



The Trail Creek News Newsletter of the Trail Historical Society

From the Desk of the President

It is with sadness that we note the passing of a long time member of our Society, former Mayor Buddy DeVito, and a champion for the preservation and enjoyment of local history, Jack Bell. Their enthusiasm for sharing their past and life experiences with those of us who are here today will be missed.

In November, the Society took part in an on-line auction of hockey memorabilia. Of interest to us was a 1941-42 Trail Smoke Eater jersey belonging to Roy Bentley. We raised some funds to purchase the jersey but the price went beyond our reach. Sadly another important piece of our hockey history remains in private hands. We were, however, successful in

purchasing a Smoke Eaters' jersey from the late 1980's.

In cooperation with the Rossland Museum and Discovery Centre (new name) and the Beaver Valley & Pend d'Oreille Historical Society we will be distributing a letter to Personal Alternatives Funeral Home and area care homes that will be given to families of loved ones who have passed away urging them to consider donating items of historical interest to the Societies when cleaning out their relative's homes. We hope this will result in items of value to our community being retained rather than being disposed of.

The Board has decided not to open the Museum this summer. Instead we plan to hire a student to carry out a complete inventory of

our collections in preparation for the design of the exhibits for the new Museum.

The Society has just completed the second year of a sponsorship agreement with Teck that has proven to benefit both parties. We contribute to Teck's 'After Ours' employee newsletter, maintain an index of the publication, provide archival support and a photo reproduction service to Teck staff. In 2014, revenue we received from Teck under the agreement exceeded \$2000. Thanks to Teck for their support.

THS 2014 Annual General Meeting

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Trail Historical Society is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2105 in the Colombo Lodge Games Room at 6:00pm.

The role of guest speaker this year will be filled by Mr. Richie Mann of

Rossland, who will discuss his research on the historic Dewdney Trail.

A light supper will be served prior to the meeting. Membership fees are now due and will be collected for convenience at the

meeting.

Additionally, nominations for board of director positions are now being accepted. Please contact the office for more information.

We hope to see you there!

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DID YOU KNOW...

...the **Trail Daily Times** is celebrating its 120th year in operation this year? The first issue was published in October 1895 and has remained a fixture in the community. The Times will be commemorating this tremendous milestone with monthly historical pieces using notable front page covers and anecdotes. The photo above shows the **Trail Creek News** offices at the south end of Bay Avenue during high water in 1904.

Riverfront Centre—Successful Referendum

After approximately 15 years of effort and the preparation of four conceptual plans, we have finally received the authority to proceed to develop plans for a new museum and archives for our community. The passage of the referendum to borrow the funds needed for the project at the November 15th municipal election signals the start of a new era for our Society. The hard work of the members of the Board of the Society, the Museum and Archives Director, and the Board of the Trail Library resulted in a 'YES' vote of 61%. We are all excited to begin the work



required to complete the final design for the building and the planning for the new exhibits.

The City will issue a Request for Proposals for the hiring of an architect to design the facility soon. At the same time a consultant will be hired to take

our vision for the exhibit galleries and turn it into reality. The next two years will be both exciting and busy ones, but will also be fun. We are grateful to the people of Trail who supported the referendum, and will make every effort to provide our community with a heritage facility that everyone will be proud of.

A Trail To Remember—John D’Arcangelo Book Project

Last year, the THS applied to the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance in an effort to secure funding to assist Society member John D’Arcangelo in publishing his collection of stories that represent “Old Trail.”

We were successful in obtaining a substantial grant, as well as some private sponsorship, to see the book come to

fruition. As of January, most story submissions have been finalized and now simply require minor editing and formatting. Over 180 stories were submitted for consideration in this anthology of local anecdotal stories, with many individuals providing personal photographs as illustrations.

By February, it is hoped that the

finalized selections and images will be ready to go to Hall Printing for formatting and printing.

A book launch will be planned for later in the spring.

We congratulate John on this achievement and look forward to seeing his project in print form.

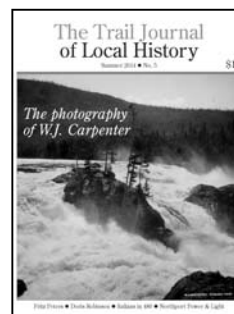
Trail Journal of Local History, Issue #5—Update

The Trail Journal of Local History, Issue #5 has been edited, finalized, and sent to Hall Printing. It has been a long time coming and we are delighted with the amount of submissions and the quality of research and writing in this issue.

Special thanks, as always, to Greg Nesteroff, who not only authored several pieces, but takes care of all

formatting issues with this ongoing program. This program simply would not happen without his dedication.

