



The Trail Creek news

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to long time member Jean Stainton who retired from our Executive at the end of 2012. Jean worked tirelessly for the benefit of our Society for many years and we always enjoyed her stories at our meetings. Best wishes to Jean. There is a vacancy on the Executive and if anyone is interested in helping us out please contact me.

The Executive is planning to undertake some new initiatives in the hope of increasing our revenues in 2013. We are hoping to establish another retail outlet for our books and DVDs to increase sales. We also hope to interest local businesses to display large historical photos in their premises for a modest cost. If

anyone has other ideas on how we can increase revenues, please contact me.

The Society uses space in the former Sunningdale School to store large furniture items and an old printing press. We understand the property is being sold by the School District and we must move our collection out by the end of March. We have secured space for the furniture but the printing press is problematic due to its size and weight. We are feverishly looking for a suitable storage area for this item. Any ideas?

We keep an eye on eBay regularly for items of interest related to Trail. We have recently purchased a Trail Smoke Eater jersey from the late 1970's. These are hard to

obtain and we are pleased to be able to purchase it for the Sports Hall of Memories collection.

A reminder to purchase Society member Sam McBride's book 'The Bravest Canadian – Fritz Peters, VC' which tells the story of his Great Uncle's exploits in the two great wars. It is very well researched and a very interesting story of a little known Canadian war hero. It is available at Crockett Books.

Our next membership meeting will be held in mid April. We will notify you of the date and time.

Annual General Meeting Held

The Trail Historical Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, February 7th in City Hall. Elected to the Executive were: **Jamie Forbes**, President; **Louis Forte**, Vice-President; **Lorna Nutini**, Treasurer; **Sandy Hart**, Secretary; **Sam McBride**, Director; and **Eleanor Gattafoni**

Robinson, Director. We thank the Executive for continuing on in their duties. We sadly say goodbye to long-time director, Jean Stainton this year, as Jamie has mentioned above.

We were also treated to a talk by Executive member, Sam McBride,

on his most recent publication, *The Bravest Canadian*.

Membership dues were collected. If you have not yet renewed your membership, feel free to do so by mail (see back page) or at the office.

Thank you to all who attended!

Inside this issue:

Trail Times Negatives Project	2
New Museum Update	2
2013 Budget	2
Upcoming Grant Applications	3
Trail Journal of Local History, Issue #5	3
Antiques in the Attic—What's it Worth?	4

Did you know?

Have you seen the Trail Historical Society's monthly article in the Trail Times? They are each historically-themed and appear on the last Friday of each month. Be sure to keep your eye out! If you have any ideas for interesting historical topics, please let us know!

Trail Times Negative Project

The first phase of the Trail Times Negative Project is nearing completion. While we were not able to get through the entire collection of negatives, which included several duplicates of the originally published images, the project can hopefully be completed the summer by our summer student.



Archivist Joyce Austin of the Rossland Museum working on the Trail Times Negative Project.

Rossland Museum manager Joyce Austin was hired in October to tackle this hefty project and has so far saved over 5600 published images for our files. Over 60,000 negatives have been discarded, as they were either duplicates or not

pertinent to the history of the city.

The first 6 years of the collection do not include “contact sheets”, which is a positive or print version of a collection of negatives. Later years do contain contact sheets, which

indicate the published negative that was used. The years without contact sheets have required Joyce to access the newspaper and sift by hand through each negative, matching it with the corresponding image. This portion has been time consuming, however it is nearing completion.

As we mention on the next page, phase two of the project will hopefully be funded and we will see the full indexing of the collection by the end of next year. We thank Joyce for her hard work this year!

New Museum Update

As most of you know, the Trail Library Board is currently conducting a study to determine what options are available and their relative cost to relocate the Library into the downtown core. Their study has been funded by City Council and should be completed by the end of March. We have always felt a joint museum/archives and library project would benefit both groups and be accepted by the public. As a result, we contacted the Library Board to determine if they still were in favour of looking at this option. They wholeheartedly supported the concept.

In November we contacted a heritage consultant to prepare a proposal for submission to City Council to carry out our own assessment of the merits of relocating the museum and archives to a suitable location in the downtown area, preferably near where a new library was proposed.

Unfortunately, he was not able to meet the budget deadline requested of Council to consider our request. The Executive met to consider this issue and agreed to proceed with a submission on our own. We presented the proposal to Council on February 12th.

