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Squamish Fifty years of Change and Challenges

How we got our name

How did we get our name? Initially the entire area was known as the Squamish Valley. The residents in the more developed lower area, wished for a name for that portion of the Squamish Valley. They decided Newport was fitting and Newport it became. In 1914 after some conflicts arose with the name and the PGE sponsored a contest to name the town. Over 2000 entries were received and the name reverted to Squamish, the choice of many. The \$500.00 prize was divided and each winning entrant received \$17.80.

50 years ago....1962

50 years ago, 1962, I was 18. I had recently moved into our new unfinished family home on Skyline Place. There were less than a dozen homes on Skyline and all of them under construction. Those few homes were the extent of development in the Highlands.

Previously I had lived in a duplex that was located about 25 metres east of Government Road on/in the middle of Mamquam Road. That duplex had been my home since 1952. Prior to it being a duplex it was the Brackendale Farmers Institute Hall and the location of many early celebrations.

The southern boundary of Brackendale was accepted by most to be the Mamquam Bridge. Settlement between the bridge and Axen Road was quite rural in nature. There was still a lot of vacant land as well as some farms and

large properties. The Brackendale Store and Post Office was the only commercial building.

Garibaldi Estates, a new subdivision, was going through a building boom. It was the first subdivision to develop outside the village boundaries. The plan was well thought out and had all the services that one would expect....a water and sewer system, drainage and streets of regulation width. History was made with the formation of the Garibaldi Park Estates Sewer Board because it was the 1st time in Canada that a constituted Sewer Board had been allowed in an unorganized area. This enabled the sewer line to be put in place before home construction. Garibaldi Highlands was also the first residential area in the province to have underground wiring. However all was not perfect because the low lying areas were still subject to flooding. .

To the south of the bridge was an area called the North Yards. The P.G.E Railway work yards with some employee housing and other residential was the nucleus of the lightly populated area. A number of the original homes still stand between the rail crossings and the Mamquam Bridge.

The North Yards and Brackendale were classed as unorganized...there was no local governing authority. Taxes were paid to the Crown and any development that required a permit or approval also came from the Province.

Squamish had been an incorporated village since 1948. All developed areas south of Buckley's Crossing were within the village boundaries. Lots in this area were small. Most of the movers and shakers of the day lived along Wilson Slough, the only developed waterfront or downtown between Cleveland Ave and 6th Street. Valleycliffe was known as Skunk Hollow and home to only a handful. There were only a couple of homes in the Northridge area. Loggers Lane did not exist but River Road did. There was a causeway

across the upper end of the Mamquam Blind Channel that connected to River Road that joined up with Pemberton Ave. and then onto Cleveland . The mill was under construction. In 1962 the commerce area downtown provided all the services and amenities that were needed. Kindree's Medical Clinic was the only doctor's office. I think we only had three doctors Doctor's at the time...Dr. Kindree, Dr. D'Appalonia (sp) and Dr. Slade. Overwaitea, the first franchised grocery, opened its' doors in 1959 in premises on Cleveland midway between Winnipeg and Pemberton. The roads downtown were still gravel and the sidewalks wooden.

Weather has also changed through the decades. It was colder then and the wind was considerably stronger and blew more often. Once in a while we would even experience a Chinook. I think our winters were colder and dryer which with the bitterly cold wind would see snow drifts throughout the valley. Snow that would be too dry to pack into a snowball....it is hard to believe today.

The Squamish River and Wilson Slough froze hard enough to enable skating.

Flooding was a major issue. Almost every year we were inundated in one or more parts of the valley with high water. Even in the downtown area some year's the wooden sidewalks would be floating. In the area of Leski's Crossing the water was often 4 feet deep. Much of the road and land south would be under water. Before dyking large tracts of land were lost the river, The Mamquam Bridge washed out. Power would be lost. The residents of the Mamquam and Brackendale areas were always prepared to be marooned for several days. Candles, lamps, and wood stoves were the order of the day. It was our way of life.

That is a bit of an overview of the physical aspects of the area in 1962. There were two items of significance. The jobs were all local. The second....you knew everyone you met on the street. We had a library, Horse Capades, Loggers Sports, a Fall Fair, a Drama Club, and ball tournaments. Volunteers

were always available to organize and help. We all lived, worked, and played here. We did not have to leave town for anything.

