



### **Gem & Gold Panning**



The museum hosts gold & gem panning all summer and panning for extra gold over Gold Rush Days the third weekend in July. This activity is made possible by a grant from the EPYCS group.

### **Modern Mine Tours**

Tours of the CC&V Gold Mining Operations are offered June-August leaving from the Museum. \$5 pp. Reservations are suggested at 689-4211. Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

If you want more info on museum events and news, visit [victorcolorado.com](http://victorcolorado.com) or call or email one of the board members.

#### **Board of Directors**

Ruth Zalewski, President  
 Karen Muntzert, Vice President  
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 Nancy Hanks, Treasurer  
 Jon Zalewski, Board Member

**Victor Lowell Thomas Museum**  
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[victorcolorado.com](http://victorcolorado.com)

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### **2009 Newsletter**

**PLANNING, GRANTS, FINANCIAL PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS in 2008**  
 We had a great year at the Museum in 2008. Some of things we accomplished with your support and volunteer help include:

- Completed a State Historical Fund grant that funded construction documents for phase 1-3 stabilization of the foundation, north wall and 1st and 2nd floors of the museum building.
- Received a State Historic Fund grant for Phase 1 - \$208,000 total and raised over \$70,000 for required matching funds. Phase 1 includes the stabilization of the foundation and north wall
- The \$70,000 match was raised by a dinner and auction, courtesy of the Elks, at which we raised \$15,000; grants and donations were received from the Boettcher Foundation, The Edmund T. and Eleanor Quick Foundation, City of Cripple Creek, CC&V Gold Mining CO and numerous donations from individuals.
- We have received the construction contract from the state and have begun the bidding. Construction of Phase 1 will start later this winter. A professional architect and grant administrator/writer have been hired to oversee the construction and grant administration.
- Applied Oct. 1, 2008 for a Phase 2 stabilization grant from the State Historical Fund \$243,225 total with a required match of \$60,806; the grant cycle was too competitive and the grant was not rewarded - we will apply again April 1. We are in the process of raising the matching funds toward the Phase 2 grant, needed by Aug 1, 2009. The Gates Family Foundation awarded the museum an \$80,000 grant for Phases 2 and 3.
- Attended Rural Philanthropy Days in Cripple Creek to seek sources for funding Phase 2, Phase 3 and other capital projects in the future.
- The Museum began a membership and sponsorship program, which raised over \$10,000 in 2008
- Adopted a strategic plan, which was followed to achieve this list of successes in 2008, including a marketing plan, which included a new website and rack cards, posters and more; we have also begun working on a comprehensive capital plan for future renovation and restoration beyond the current building stabilization plans
- Completed our first-ever financial audit and instituted policies and procedures for cash management. Received a favorable review from the auditor, Taylor, Roth and Co. PLLC
- Expanded the museum staffing and the time open into mid-October; for 2009 if we raise enough operating funds, hope to have the museum open Memorial Day weekend and will aim (for the 1st time) be open 7 days a week thru Labor Day and then weekends through Columbus Day.

## **Museum News**

**December 2008** - The Gates Family Foundation awarded the museum \$80,000 toward Phases 2 and 3 stabilization.

**July 2008** - The Boettcher Foundation awarded the museum stabilization effort a \$20,000 grant. Thanks Tim Schutlz and the Boettcher Foundation Board of Directors!

**July 26, 2008** - Over 75 people attended a 1904 labor wars fundraiser event at the Victor Elks sponsored by the Victor Heritage Society. Donations to the museum totalled over \$500.

**May 28, 2008** - The Edmund T. and Eleanor Quick Foundation awarded the museum a \$10,000 grant for the stabilization work.

**May 24, 2008** - Museum opening celebration a huge success thanks to those who attended.

**March 25, 2008 - Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company** granted our cause \$10,000. Thanks CC&V!

**March 19, 2008 - City of Cripple Creek grants our project \$25,000...**The Cripple Creek District Museum and the City of Cripple Creek granted the Victor Improvement Association \$25,000.

**March 8, 2008 - Victor Elks Lodge Benefit Dinner/Auction** raised \$15,139 for the museum. Thank you friends and neighbors!

**Feb. 4, 2008 - The Victor Improvement Association was awarded a \$208,177** Colorado State Historical Fund Grant to stabilize the north wall of the museum building.

- The Marketing Plan helped us achieve good visitorship numbers this year and the VLT museum began charging admissions. With most area attractions posting a decline in visitorship of 20-30% less than 2007, the VLT museum had only 50 fewer visitors or less than 2% fewer than in 2007.
- Joined the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums and the Coalition of Historic Museums – a group of Pikes Peak Regional Museums - to share information and cooperate on marketing.

## **Exhibits and Programming**

- Installed the new Dr. Denman and Lillian Titmas room exhibit
- Consolidated mining exhibits
- Displayed Ed Hunter's mining lamp display for the season
- Displayed historic bottles which were preserved from the CC&V Gold Mining Company's Cresson Expansion Project
- Improved our positive contribution to the community by drawing visitors to Victor through our marketing efforts, providing for visitor experiences to compliment our local businesses and give visitors a reason to stay and explore Victor, the museum, the gift shop, gold panning and mine tours. We also added guided historic site tours during events throughout the year.

## **Curitorial, Inventory and Gift Shop**

- Continued work toward a new inventory of all artifacts in the collection
- Upgraded the gift shop and added several items for sale
- Worked to improve security for exhibit items
- Cleaned out/organized the basement in preparation for construction, removing trash and inventorying and moving artifacts to storage.



## **Volunteers Needed**

We need assistance in several areas - if you have some spare time and want to make a difference please let us know - without volunteers we cannot survive. Nearly all of the accomplishments in 2008 were due to the community and board members volunteering. Currently the museum can only afford one part-time summer employee. The full-time summer student employee is donated by CC&V Gold Mining Company.

- We need help raising matching funds for Phases 2 and 3 as well as other grant matching.
- Help with fund raising events, ideas, and we need donations to show granting agencies and foundations local support.
- We need volunteer Docents to assist in staffing the museum, helping with gold panning, inventory and giving tours.
- We need help with museum maintenance such as cleaning, weeding, painting, repairs, moving artifacts/exhibits and building display cases and exhibits.
- See the website for updated volunteer opportunities.