



# Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## Welcome: What's new?

Greetings and happy new year to all! The Society has been busy getting things together for Heritage Week, funding applications, contract proposals, Antiques Appraisal Day, and of course, the Museum Feasibility Study.

The new year gives us a fresh start in the museum. We hope to fashion a new exhibit in the museum that will feature elements from Trail's artistic scene, and most notably, artifacts from the performing arts. A spring cleaning of the Museum will occur by April so as to get started on this new exhibit.

The HRSDC funding application for the summer student has been submitted and we hope to receive funding again this year. The student will man the Museum five days a week, with volunteers picking up

the lunch hour.

The Virtual Museum of the Kootenays Project has received funding for a "virtual museum" on line, with an exhibit dedicated to the Dewdney Trail. The Trail Museum and Trail City Archives are a part of



*One of the many photographs, archival documents and artifacts that will be used in the Virtual Museum of the Kootenay's Dewdney Trail on-line exhibit. This is the construction of the trail near Rossland.*

this project and will provide the coordinator with any relevant material we may have that pertains to the Dewdney Trail. The project is being coordinated by Nicole Tremblay of the Nelson Museum.

For the past two months, Rock Wall Project researcher, Terry Brinson, has been conducted research on rock walls and stonemasons in the Archives. Terry is compiling research for the project's coffee table book and video. She believes fully in this project and has been a warm and friendly addition to the office. We wish them luck with their endeavours.

Sales of our reprints are doing remarkably well. This service is gaining recognition and we hope it continues to grow as a viable source of income for the Society.

Don't forget: it is nearly time to renew your regular and family membership. We have a busy and important year ahead of us and your support is always welcomed and appreciated!

## City of Trail Funding

In order for the Society to employ our Museum/ Archives Director and to manage the operations of the Society on a full time basis, we require the financial support of the City of Trail.

Since 2000, City Council has been generous in providing funding annually to sustain our operations. Without this

funding, our efforts to improve the Museum, Archives and Sports Hall of Memories and to carry out the work necessary to preserve and protect our community's history would be impossible.

For 2005, Council has agreed to provide an operating grant of \$28,350 and a capital grant of \$2000. The capital funds

will be used to replace the monitor in the kiosk in the Sports Hall of Memories and to install a visitor counter in that facility.

The members of the Society are grateful for Council's continued support.

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### HISTORY BITES

Did you know that the influenza epidemic of 1918 resulted in city authorities enforcing the mandatory rule of wearing gauze masks while in public areas? Due to the lack of hospital beds, the Aldridge Hotel was transformed into a makeshift hospital and doctors and nurses were recruited from surrounding areas, like Spokane, to provide relief for Trail's exhausted health care workers. Over fifty deaths were 'flu related that winter. The city saw an outpouring of support from citizens who generously donated to the Influenza Relief Fund, which provided staples to affected households.

## Heritage Week 2005: Heritage of Faith

This year, the British Columbia Historical Federation selected this year's theme to be "Heritage of Faith: Sacred Buildings and Spiritual Places." To honour Heritage Week this year, the Society appealed to all local churches to fashion an informative display that would tell the stories of their establishments in Trail. After letters and several follow-up calls, 10 churches agreed to participate. The Society would like to thank these churches for their participation in this year's Heritage Week: Emmanuel Baptist Church, Peace Lutheran Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Anthony's of Padua, Knox United Church, St. Andrew's Church, Gateway Christian Life, Trail Presbyterian Church, and the Salvation Army Church. Look for their stories in the Trail Daily Times during



Trail's first Presbyterian Church - originally located on Spokane St. In 1896, it was moved to this location on Pine Avenue.

Heritage Week, February 21-27.

In addition to celebrating this year's theme, the Society felt it necessary to embrace other aspects of our local heritage. With that in mind, the Society asked several local businesses who, by our records, have been in operation for over 50 years to fashion similar displays

telling the stories of their time in Trail. We received 14 responses from those businesses we contacted. They are: Bal-four & Sons, BA Benson, Lauener Bros., Hall Printing, Ferraro's, FORTIS, Ye Flower Shoppe, Teck Cominco, City Bakery, The Pastry Shop, CIBC, L&J Books, and Personal Alternative Funeral Services. We thank all these businesses for their support of Heritage Week and congratulations on your continued success in Trail!

In addition, we contacted genealogist Helen Smith, who held a genealogy session Friday, February 25, at 7:00 pm at the Trail & District Public Library. The workshop was very informative and provided those who attended with excellent resource tools for genealogical searches. We thank Helen for her time and expertise. We hope to continue with this sort of workshop in the future.