The Executive is proposing moving our concept for a new museum in a different direction, one that emphasizes our community’s rich sports heritage. The history of our community would also be included but presented in a different manner. We feel this is the only way we can gain support for a new museum in today’s economic climate. With this in mind we were able to secure funding for the study from the Columbia Basin Trust in the amount of \$15,000. The total budget is \$35,000 and we are asking City Council to provide \$20,000 in funding.

Council has considered our request and deferred a decision pending the completion of their 2013 budget and the submission of the Library Board’s study for approval. We hope we will be successful with this current proposal and will be able to determine what is required to create a new museum and archives for our community.

Upcoming Grant Applications

The Trail Historical Society will once again be submitting a variety of applications to the Columbia Basin Trust and the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance for project-based funding this year.

Our artifact collection contains an 1895 grave marker that once sat atop the grave of Frank Hanna Jr., who passed away at the age of 15 from typhoid fever. The marker is in dire need of conservation and



Frank Hanna Jr. grave marker, 1895

encasement and an application has been prepared to see this work done after the closing of the summer season in September.

The second phase of the Trail Times Negatives Project, which will see the indexing of the newly established collection is also on the to-do list for the year. This project will carry over into next spring if funded and will see a working finding aid prepared for easy research of the collection. Both

project applications were submitted to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance for funding consideration.

Lastly, the Society has decided to revisit the idea of a fundraising calendar using archival photographs. We first considered this type of project in 2009 by selling sponsorship spaces, however we were unable to secure enough private funding to carry out the project. This year, we hope to receive grant funding and, hopefully, create a new annual fundraising program. The concept has been submitted to the Columbia Basin Trust.

Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 5

Plans are proceeding to publish the fifth Trail Journal of Local History by the Fall. This is an ambitious undertaking and will require a significant effort by those involved. Greg Nesteroff has again agreed to provide some articles he has ready as well as doing the final page layout for printing

purposes. The theme of this issue will be 'Regional history'. We hope to include some articles on the history of neighbouring communities such as Rossland, the Beaver Valley, Northport and others to expand the audience of the Journal from just Trail. We will be meeting Greg at the end of the

month to finalize the plans for the Journal. If anyone has any ideas for an article or wishes to become involved in the project please contact Jamie Forbes.

2013 Budget

The Executive met on February 19th to finalize the Society's 2013 operating budget. The 2012 financial statement shows the Society realized a profit of \$2561.40 based on revenues of \$82,870 and expenditures of \$80,308.60. The Executive has adopted a status quo budget for 2013 in an effort to maintain or improve our revenues while

limiting our expenditures as best we can. Our biggest expenditure is the wages and benefits of the Museum and Archives Director. This cost is almost covered by the City's grant to the Society and will be completely covered in 2014.

The 2013 budget estimates revenues at \$75,200 with expenditures in the same

amount. We hope to undertake some new initiatives this year that will increase revenues in order to maintain our operations at the current level.

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

Antiques in the Attic—What's it Worth?

March 1st and 2nd marked the first major event collaboration between the Trail Historical Society and the Rossland Historical Museum and Archives Association, with the arrival of accredited antique appraiser, **Peter Blundell** of Vernon, BC.

Held at the Warfield Hall over two days, we accommodated 40 appointments of up to 3 items each, at 15 minute intervals. Appointments cost \$35.

We were delighted to see some of the various and interesting items brought in for appraisal. Stand out items included an A.Y. Jackson print, a Maud Lewis original painting, an 1880 Chinese bowl, and several silver pieces, including tea sets, jugs and candelabras.

Of great interest was a 400 year old violin in tremendous condition. Made by Gasparo de Salo, an Italian violin maker who lived from 1596 to 1604, he was one of the earliest

violin makers. In addition, a remarkable collection of Steiff teddy bears were brought in.

Peter proved extremely knowledgeable in a variety of artifacts, particularly silver and oak pieces. Armed with over 300

books on all manners of subjects, Peter was able to provide not only a verbal approximate monetary value on these items, he also offered an historical perspective on usage and manufacturers. Relishing in the background stories provided by owners, Peter believes often the "value" in these pieces lies in their provenance and how people came to own and use them.

The event was a successful one for our two organizations and may be one we choose to present on an annual or a bi-annual basis, depending on demand.

If you would support another antique appraisal event such as this, please let us know. Special thanks go to the **Friends of the Rossland Museum** for their hard work in the kitchen, the **Trail Historical Society** volunteers and our generous sponsors, **Teck Metals Ltd.** and **Simm Excavating and Snow Removal.**



Carol Vanelli-Worosz, Teck Trail Ops' Communication Manager, discusses turn of the century crucibles with appraiser, Peter Blundell, at the Friday session.