

# THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

## The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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### Information Meeting News

Early last century the prominent American industrialist, Henry Ford, declared, "History is more or less bunk."

This interpretation was not shared by the more than 50 local residents who were present at the information meeting of the Squamish Historical Society, held at the Brew Pub on a rainy March evening. If anything, the enthusiasm for the recovery and promotion of the town's heritage was infectious.

The driving force behind the SHS is Bianca Peters, who is the host and producer of *My Squamish* on Shaw TV, and Mike Jenson, a Squamish Savings employee, and district councillor.

The meeting attracted a broad cross-section of the community, in terms of both age and background, including Ian Sutherland, the mayor, and his predecessor, Councillor Corinne Lonsdale.

Various participants spoke about building a bridge to the past, before it is irretrievably lost to the relentless encroachments of urbanization and commercialization.

Participants also emphasized the need to archive the numerous documents, artifacts and photos that are presently loosely organized and unclassified.

The consensus was that we have placed insufficient value on the past, and specific



suggestions were made to encourage historical research, to promote the designation and

preservation of historic sites, and to establish a historical museum in Squamish.

Representatives from the two major local museums, the West Coast Railway Heritage Park and the Britannia Beach Museum of Mining, also underscored the need to promote our past.

Recently elected Member of Parliament, Blair Wilson, who was the guest speaker for the evening, endorsed the establishment of a permanent historical society in Squamish.

During his recent visit to Turin, Italy for the 2006 Winter Olympics, he noticed that one of the most popular venues was the Canada Place log chalet showcasing the Vancouver Olympics.

But the real message in Turin was one of historical connectedness. Europe showcases its historical buildings, museums and art in every village and city like a fine suit of clothes.

He believes that during the upcoming 2010 Olympics, Squamish will host a large audience intent on exploring our vibrant historical legacy.

At the end of the evening, the message that everyone left with was clear: the past has a promising future in Squamish.

## Executive Elections

Following the Information Meeting on March 2, the Squamish Historical Society's directors had a lively meeting at the Shady Tree pub and elected the executive.

The Bylaws and Constitution were reviewed in anticipation of incorporation sponsored by Toews & Company, and an agenda was set for the first members meeting on May 4th.

The directors all spoke enthusiastically about their vision of the future of the SHS and agreed that the establishment of a historical society was dear to their hearts.

## SHS News

The SHS is a collaborative effort by many local residents who have volunteered their time and ideas. Patricia Heintzman created our logo, and Helmut Manzl will produce the newsletter. Michele Barone of Wondervu Consulting developed our website.

The website, and incorporation costs, have been sponsored by Squamish Savings. [www.squamishhistory.ca](http://www.squamishhistory.ca) will be up and running by the next meeting and is already being recognized as a potential educational resource, enabling students in Squamish to learn more about local history at the click of a mouse. The website will include an online gallery, an



interactive virtual museum, and a brief history, written by *Squamish: The Shining Valley* author Kevin McLane.

Our next agenda will include the formation of committees to help us move forward. Committees proposed for discussion are:

- 1) Industry/Commerce/Business
  - 2) Government/Institutions/Organizations
  - 3) Heritage (including collection of information to profile and index)
  - 4) Membership/Fundraising/Events
- Memberships were free if members joined at the last meeting. The fee will now be \$25 a year.

A sub-committee under one of the above stated committees will undertake the planning and formation of a museum.

Our year-end and elections will held in March 2007. Meetings to be held 5 times a year: Sept., Nov., Jan., March, and May.

## Directors

President - Bianca Peters  
Vice President – Wayne Briscoe  
Secretary - Mike Jenson  
Treasurer - Corinne Lonsdale  
Director – Dr. Robert Campbell

**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. Our Email address is: [info@squamishhistory.ca](mailto:info@squamishhistory.ca)

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