program (new workstation)
- Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (strategic planning)
- LeRoi Community Foundation (2016 calendar sponsorship)

Grant requests this year total nearly \$25,000.



As mentioned in previous issues, the Trail Museum will remain closed for this summer in order to conduct a thorough inventory of the artifact and sports collections which is a necessary document that will inform our exhibit design process later in the year. The 2016 summer student will be responsible for this important project.

In addition to our annual operating grant generously provided by the City of Trail, publication and merchandise sales, as well as research and contract work (with Teck Metals Ltd. in particular), the THS is on track for another successful year. Continue reading for updates on projects that are wrapping up!

Trail Times Negatives Project—Phase Two

Seemingly the “never-ending project,” the Trail Times negative collection is already proving a valuable asset to our growing list of archival resources. Joyce Austin, contract worker on this phase, wrapped up in mid-March, as grant funding for the project came to an end.

The project saw the creation of yearly indexes of retained negatives from the Trail Times collection that was salvaged from their building many years ago. The flood of 1969 destroyed the majority of negatives from that year and years prior, save a few stragglers from 1968. The collection runs until 1998. As digital technology became more prevalent, the use of film diminished.

You'll recall that Phase One involved retaining published images and culling their remaining duplicates, triplicates and often quadruplicates! It was a long process and one through which we've been working for nearly three years. Phase Two consisted of the creation of indexes of the retained images, the captions used to describe them, the publication date and, where noted, the photographer.

The documents created allow for keyword searching, which makes research in those years of the newspapers that much simpler, especially if a detailed article accompanied a photograph.

Our hardcopy collection of papers ends in 1986 and the kind folks at the Trail

Times have agreed to the transfer of the remaining 12 years to our collection. Last year, additional shelving was purchased to accommodate this enhancement.

Additionally, the transfer of the negative collection was formalized by Times staff and the images in their entirety are now legally the property of the Trail Historical Society.

We are delighted that an end to this arduous project is in sight. We must thank all those contract workers and summer students who spent hours on the project, as well as the Times for trusting us with this important collection.

2016 Historic Calendar

The Board has once again agreed to continue with our successful archival calendar program. The 2016 historic calendar will be hitting the press by this summer, with the product available by the fall.

We hope to attain a small amount of calendar sponsorship for this issue, in the hopes we can continue to rely on our generous supporters to carry on this

popular program.

We found the ideal count to be three hundred for last year's issue and we were nearly able to break even based on sales.

We feel this is a unique product to our community and makes fantastic use of our photograph collection, which grows annually.

It is hoped one-third of project costs can be covered by sponsorship.

The calendar is designed locally by *Burnstick Design* and printed, as always, by our friends at Hall Printing.

Keep your eye out at our usual outlets and fall markets this year and get yours early!

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 Eaters™ collection!

A Trail To Remember—A remarkable journey, indeed!

The Trail Historical Society is more than happy to report that all text files are with our printer in the formatting stage of this remarkable project. John D'Arcangelo has done a tremendous job of accumulating more than 200 short stories of memories, anecdotes, and notable events that help to colour the cultural fabric of this fascinating city.

While not all submissions made it into the final copy, over 160 stories are included in the 11 chapter book.

The project has received funding through the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and private sponsorships from Salsman Insurance Agency, Trail Festa Italiana, and the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge.

The terms of the grant through the

CKCA must see the project completed by the end of May, and both the



A fond memory of the Gulch not seen since the early 1960s.

committee and Hall Printing are confident this deadline can be met.

Along with these stories, contributors

kindly shared their own personal photographs. While the textual content has left us with fewer opportunity to share all of the images provided, we are in the process of selecting those that offer a unique, perhaps never-before-seen glance at certain facets of our history.

A book launch will be planned for late in June. Details will follow and all contributors will be informed ahead of time.

We wish to thank John for persevering in making this important project a reality and bringing these delightful stories to life for all to share.

We also thank any and all contributors who submitted a story, anecdote, photograph or word of encouragement for this project. We hope you will be as happy with the final product as we are.