## Museum/Archives Feasibility Study

With funding from the City of Trail and Canadian Heritage, the Society is undertaking a study to identify the feasibility of establishing a new museum and archives in the City. Highland Development Consultants of Rossland have been contracted to prepare the report.

To date, the consultants have prepared an inventory of potential sites and have identified a preferred location for the facility. Research has been carried out to deter-

mine the optimum size for the facility in this location. Interviews with potential partners in the project, both commercial ventures and not-for-profit organizations, will begin shortly. To be successful, the new museum/archives must be as self-sustaining financially as possible. Having a facility that can attract visitors for both business and cultural pur-

poses is our goal.

We anticipate the draft report from the consultants to be delivered by the end of March, after which a business plan and project implementation schedule will be prepared for Council's review.

*"Having a facility that can attract visitors for both business and cultural purposes is our goal."*

## Welcome New and Renewed Corporate Members

This past November, the Society sent membership renewal notices to last year's corporate members. We received a great response and most corporate members renewed for 2005. We extend our thanks to these renewed corporate members:

**Re/Max All Pro Realty Ltd., L. Soligo & Associates Ltd., Teck Cominco, City of Trail, the Colander, L & J Books, Hall's Basics, McEwan, Harrison &**

**Co., Trail Knights of Pythias Society, Hall Printing, and the Royal Canadian Legion (Trail #11).**

In addition, the Society kicked off its new corporate membership drive in January seeking new corporate members. As a result, we received 7 new memberships. They are:

**BA Benson & Son, Ferraro Foods, Hil-Tech Contracting, the Trail & District**

**Public Library, Marino Wholesale, AM Ford, and the Cristoforo Colombo Lodge.**

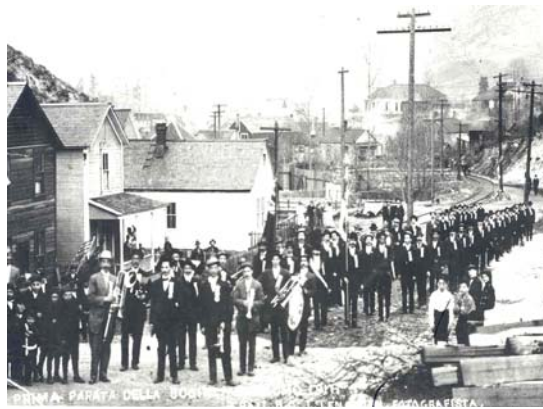
The Society relies on the support of its members and we particularly appreciate corporate support from local business. Thank you to all renewed and new members!

## Ongoing and New Archival Projects

The Society is pleased to announce Teck Cominco has agreed to contract with the City Archives in 2005 to complete the organization, description and storage of their photograph collection at their Trail operations. This is the third and final phase of this project.

This year, we will concentrate on creating a database for over 30,000-35 mm negatives in their collection. This contract provides the Society with important revenue, enabling us to maintain the services we provide on a full time basis. The Society appreciates Teck Cominco's continued support and its desire to protect this valuable photograph collection.

In addition to this project, the Society has prepared a contract proposal and submitted it to the Colombo Lodge, who is seeking to properly organize, store and cata-



First parade of the Society of Cristoforo Colombo, 1911.

logue its Archives. It seems an ideal time to get this done, as the Colombo Lodge is celebrating its centennial year.

Much of the Colombo Lodge collection has already been accessioned, thanks to former curator, the late Allan Tognotti. Most records are in excellent condition, however, the Lodge wishes to make access to this material simpler by creating a database system. This will enable researchers to locate a record and retrieve all pertinent information about that record without having to physically handle it. This process extends the life of all fragile material, preserving it for time to come.

With any luck, the Lodge will receive funding to contract the Society in order to get this project going. We wish them luck.

## Antiques Appraisal Day, 2005

The expertise of Mr. Al Bowen has once again been commissioned this year for the Society's 3rd annual Antiques Appraisal Day, to be held in the Knox United Church Hall, on Saturday, June the 4th. Just as last year, spectator and appraisal fees will be in effect. Private appraisals will also be available for a larger fee.

Local support for our Appraisal Day Raffle has been outstanding this year. Included in this year's prizes are: a Lay-Z-

Boy recliner, donated by Home Goods; a Starchoice Satellite System (installation included), donated by Rock Island Tape Centre; a Swarovski crystal, donated by Lauener Brothers Jewelers; \$100.00 in gas certificates, donated by Benson Oil; and \$50.00 worth of gift certificates, donated by the Colander.

We hope these prizes will help generate



Al Bowen with Lana Rodlie at last year's Antique Appraisal Day.

some much needed revenue for the Society.

