



# The Trail Creek News

Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

## From the Desk of the President

Not much to report following a quiet Spring. Various activities that have occupied our time have been highlighted elsewhere in the Newsletter. However, I do want to extend a sincere thank you on behalf of the Society to the following:

- **Sam Marino of Marino Wholesale** for agreeing to contribute his old delivery van to the Society for the storage of its furniture items.

- **City of Trail** for providing space at its Public Works yard for the storage of the van.

- **Frank Marino and Glenn Wallace** for providing their services to move the furniture from the former Sunningdale School to the van storage area at the Public Works Yard.

- **Vern Blair of Parslow Lock and Safe and Brian Levick of Bryan's Transfer** for their assistance in moving our linotype printing press from Sunningdale School to City Hall. We greatly appreciate the time they donated to this hefty project and we are continually amazed at their professionalism and expertise.

- **Kootenay Columbia School District No. 20** for providing space in the Sunningdale School for the storage of our furniture items for the past several years, a big burden we did not have to deal with during the renovation of our premises in City Hall.

The contribution of these individuals and government bodies was very much appreciated and we thank them for their support.

## Museum Open for Summer Season

The Trail Museum is once again open for another summer season. After a successful application to the Canada Summer Jobs Program, offered by the Federal Government, the THS was able to hire student Anne Marino to look

after the duties in the Museum and the Sports Hall of Memories. Majoring in anthropology, Anne has a keen interest in local history. Anne is also taking care of the remainder of Trail Times negatives that were not completed in

the first phase of the culling process that began last year. With any luck, we will get through that collection in time to begin phase two in the fall.

The museum is open Monday-Friday, 10:00am to 4:30pm.

### Inside this issue:

New Museum Update—Request for Proposals	2
2013 Projects, 2012 Completed Projects	2
Legion Exhibit—HMCS Trail	2
2014 Calendar, Business Photo Projects—Fundraisers	3
Trail City Archives—What We're Up To	3
Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 5—Update	3
Hughes & Carpenter Exhibit	4

### DID YOU KNOW...

...that the Trail Technical High School (now the Greater Trail Community & Arts Centre shown above) was constructed and opened 90 years ago? The building underwent several make-overs and extensions, most notably in 1938, when the auditorium and shops were added. Incidentally, the original auditorium seats are currently in storage with society member, Craig Horsland. The seats originated from Vancouver's Pantages Vaudeville Theatre on East Hastings Street.

## New Museum Update—Request for Proposals

In the March Newsletter we had an article on our continuing efforts to establish a new museum and archives for our community. At the time that was written we were awaiting City Council's final decision on our request for funding to complete an assessment of the feasibility of creating a museum based on our revised vision for the facility.

In a letter dated April 24<sup>th</sup> we were advised Council had agreed to contribute \$19,500 towards the preparation of the study. We subsequently confirmed the Columbia Basin Trust would also contribute \$15,000. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Council issued a press release advising they will allocate the property formally occupied by the Eagle Lodge on Bay Avenue for the construction of a building to house a new museum and archives and library, subject to the project receiving the

approval of the electorate by referendum as part of the 2014 Local Government Elections. This week, we were also informed that Teck Metals Ltd. has agreed to contribute an additional \$5000 to the project.

We are of course elated that we have finally been offered the opportunity to obtain the information necessary to determine if a new museum and archives is achievable, and if so, what it will look like and how much it will cost. We have been working long and hard to reach this point and we are looking forward to taking on the challenge that lies ahead over the next year and half to hopefully realize our dream of a new museum and archives for our community.

A Request for Proposals has been issued to select a qualified consultant to prepare the feasibility study. We hope their

report will be completed by the end of September to coincide with the City's hiring of an architect to prepare a concept plan and construction budget for the project for public consultation. We extend our thanks to City Council for the support they have provided the Society in moving this project forward as well as the Columbia Basin Trust for their financial commitment to our vision. We also look forward to working with the Board of the Trail Library to reach our common goal of new facilities and programs for the City of Trail residents. Together we will make our community a better place in which to live.

