

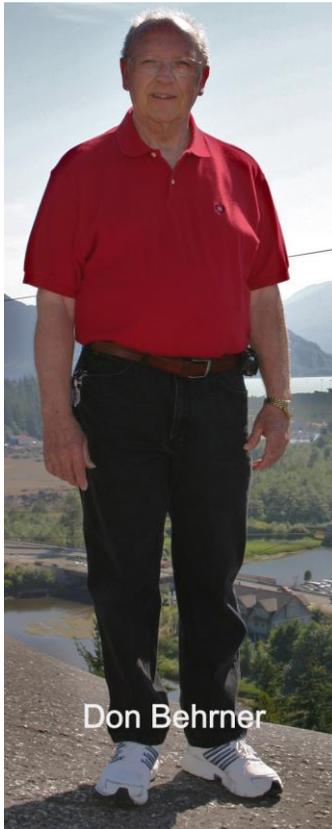
THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

Volume No. 4 Issue No. 4 Spring 2010

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former SHS executive member and long-time Squamish resident Don Behrner on June 22. Our condolences go out to his wife Retta and his family. Local history was dear to Don's heart and he was one of the founding members of the SHS. He was keenly involved in the planning and discussion of major projects related to our organization and he had a wellspring of stories and recollections about individuals and events that shaped the Squamish Valley over the past 60 years. His presence in this community will be missed by everyone with whom he associated. The SHS is planning to honour his memory with a permanent tribute. Details are still pending and will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

Our Annual General Meeting, held at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park on April 8th, was well-attended and provided the foundation for what will no doubt be another successful year for our organization. In her presidential address, Bianca Peters provided the audience with background information about the founding of the SHS and discussed some of our most recent ventures, with particular emphasis on the SHS booth at the Brackendale Fall Fair, our displays at the Brennan Park Community Centre during the Olympics, our growing ties



Don Behrner

with the Squamish Nation, and our soon-to-be occupied new home, the Wilkie House at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park.

Our guest speaker, Mayor Greg Gardner, reflected on the important role volunteer organizations play in communities and congratulated the SHS on our recent achievements. He also noted that council has a strong mandate to accommodate and assist community service groups.

Treasurer Mike Jenson's financial report placed the SHS well in the black. Our move to the Wilkie House is gaining momentum. Mike is spear-heading the preparation of the foundation and he has contacted a number of local firms and individuals who are interested in this undertaking.

Muriel Shephard, a long standing member, acted as our elections officer and the following slate of SHS executive candidates was elected:

President: Bianca Peters, Vice-president: Helmut Manzl, Treasurer: Mike Jenson, Secretary: Betty Adamson, Directors at Large: Tsawaysia Spukwus, Spen Hinde, Leslie Keith

After the formal portion of the AGM, those in attendance were invited to the refurbished Lions Rail Car at the WCRHP, where Mike Jenson, who is also the President of the Squamish Lions Club, hosted a soiree complete with refreshments and good cheer.

During our May general meeting Krisztina Egyed, the Chair of the Squamish Arts Council,

was our guest speaker. The Squamish Arts Council is a not-for-profit umbrella arts organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Howe Sound area by promoting and fostering arts and culture.

Krisztina discussed the history and benefits of linking up with the arts community. We look forward to our affiliation with this thriving organization and anticipate strengthening it as we move forward.

The District of Squamish has confirmed that the Log Books will be displayed on the grounds of the WCRHP. Ever since these iconic carvings were removed from the Adventure Centre and placed in storage, the SHS has lobbied to have them placed on permanent display anear our new home in the Wilkie House. Squamish Mills has donated foundation preparation work and Squamish Lions are organizing the fund raising to help move the carvings and their foundations.

The SHS, in conjunction with the Squamish Seniors Centre, recently organized a film festival at the newly opened facility. Six SHS productions were showcased and these productions have now been donated to the Seniors Centre for their permanent collection. Three of our video productions were also shown at the Chances Casino during Aboriginal Day.

Executive board member Tsawaysia Spukwus has launched the Squamish Nation Heritage Project. It will give young people the opportunity to interview elders and create video productions to weave their stories together, all of which will provide a permanent record of the lives and times of many members of her community.

Plans are underway for an ambitious community event slated for next February 11/12 at the

WCRHP. The two day Squamish Heritage Festival with a theme of “celebrating our past and anticipating our future” will kick off with the awarding of the SHS Historical Achievement Award to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the study of history, or has been instrumental in shaping events. A

number of long-time local residents will also be honoured with the Squamish Heritage Certificate, awarded to individuals who have contributed to the building and success of the community. Various workshops and presentations related to local history will be offered, a selection of SHS films, as well as other productions, will be featured and the floor of the Roundhouse will host a variety of displays and activities. This ambitious project is at the very early planning stages and input is welcome from all members and interested parties.

We thank Lyle Wood for donating photos to complete the set which occupied the Woodfibre main office. They will be on display at the CN Roundhouse in time for the grand opening on June 30th and will be displayed there for 3 months.

The SHS has been invited to help celebrate our multi-cultural heritage during the July 1st Circle of Life community event at Totem Hall. This is an opportunity for groups of all nationalities to come together and share their rich cultural backgrounds through food, dance and celebration.

This coming September we will set up a booth at the Brackendale Fall Fair again. Ideas and volunteers for that display are always welcome. If you are not a member of the SHS yet, come to one of our meetings to learn more about our organization and feel free to provide input about keeping local history alive in our community.



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.com.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Helmut Manzl hfmanzl@hotmail.com