



# Trail Creek News

## Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## Welcome

Greetings! This summer proved to be a busy one, packed with many on-going projects to keep us busy. The Teck Cominco project is still in the works, with the completion of Phase II in sight. Nearly all the 4 x 5 negatives have been assigned numbers and scanned. The remainder of the phase consists of indexing ledgers and sketches.

This summer saw the re-organization and cleaning up of the back room housing our

museum pieces. The drafting table has been moved to the middle storage room in preparation for a reading and research space for Society members. A few members have already been in cleaning and reorganizing the cupboard contents. The room will be ready for use shortly.

Also during the summer, the Society began a series of artifact viewings for the residents of Poplar Ridge. Two visits have been made already and

we anticipate many more sessions to come.

The City received positive feedback from the Communities in Bloom committee with regard to Heritage Preservation. Judges toured the museum and Sports Hall of Memories in August. Trail received a score of 81/100, with judges recognizing a need for new museum facilities. Our determination to preserve local history was clearly apparent to judges.

## Sports Hall of Memories and BC River's Day

The Society hosted an open house at the Sports Hall of Memories in the Trail Memorial Centre on September 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the completion of the renovations to the exhibits and the construction of a new display area.

Invited guests and the general

public enjoyed perusing the upgraded displays and the exhibit of jerseys from current NHL players from the Trail area and Jason and Lauren Bay. Refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed the afternoon. Drop by and see the bright new

look of the facility!

BC River's Day was held on September 26. The Society showcased a display featuring Trail's old bridge and its significance since its completion in 1912. We received great exposure and enjoyed the warm weather.

## Museum Closed For Season

The Society's Museum in the Trail Memorial Centre is now closed for the season.

Summer student Deanna Hockley was hired with the assistance of a student

employee grant from Human Resource Development Canada. The Cominco Magazine project was completed by Deanna and her help in the Sports Hall of Memories was greatly appreciated.

This year, the museum took in a total of \$529.00, which includes admission fees, publication and card sales, and donations. Thank you to those who donated their volunteer hours.

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**In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amidst the guns below.**



**We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We live, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.**

**Lt.-Col. John McRae**

# A Century of Achievement: A Visual History of Trail

In September, the Trail Historical Society responded to an announcement posted by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, who intends to fund two projects related to visual arts and/or heritage in the Basin. The CKCA plans to give two grants of up to \$9000 each to groups or individuals who have planned local heritage or visual arts projects.

An idea for a collage-style visual art piece was expanded upon and the Society commissioned the talents of member Maureen Travers, whose extensive background in the visual arts was a welcomed addition to the project. It was decided that a large portable painting would be created, using archival photographs and documents as a base and supplemented by Maureen's unique artistic interpretation.



"Building the Gulch," A painting by Maureen Travers. Maureen's unique artistic style will be a key feature of this ambitious project.

With two major events on the horizon with regard to our city's history (centennial celebrations for both Cominco and the Colombo Lodge), it was decided that the theme should highlight a century of achievement in both business

and civic lifestyle.

Unfortunately, our project was not selected for funding this year. However, we intend to move ahead with the project in the future, perhaps canvassing local business for support.

We intend the work to act as an outreach and educational tool for local and area residents. In addition, its easy mobility will allow for frequent display about town, like senior's residences, schools, and high traffic areas, informing and entertaining all who encounter it. Reproduction into smaller sizes and formats, like posters, is also an added feature as a possible fundraiser down the road.

## Charitable Donation Status

One thing the Society has lacked over the years is registered charitable status under the Federal Income Tax Act. This was recently rectified with the Society receiving its charitable business number, effective April 13, 2004.

Being recognized as a charity under the Act verifies we are indeed a charitable organization, which will benefit the Society when applying for certain

grants and funding programs. More importantly, having been registered, the Society may now provide tax receipts to persons donating valuable items or money to our Museum and Archives collections. These items, or gifts, including monetary donations, would be appraised and a receipt issued

*"...we are indeed a charitable organization, which will benefit the Society when applying for certain grants and funding programs."*

in the amount of their value, and the donor can then use that as a deduction on their current year's income tax return.

While we do not anticipate having to issue such receipts regularly, it will be a value to have this capability when the need arises.

## RDKB Grant Money

Money has been received from the Regional District Kootenay Boundary in the amount of \$5100, intended to help promote the three historical societies in our area. This money will be spent on a display unit that will promote each society, community, and our efforts to protect and preserve our respective histories.

Representatives from the Trail, Rossland, and Beaver Valley and Pend d'Oreille historical societies have met and decided upon this portable, promotional unit.

The three-dimensional unit consists of a metal frame (10 feet x 10 feet) and interchangeable paneling for varying displays. Attractive halogen lighting is a key feature. The unit also includes a carrying case, which allows for easier mobility and safer transport.

Similar units are being utilized by the Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Foundation and by Teck Cominco in the Interpretive Centre.

We hope this purchase will result in a positive outcome for each society and we thank the RDKB for their continued support of local heritage organizations.



Example of display unit.

# Kootenay Savings Credit Union: A History

The Trail Historical Society has embarked upon a special project that will recount the story of the early days of the Credit Union in the West Kootenay. Society member, Cliff McMartin, has assembled a team of researchers from Montrose, Fruitvale, Castlegar, Warfield, and Trail, whose purpose it is to locate and accumulate any information pertaining to the early days of the Credit Unions in our area. With the help of Kootenay Savings CEO Brent Tremblay and Joe Kobluk, the Society hopes to receive an array of documentation about the Trail Branch, currently housed in the basement of the Kootenay Savings Insurance building. Volunteers from our surrounding areas have already begun re-



The Victoria Hotel, future home of Kootenay Savings Credit Union, Trail Branch. Interestingly enough, KSCU's first office was located above the Trail Daily Times, on the same block.

searching and locating information related to their local branches.