Mr. Al Bowen is a renowned appraiser and travels all over the province conducting appraisals for events such as this. His time and expertise are greatly appreciated and we anticipate a great day. Look for

our ads and be sure to book early!

## Ethel McIntosh Memoriam

In December of 2004, our city lost one of its oldest and most renowned citizens. "Mrs. Mac," as she was affectionately known, passed away at the age of 104. She is most fondly remembered as the long-time proof-reader of the Trail Times until 1981, when she retired at the age of 81.

Mrs. Mac was also an active member of the Trail Historical Society. In lieu of

flowers, donations were made to the Trail Historical Society, upon the request of her family. The Society sincerely appreciates the thoughtful consideration of the members of Mrs. Mac's family and wishes to thank them for this honour. Mrs. Mac's family has also made a donation to the Society in her honour.



The stand is on wheels, allowing for easy transport.

With all donations, the Society has opted to purchase a portable wooden display stand that will house our publications and videos, providing us with an easier and more appealing way of displaying and selling our publications.

The stand will be dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Mac and an engraved dedication will be added to the stand.

## What's Happening Around the Office

Things have been quite active around the office lately. Reprint sales are doing well and many research enquiries are being conducted. However, in 2004, we noticed a disturbing drop in the sales of the Society's historical books and videos. In an effort to bring sales up to 2003 levels, we have approached Wal-Mart to retail the books and videos in their new Trail store and

they have agreed. We have purchased a floor display for this purpose and hope to have the books and videos in Wal-Mart soon. We appreciate the support Jeff Stinson, Wal-Mart manager, has provided to maintain this important source of revenue for the Society.

Also, as many of you may have seen, our videos were aired on Shaw Cable on

January 31 and February 4. The Knowledge Network has also asked us to send them copies of our videos for consideration. This may help boost sales of our publications and video productions, as well.

We have organized the Society's Annual General Meeting, which will take place on March 15 at 12:00 at Café Americano. A light lunch will be provided. At the AGM, annual reports will be presented and your 2005-2006 Executive chosen. Come out and join us for this important meeting. We hope to have Ron Parisotto, newly elected president of the Colombo Lodge to come in and speak to us about the Centennial celebrations. Membership dues and BC Historical Magazine subscriptions will be collected at the AGM.

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

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Or [sbenson@trail.ca](mailto:sbenson@trail.ca)  
Website: [www.trailhistory.com](http://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 at 1:30.**

## A Look Back: Trail's Caledonian Society (by Bert Green)

**The Society recently had Jake McLeod offer us a glimpse into the history of Trail's Caledonian Society. This article, by Society member Bert Green, provides a quick history for those who missed it.**

The true origins of the Association were actually previous to the society's inaugural date of April 11, 1923. Several years prior, a group of Scotsmen would get together and hold a ceremonial dinner in the dining room of the Star Cafe (an annex to the Arlington Hotel) in annual celebration of Burns Night. In consequence of these informal gatherings, a decision was made to organize into a formal society. The founding meeting saw the signing of 54 members. At the end of the year, this membership increased to 83 members. Many men of prominence in Trail claimed membership, including S.G. Blaylock, of the CM&S.

The Society, by 1930, had become extremely active in the community. An annual celebration of the Highland Games was held in Butler Park in conjunction with the Trail Athletic Society, as the Society sponsored baseball, hockey, soccer, and curling teams. They celebrated St. Andrew's Night on

November 30, Hogmany (Scottish New Year's Eve) on December 31, and Burns Night on January 25. The Soci-



Scottish dancers perform to the Pipe band at Butler Park.

ety sponsored Trail's first pipe band under pipe major John McLennan. Trail's annual May Day celebration on May 22 always saw the participation of a float in the parade and highland dancing at Butler Park. Trail's famous Glamis Castle was often featured in the parade. Glamis Castle was created by John Ferguson, a cabinet maker by trade, under sponsorship of the Caledonians.

Until 1938, the Society was male-dominated, with women excluded from membership. The ladies often participated in many social evenings with the exception of Burns' Night, which was for men only. This changed, however, when in 1938, the women decided to celebrate Burns' Night on their own. They celebrated with a dinner held in the old Savoy Hotel (now Double Happiness Cafe). Subsequently, many of the male celebrants decided to join the ladies at the home of Mrs. McLaren after completing their own dinner. At the next scheduled meeting, a motion was passed admitting the ladies to full membership.

The Society never built or owned their own lodge hall. They used the hall and facilities of the Knights of Pythias. A disastrous flooding of the Trail Creek occurred in April 1952. All the society's archives, which were stored in the basement of the K.P.Hall, were lost or irreparably damaged. Records of the first inaugural meeting, together with the signatures of the 54 members, however, still exist.