

Boyle's history online, too

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While the second history book for the Village of Boyle is now complete, another project is underway to put the community's past online.

The Boyle & District History Book Society, in collaboration with Athabasca University, is currently working on a project to compile photos and information about the village and preserve it in the university's online databases from now on.

What's more, the site will not only feature pictures of important and interesting people and events from the community, but it also features real people giving audio captions about the photos.

It therefore helps preserve not only the memories but the voices and interpreta-

tions of the people that are actually alive to tell about it.

For organizers Joe Rosich and Collin Elliot, both on the history book committee and both with Athabasca University, the project is the perfect way to preserve history in a way that will not only be accessible to virtually millions of people, but also protect the pieces from degradation.

"If we don't preserve the history of Boyle digitally, people can forget and pictures can be lost," said Rosich, who works at AU as the administration and production coordinator of the Heritage Resource Management Program.

"But here, it's preserved and if you search names and events on the Internet, you end up at our website."

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SUBMITTED

One of the many gems to be found on Athabasca University's Boyle history portal, a group of young men partake in a humorous contest. Can you figure out what they're doing? Visit <http://digiport.athabascau.ca/boyle/> to hear from someone who was there.

Community members asked to come forward and collaborate

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Up until now, the project has been linked with the creation of Boyle's second history book *Footprints Past and Present*.

In that union, Rosich said an obvious problem was that only so many pictures could fit in the final book production.

The website solved that issue by having virtually unlimited space, and now that the book is complete, there are endless possibilities for the collection

and archiving of data.

Rosich, however, said there are two problems the website faces: lack of time and volunteers. Currently, there isn't enough staff to constantly update the site, but Rosich said they will continue with the project as best as he and other staff can.

As well, he would like people to come forward with their pictures and stories for the website.

Rosich said that even

though the site is far from completion, it remains a shining example of what a community can do with those dusty pictures — all of which can be cherished for generations to come.

The website for Boyle on the Athabasca University digitization portal is <http://digiport.athabascau.ca/boyle/>

Anyone interested in collaborating on this project is asked to call Rosich at 780-675-6955.