We are appealing to local residents who may have any information related to the

early days of the Credit Unions. Items of interest include anecdotal stories, photographs, minutes, correspondence, etc. Information can be turned into your local branch or brought down to the Society's office in City Hall. For further enquiries, contact Cliff at 367-0044 or Sarah in the office at 364-0829.

Cliff McMartin is the driving force behind this project and his motivation is very personal. He played a key role in getting the Credit Union in Trail off the ground in the mid-1940s. He recalls giving loans out of a suitcase and collecting loan payments from the Cominco gates. Such anecdotes, like these that Cliff recalls, will make this project special and we hope to produce a successful and enjoyable publication.

## Museum Feasibility Study

The Society is pleased to announce City Council has agreed to fund 50% of the cost to prepare a study of the feasibility of establishing a new Museum and Archives for the City.

The Society was successful in obtaining a grant from Canadian Heritage for the balance of the study cost to a maximum of \$8,051. The total study budget is \$14,000.

Highland Development Consultants of Rossland have been hired to prepare the study. Initial meetings with the consultant have taken place and it is hoped their report will be completed by the end of the year.

Highland Development brings to the table the expertise of Mr. Murray Frost, a renowned cultural building consultant specializing in the field of "preventive

conservation." We hope Mr. Frost will prove a beneficial addition to the study.

The study's findings and recommendations will be used as a basis to initiate plans for a new Museum and Archives and to seek funding for the project.

## What's Happening in the Office

The Trail Historical Society has been recommended to the British Columbia Arts Council for a \$400 grant by the Trail and District Arts Council. Word was received mid-October and we should receive the money sometime in June 2005.

The Society is nominating itself for a contest honouring the best new websites. The winner will receive \$250.00. If you have not yet browsed our site, log on and offer us some feedback!  
[www.trailhistory.com](http://www.trailhistory.com)

Society Executive has decided we need a

logo. Talks are ongoing as to a contest in search of an appropriate graphic design to accompany our name on signage and advertisements. Details to follow!



Who will serve up our new logo?

The Society has booked a spot at Waneta Plaza's bake sale weekend, November 19th and 20th. We will be featuring Society publications, art, and also our reprint service. A product order form and brochure has been created, which features roughly 15 archival photo-

graphs ready for reprint. The reprints, printed on our dye-sub, photo quality printer, will be available framed and unframed. We hope this will prove a profitable fundraiser.

Don't forget: every volunteer hour counts. Be sure to record your hours in the Volunteer Log.

To volunteer around the office, call Sarah at 364-0829.

Any fundraising ideas? Drop in or call Sarah at 364-0829.

# New Director Welcomed

The Executive is pleased to announce Sarah Benson has been hired as our Museum and Archives Director, replacing Samantha Poling.

Sarah was born and raised in Trail and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and French from the University of Victoria. Sarah took one year of her university education studying in Strasbourg, France, and

found many opportunities to travel throughout Europe.

Sarah is keenly interested in Kootenay history and is eager to immerse herself in our community's history. She can be reached at the Archives' office in City Hall at 250-364-0829 or drop by and say hello. Welcome, Sarah!



Winter is drawing near! Here's a little reminder. Children with sleighs near Third Avenue in East Trail, 1947.

**Trail Museum, Sports Hall of Memories  
And Trail City Archives operated by  
Trail Historical Society  
Box 405, Trail, BC V1R 4L7**

**Phone: 250-364-0829  
Fax: 250-364-0830  
Email: sbenson@trail.ca  
Or history@trail.ca  
Website: www.trailhistory.com**

**The Trail City Archives is located  
on the 2nd floor of City Hall  
1394 Pine Avenue, Trail**

**The Trail Historical Society meets on  
the 2nd Tuesday of every month in  
the Community in Bloom office at  
the old School Board building on  
Columbia Avenue, Trail.**

## 50 Years Ago—Cominco Magazine November 1954

With the recent debates raging over the possible relocation of the regional hospital, I decided I would feature Trail's hospitals in this section. I decided to go back to the Cominco Magazine, who featured the new hospital in their November 1954 issue, highlighting the modern capability of conducting more local testing, rather than sending samples to Vancouver, a situation we hope to arrive at today. Also included are facts and photos about Trail's former hospitals.



The cost to build was \$2,250,000. Of the local share, one third came from Trail taxpayers, over half from Tadanac taxpayers (mostly Cominco), and the remainder came directly from Cominco—a \$100,000 cash gift. (Com. Mag., Nov. 1954, p 2).



### "About Our Cover"

A young woman with a microscope is not an unusual picture in this day and age. But since the photo shows Lab Technician Mary Ward at work in the new Trail-Tadanac Hospital, it illustrates an important new hospital feature for the district. Mary is one of the two technicians working under Dr. Lawrence Duggan in the pathology department. The work covers all of the blood and other routine types of testing done before, and now, tissue examination. This is vital in cancer diagnosis and also of great value in surgery. Work of this type was formerly sent to Vancouver.



Shown here as the Aldridge Hotel, Trail's first hospital was built in 1896 by Dr. Corsan at the corner of Cedar and Helena. Containing 8 beds, an operating room, electric lights, and the doctor's living quarters, the cost of building was roughly \$4000 and constructed of California Redwood.



Shown here in 1932, The Trail-Tadanac Hospital on Victoria Street had just undergone a building addition, increasing the number of beds from 50 to 100. Originally built in 1925, the cost of building was in the tens of thousands. The hospital was touted as "the most modern in the interior of BC and...second to none in the Dominion in the way of equipment and furnishings." (Trail Daily Bulletin, Dec. 21, 1925)