

General Kaslo Trailblazer Meeting A Success



On Thursday May 12,¹⁰⁵ the Kaslo Trailblazer Society held their general meeting at 7 o'clock in the evening at the Scout Hall in Kaslo.

All directors were present:

President: Silvio Lettrari

Vice President: Tom Duchastel

Treasurer: Val Koenig

Secretary: Gerald Garnett

Director: Kathy Sparkes

It was one of the first warm evenings of the season, and with the arrival of the first members, the atmosphere of wanting to participate and work together to accomplish something worthwhile, as well as to refresh local gossip quickly had things on the way. A total of 28 members plus the directors attended.

The President had the opening outline of the agenda and an update of what the directors have been working on for the past three months. Also the outline of how to proceed in the near future and to organize work parties so that a cohesive effort will ensure the reaching of the objectives for this year.

The Society is well on its way – permission to start work on the north side of the river has been granted by the Village of Kaslo - this was achieved early in April at a Planning and Development (PND) meeting.

It is also with great pleasure that we can report the governmental red tape has been concluded and it was mostly accomplished with presenting a good, thorough package with all of the appropriate and necessary information to the Ministry of Land & Water, the regional Habitat Officer as well as the Ministry of Forest Services and Highways. All notices and permissions have been granted by each individual ministry and the building of the Kaslo River Trail, including the two bridges, can begin as soon as possible!

In the treasurer's report most of the money so far has been from the Kaslo Community Forest Society, in the amount of \$14,500.00. And annual dues, which is \$10.00 multiplied by 187 members is an additional \$ 1870.00. This shows the enormous interest and support from the locals to this project. In addition to this are the astounding pledges, totaling over \$ 70,000.00 in materials, skilled labour, and machinery at the disposal of the Society. There is also an additional \$4,000.00 in cash pledges, which will be collected in the near future from different businesses and individuals.

The main focus is to establish a trail to the Dam site bridge on the North Side of the Kaslo River to specifications as outlined in the required construction and maintenance agreement with the Village in the April PND meeting (Phase One). Phase two has been initiated by contracting out the engineering of the bridge at the old Dam site to Pennco Engineering Ltd. of Nelson. The most cost effective is to use two steel girders for the anticipated load, and to construct the upper part in a post and beam type of covered bridge, showing off local craftsmanship.

To finance the bridge, two main grant applications, one to the Olympic Legacy Fund and the other to Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (Lottery Fund) have been

completed and the extensive package have been mailed, applying for the total sum of \$ 100,000.00. Another grant application has been sent to the Credit Union for the amount of \$ 50,000.00. The estimate cost of the bridge is close to \$ 100,000.00, which would include the steel and concrete abutments as well as the necessary wood for the upper post and beam structure.

The great start of Phase One commenced on May 15th, 2005, when the first work party successfully completed their job: making an access trail from the Kaslo Information Parking Lot at the entrance of the Village from the New Denver Highway, down to the proposed Dam site bridge. Next will come the upgrading and widening of the trail along the north side of the Kaslo River, which will connect to the bridge site. Phase One will hopefully be completed in the summer.

Note: Work Parties will take place every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12.00 PM. Contact Val Koenig @ 353-2168. He coordinates the Work Parties.

All in all, this project seems to be well on its way, and the fantastic support and commitment is much appreciated.

Silvio Lettrari
President of the Kaslo Trailblazer Society