## 2013 Projects, 2012 Completed Projects

Last year's grant projects are now complete! As mentioned on the last page, the Hughes & Carpenter online exhibit, funded by the UBC Library and Teck, is now live and looks beautiful. The first phase of the Trail Times Negative Collection also wrapped up in the spring, thanks to the efforts of Rossland Museum manager, Joyce Austin. The remainder of the negatives not yet sorted is being handled by our capable summer student, Anne Marino.

This year, we were successful with each application submitted for funding. The Columbia Kootenay Cultural

Alliance has funded the conservation of our 1895 Frank Hanna Jr. grave marker, as well as phase two of the Trail Times Negatives project. The Columbia Basin Trust will cover costs for our 2014 fundraiser calendar project. We have also been successful in securing nearly \$40,000 for our upcoming feasibility study, provided by the City of Trail, Columbia Basin Trust, and Teck Metals Ltd. We also received operating grants from the Province of BC (under the gaming grant program), as well the BC Arts Council. Federally, our summer student application was approved.

In total, the Society has raised nearly \$70,000 in funds, in addition to the annual operating grant generously provided by City Council.

The remainder of the year will be a busy and, hopefully, successful six months!

## Legion Exhibit—HMCS Trail

In April, the Society was approached by the City to consider developing a display in commemoration of the Battle of the Atlantic, in which the HMCS Trail corvette participated. The Royal Canadian Legion Trail Branch kindly permitted the Society to utilize exhibit space in their facility to display some artifacts from the ship, as well as some information on its role in the war.



The HMCS Trail exhibit on display at the Royal Canadian Legion, Trail Branch

The exhibit was installed during Silver City Days and was removed in time for the opening of the museum.

Escorting convoys across the Atlantic, the HMCS Trail

played an important role during WWII. The ship was in active service from 1941 until July 1945. It was broken up at Hamilton, ON in 1950.

The museum collection consists of a few photographs, the ship's plate, and a commemorative pillow. The Armories in Shaver's Bench houses the ship's bell.

A thank you to the Legion for use of their exhibit space and the opportunity to partner!

## 2014 Calendar, Business Photos Projects—Fundraisers

Each Fall the THS Executive meets to develop a budget for the coming fiscal year. In recent years expenditures have remained relatively constant and the Executive has focused its attention on increasing, or maintaining, revenues to ensure the Society remains financially stable. This is a significant challenge for all small heritage organizations.

This year, the Executive identified two in house projects that have the potential to provide new income for the Society. First, we will produce a calendar for 2014 with images that highlight our community in the 1940's to 1960's era. Kathy Verigin, who has provided her excellent

graphic design services to us in the past, will design the calendar and assist with its production. We are producing 500 copies of the calendar and hope to increase this number for 2015 if we are successful. We have selected 13 images from our vast archival photo collection and hope to have the layout completed by mid-July. The calendar will be ready for sale by the end of September. The Society was successful in obtaining a grant in the amount of \$5500 from the City of Trail through the CBT Community Initiatives Program to fund the production of the calendar. Thanks to Trail City Council.

The second project is the production of 2' x 3' prints of selected photos

from the Archives. We hope to sell these prints to business owners in the community for display on their premises or elsewhere. Wherever possible, we will offer historic prints of the building currently occupied. This will provide a 'then and now' perspective of their business. We will also offer a selection of prints of the City or street scenes near their business that may appeal to them. The prints will be offered ready to hang and should be a welcome addition to any business' décor. Photo selection is underway and we hope to launch the sale campaign this summer. The prints will sell for \$150. Special thanks to Director Councillor Gattafoni Robinson for initiating this project.

## Trail City Archives—What We're Up To

This issue, we thought it would be an interesting idea to fill our readers in on the day-to-day operations in the office. Since the beginning of 2013, the archives has had nearly 100 research enquiries, with subjects ranging anywhere from genealogy, newspaper research, and photograph searches. For enquiries that require considerable staff time, particularly those submitted by Teck, an hourly rate is charged, which provides additional revenue for the Society.



Cover of latest *After Ours* issue.

The *After Ours* committee at Teck Metals Ltd. is a key supporter of the archives and the work we do. Nearly every issue features some sort of historically-themed article. We contribute anything and everything we have to making these articles as detailed and factual as possible for their readers, and we are routinely credited for the information provided. As a

result, we will actually be featured in the next issue!

