

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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The SHS held its much anticipated Culture and Heritage festival on Nov. 23 and 24 at Quest University. From all reports, the event was very well received. It provided an opportunity to build local pride by bringing residents together to celebrate who we are and where we've been and to anticipate where we're going as a community. With over 30 displays and presentations one of the outcomes of the festival will be to contribute to building a network of resources, both human and material, for future reference and access. Our guest speakers shared their expertise on subjects ranging from the volcanology and geology of the Sea to Sky Corridor, to the archaeological remnants of an indigenous culture dating back more than 10,000 years. Festival goers learned about our extensive railway, forestry and maritime history and heard about the first settlers who tilled the soil in Brackendale and the groundbreaking journeys of backcountry explorers in Garibaldi Park and the vertical exploits of legendary climbers who scaled the Stawamus Chief.

Traditional wool weaving, cedar bark weaving and wood carving workshops were offered by members of the Squamish Nation and the Cedar Valley Waldorf School showcased a variety of activities for children. Over 300 local elementary and secondary school students directly participated in the festival. Students from Squamish Elementary displayed their research projects and students from Garibaldi Highlands Elementary and Howe Sound Secondary



Tawana Spukus conducting a traditional Squamish Nation welcoming ceremony



L-R: Doug Morrison, Woody Wollaston, and Mike Jensen constructing the deck of the Wilkie House

joined the festival on a field trip during which they engaged in various activities and learning experiences.

The SHS would like to thank all the volunteers who helped before and during the event. We would also like to acknowledge our sponsors for their generous support: Telus, The Chief, The Squamish Reporter, The Source, The White Spot, London Drugs, Parkside Dental Group, Optomeyes, The Squamish Legion, Sea to Sky Ford, Valhalla Pure, Squamish Terminals, BP communications, Rona, Greg Gardner Motors, Scotiabank, RBC, Sea to Sky Adventure Company, and Urban Alpine.

This past summer the Wilkie House restoration project was in full swing. After the windows were upgraded Mike Jensen and his team constructed an access walkway and deck at the site and other members of the SHS executive assisted with interior upgrades. It is anticipated the project will be completed next spring and open to the public by early summer.

Due to the success of the festival we are hosting a SHS Speaker Series in 2013. On Thursday, January 10th at 7 pm at the Brackendale Art Gallery, Corinne Lonsdale will be giving an interactive presentation about "50 Years of Changes & Challenges in Squamish." In addition to her personal recollections growing up in the Squamish Valley, Corinne will be speaking about the community's politics, including the Airport issue that nearly cost her a seat on council and the Chips debate, which changed the community's resource and industrial based economy. Admission is by donation.

THE SQUAMISH CULTURE AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL PHOTO ALBUM



THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN is published by the Squamish Historical Society.
Our purpose is to collect, preserve, document and showcase the history and artefacts of the community of Squamish and surrounding areas. We are online at: squamishhistory.ca and on Facebook.
Our email address is: info@squamishhistory.ca
Newsletter editor: Helmut Manzl