Additional thanks to our newest contributors: Sam McBride, Ron Verzuh, and Roger Boulet, for graciously offering their work for this



issue.

The Journal will retail for \$10 and be available in all our usual local outlets, our web store, and of course, in City Hall.

Proposed Strategic Planning—2015

In 2007, the Society prepared a Strategic Plan to guide the Board in the management of the Society's affairs to 2012. Now out of date, and with the approval of the Riverfront Centre referendum, the Board will be seeking a qualified professional to prepare a new Strategic Plan for the 2015-2018 period. At the end of this Plan's cycle, we will have been operating the new museum and archives for at least a year and an update of the Plan will be needed based on our experiences of operating the facility.

The new Plan will establish new directions for the Society in light of the change in our responsibilities associated with operating the new

museum and provide guidance to address them. The Plan will identify objectives and strategies and prepare action plans for the museum exhibit design, fundraising for exhibit construction, a new organizational structure for the management of the new museum and archives, and the overall management of the Society's operations. The Plan will also update the Society's mission statement and values and operating principles contained in the 2007 Plan, where necessary.



We hope to have the new Strategic Plan completed when the design and planning of the Riverfront Centre gets underway.

Trail Times Negatives Project—Update

The Trail Times Negatives project is still on the go, as staff is now working on negatives and newspapers from the mid-1980s.

The project in its entirety has seen the culling of hundreds of thousands of duplicate and surplus negatives from the Trail Times archives, the re-housing of retained images in

archival storage systems, and the indexing of these negatives with their respective published captions.

We are no longer eligible to apply for funding through the Major Project grant stream through the CKCA (which funded both phases). We are currently employing former Rossland Museum manager Joyce Austin, to complete as

much as we can. We are confident Joyce will complete approximately four years by mid-March, at which point all papers currently in the THS collection will have been covered. The negatives themselves reach up to 1998, however, for the purpose of archival research, we are willing to leave the remaining ten years for summer student activities.

2014 Financial Review

The 2014 fiscal year was a sound one for the Trail Historical Society, with a modest surplus of \$1600 overall. Sales across the board were strong, with the second annual THS calendar making the Christmas shopping season a busy one. Replica Trail Smoke Eaters jerseys continue to sell well, with 2014 exceeding the expected revenue. Sales were strong throughout the year,

specifically in the summer months. As a result of this, our merchandise expenditures were nearly double what we anticipated as stock required replenishing.

Free admission to the Trail Museum last summer meant we relied solely on donations for revenue. While we anticipated a higher donation count for the amount of visitors, the goal was to

increase traffic in order to see positive results at the referendum, which proved successful.

We start 2015 with a healthy bank balance and will hear from City Council imminently regarding our 2015 operating grant request.

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!

Notable 2014 Acquisitions

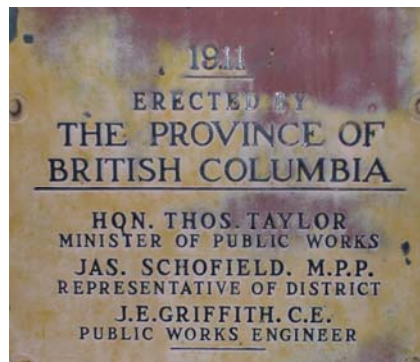
This year, the museum collection received a variety of interesting and useful donations that will assist in future exhibit ideas and programming.

The old bridge plaques (which weigh a ton!) were removed and placed in our care. The bridge was officially closed in the fall of 2010 and will eventually be decommissioned once the City has pursued all avenues of assistance in that effort.

The wife of former CJAT radio announcer, Dave Glover, donated a collection of audio recordings of several interviews and historical vignettes prepared for the 75th anniversary of Cominco's operations in Trail. The

recordings have been digitized by a Nelson firm and feature interviews conducted by Mr. Glover with local personalities.

As mentioned earlier, longtime champion of local heritage Jack Bell of Park Siding passed away



Plaque affixed to the top of the Old Trail Bridge, now in our collection.

in the fall of 2014. His wife, June, was kind enough to allow us access to Jack's immense collection of historical artifacts housed in various locales on their expansive property. Several interesting items have been donated to the Trail Historical Society's artifact collection, including a West Kootenay Power & Light Ltd. pole digger, blown-glass jugs fabricated locally at the smelter and, most notably, an original, reconditioned wood stove once in use at the historic Kootenay Hotel on Rossland Avenue. Jack's dedication and passion for collecting and preserving our local history is greatly appreciated and we hope to put his family's donations to excellent use in the future.