We will be busy this summer catching up on our accessioning, as well. This is the process of researching, arranging and "cataloguing" the donations to our museum, sports, photograph, and textual collections. Considerable paperwork, photography, scanning and data entry is required for this process. Volunteer Sandy Hart also keeps our vertical file (quick reference materials) up-to-date on a weekly basis, which is a valuable research tool.

These are just some of our everyday jobs here in the archives!

## Trail Journal of Local History, Issue 5 - Update

The Editorial Committee (Jamie Forbes, Sarah Benson, Greg Nesteroff) preparing the 5<sup>th</sup> Trail Journal of Local History met recently to finalize the content of this issue and to establish a production timeline for its release.

The previous four Journals have been very well received by the public and we realize a modest income from their sale, however more importantly, it exposed the public to the rich history of our community. The 5<sup>th</sup> Journal will have a more 'regional' focus in the hope we can

broaden the appeal of the publication in the region, and hopefully generate additional revenue for the Society. We hope to have this issue ready for sale by mid-October to take advantage of the Christmas gift season. The majority of articles will be written by Jamie Forbes and local historian Greg Nesteroff. Greg will also oversee the layout of the Journal and make the 'camera ready' proof for printing purposes. Many thanks to Greg to the many hours he contributes to the success of the Journals.

Some of the articles being prepared include the history of the incorporation of the District of Tadanac, Trail's other pioneer newspaper, the Rossland Winter Carnival's hockey tournament from 1898 to 1917, and a collection of photographs depicting the development of Bay Avenue over the decades since 1890's

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](http://www.HistoricSmokeEaters.ca)



[www.TrailHistory.com](http://www.TrailHistory.com)



[www.TrailSportsHistory.ca](http://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!

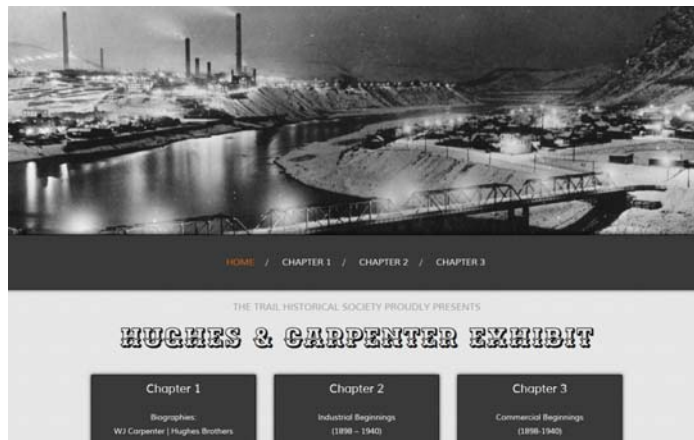
## Hughes & Carpenter Exhibit

As discussed in past issues, the THS received grant funds from the UBC Library under their BC Digitization History Program and from Teck Metals Ltd. to assist us in developing an online exhibit of two important photograph collections in the Trail City Archives. These collections are credited to WJ Carpenter and the Hughes Brothers, who both left a lasting impression on the historical content in our repository.

Entitled *The Industrial and Commercial Development of Trail, BC*, Carpenter's collection features several 10' long panorama prints of the smelter's properties from around

the West Kootenays and the Boundary area.

The exhibit provides brief



Home page of the Hughes & Carpenter Exhibit, which can be found at [www.trailhistory.com](http://www.trailhistory.com) or directly at <http://exhibits.trailhistory.com>

biographies of both Carpenter and the Hughes Brothers, as well as

offers a bit of history on the industrial expansion in the area and, as a result, the effects on the commercial growth of the City of Trail.

Each image was scanned to certain specifications and, specifically with the panoramas, required considerable work to ensure they were viewable online.

We wish to thank our funders, the UBC Library and Teck Metals Ltd., as well as our

technologically savvy contractors, **Les Stanchuk Video Production** and **Kale Stanchuk**,

owner of **Ten Twenty-Three Media**. Be sure to check it out!