

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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In the News

Mark your calendars: 2014 will be a year of Squamish Celebrations! The Squamish Chamber of Commerce is spear heading a year-long initiative to attract the outside world to celebrate Squamish historical milestones in 2014. The Squamish Historical Society will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the District of Squamish and has begun planning for the second Squamish Culture & Heritage Festival to be held in May 2014. If you are interested in participating, please email: info@squamishhistory.ca.

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SHS 2013 Speaker Series Update

Thanks to Corinne Lonsdale, Trevor Mills and Glenne Campbell for their fascinating presentations to date during the SHS 2013 Speaker Series held at the Brackendale Art Gallery the second Thursday of the month. In January former Squamish Mayor, Corinne Lonsdale, spoke about personal and historic recollections of the **"50 Years of Squamish and its Challenges and Changes"**. On February 14, Railway Archivist, Trevor Mills presented the **"Importance of the Railway to the Development of Squamish"** with vivid images of photos taken from his father Bert's collection of railway slides. In March, Emmy Award costume designer and Brackendale resident Glenne Campbell presented



"The Flight of Pegasus". Campbell and her late husband Ron Ross built a cutting edge experimental aircraft they named the "Pegasus", which they flew across North America. Those stellar exploits earned them the prestig-

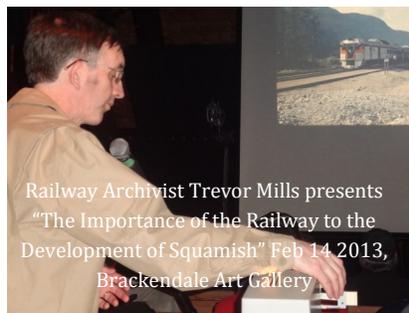
ious Grand Champion of Custom Build Aircraft Award in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Donations

On February 14, Mike Wallace presented a display to the Squamish Historical Society of parts of the crashed plane, RCAF Stanraer 946". The plane crashed Nov 4, 1941. In the spring of 1986 the Hellcat Venture Company, who Wallace was leading, undertook a project to re-identify the crash site of 946 and erect a monument to replace a deteriorated cross. In 2012, Wallace's book "The Last Journey of the Royal Canadian Air Force Stanraer 946" was published to commemorate the journey and a copy was also donated to the SHS. To purchase your own copy of the book, please email walfor@shaw.ca.



Mike Wallace & Bianca Arnold-Peters with Stanraer 946 book & display, Feb 14 2013, Brackendale Art Gallery



Railway Archivist Trevor Mills presents "The Importance of the Railway to the Development of Squamish" Feb 14 2013, Brackendale Art Gallery



Glenn Campbell presents "The Flight of Pegasus" March 14, 2013 Brackendale Art Gallery

Upcoming

On Thursday, April 11 at 7pm, the next SHS Speaker Series will present **"Tell the Stories: 100 Years of St John the Divine"** with Priest in

Charge William Roberts & members of the St John Centennial Committee who will be offering up their personal recollections & photographs. Admission is by donation, at the Brackendale Art Gallery, 41950 Government Road, Brackendale.

A Short History of Squamish by Kevin McLane

In 2006, author and local historian, Kevin McLane, donated a 26,000 word summary of his historical book *The Shining Valley of Squamish* for the SHS to use online. You can find the complete summary here: <http://www.squamishhistory.ca/history-squamish>. The following is an excerpt relating to the history of the formation of the District of Squamish which will be celebrating its 50th Birthday in 2014:

Squamish Comes Together:

Squamish as we know it today, a community of people with a single government and common culture, some 15 kilometres long, has evolved from a couple of farms in Brackendale. The stages of that journey began in 1892 when a road was built to join Howe Sound to Brackendale. By the turn of the twentieth century, almost everyone lived in the two small communities of Squamish- at the water'-s edge, and Brackendale- some 7 kilometres up valley, a situation which was not to change for almost fifty years. For that half-century, between Cleveland Avenue and Judd Road in Brackendale, there were only green fields and forest, linked by a quiet winding road which followed a route dictated by the river beds and sloughs of the time and the great trees which filled the valley floor. It became known as Government Road, following the familiar course of today. Downtown Squamish was incorporated as a Village in 1948, a popular action which was an important step forward in gaining local control of civic affairs, but the Valley as a whole remained essentially a collection of separate communities with no common government. The Middle valley (Garibaldi Estates of today), known simply as Mamquam-, was served by a Water Board and a Sewer Board, and the affairs of Brackendale were directed by the Farmers Institute. Each had their own

priorities. For Brackendale, better river bank protection from the certain threat of repeated heavy floods and a domestic water system were pressing matters. In Squamish it was sewers, a secure base for future development, and dykes to protect the downtown area from becoming a canoe lake when really big storms arrived. In August 1958 one of the most dramatic events in Squamish history occurred, the completion of the Seaview Highway into Vancouver. It had taken a long



Mayor Pat Brennan opening municipal hall , 1977

time, so long in fact that the Russians had already launched Sputnik, the world's first satellite, into space. Within a few years it is estimated that a quarter of Squamish wage-earners were commuting into the big city to work. The economy of Squamish began to change rapidly. By 1964 the future of the valley was coming to a time of great decision and major change. The legendary Pat Brennan was Mayor of the Village of Squamish at the time, and was of the opinion that the long term interests of the Valley were best served by incorporating all the communities into a District Municipality. His view was shared by the other civic leaders of the day: Izzy Boscaroli of the Farmers Institute; Pat Goode of the Mamquam Sewer Board; and Art Framboni of

the Mamquam Water Board. There was much heated debate among the 3,000 residents as 1964 progressed. The matter went to a vote on November 21st 1964, resulting in a strong 78 per cent in favour of incorporation as a Municipality. The stage was now set for a major upgrading of the infrastructure of the Valley.

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THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN is published by the Squamish Historical Society. Our purpose is to collect, preserve, and showcase the history and artefacts of the community of Squamish and surrounding areas. Our email address is: info@squamishhistory.ca

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