Now I will speak to the changes and challenges of the next five decades.

The 60's ...1962 forward

As previously mentioned we were prone to flooding and the biggest challenge in those years was sourcing the financial support for dyking. Another challenge was managing the growth.

We still were not a District Municipality when donations from community members, industry and business enabled the building of a swimming pool behind the High School.

In 1962 an 1116 sq. ft. home in a new subdivision expected to sell for \$13,500.00. Income required would be \$4,500.00 with \$1,800.00 as a down payment. Payments would be \$80.38 per month for 20 years. Taxes were guesstimated at \$20.00 per month, which council felt was a bit high. Turkeys sold for 49cents a pound, eggs 45 cents a dozen and a Chevy 11 convertible, fully loaded \$3,123.00.

The Mamquam School opened. There were now 3 elementary schools in the District and in 1964 the entire student population was 1600.

River Control was necessary, particularly in area of the adjacent to and north of the Watershed Restaurant. "River protection is of prime importance to all the people living in the valley, residents of Squamish, as well as Brackendale

and the intervening area. Without river protection the main arteries of transportation could be cut and the economy seriously affected. A step in the right direction would be the formation of a District Municipality embracing the entire valley. Such a municipality would have the power to borrow the necessary monies for river control, approximately \$250,000.00 .Surely an area four times larger than the village would have no problem repaying this sum. The benefit would be enormous.” Those were the sentiments of long time river monitor and resident of Brackendale, Eric Axen. In March of 1950 there were 1350 feet of land between the river and Gov’t Road next where the trailer park is today. High water and flooding saw that erode to 410 feet by March of 1963 and to 355 feet by December of the same year. Another flood could take out Government Road, the only arterial road north of the village.

A committee to investigate the pros and cons of amalgamation was struck in March of /64. The vote was held Nov. 21/1964. 584 votes were cast with 78% of the registered voters in favor of amalgamation. An interim Council was appointed with Pat Brennan as Reeve. The Council consisted of the existing village council and a representative from each of the Mamquam Waterworks District and Mamquam Sewage District along with one individual who represented the unorganized areas. Along with river control, road upgrades and maintenance were a major focus of the new District. Paving in the newly acquired began almost immediately. The first election for a full Council, six Aldermen and a Reeve, took place on Apr.3/65. Following this first election, subsequent elections would be held annually with three Alderman being elected in December for 2 yrs and the positions of Mayor and 3 Aldermen the following year for a 2 year term. (There were elections every year until 1990 when the system changed to the entire Council being elected for 3 year terms.) The first referendum was one to enable a \$250,000 water extension to

provide water to Brackendale and enlarge the present system. It is interesting to note the village budget pre amalgamation was \$375,000.00.

Shortly after amalgamation the District of Squamish took steps to annex Woodfibre which became part of our municipality in June of 1966.

I believe the 60's were the busiest, most formative time in our history. There were many firsts...

The 1st dentist opens business in Squamish.

The first funeral home, the Squamish Funeral Chapel, was constructed.

Cleveland Ave was lit up for Christmas for the first time in 1963

The newly formed SLRD held its first meeting in Squamish

Brackendale got its first firehall

The first townhouses in the District were built in Garibaldi Estates

In January 1964 the first new apartment building, the Maple Crescent Apartments, was completed. Over the next several years another six complexes were added.

Gas Stations got approval to stay open past 5:30 pm and some Sunday shopping was permitted.

The Garibaldi Highlands Post Office opened.

Cablevision came to Garibaldi Estates and Highlands.

As well the Overwaitea moved into a new building (the former Fields). Four new buildings were built on Cleveland Ave. The Drenka Block was completed and the post office relocated from its' long term home (the former Parkside Restaurant). The Royal Bank Plaza was constructed.

A curling rink, which burned down some years later, opened on the site of present Alex Munro Firehall. With the donation of land from the province,

much volunteer labor, equipment time donated and corporate support the Squamish Valley Golf Course was ready for play. Ever since Baldwin and Cooper scaled the Chief in 1961 rock climbers came from all over the world. Squamish Lanes opened and was popular with bowlers of all ages.

The local ambulance service was totally volunteer and operated by the Squamish Lions Club. In 1964 a new and better equipped ambulance was purchased to replace the 1st ambulance that had been acquired by the Lions in 1957. That ambulance over the 7 years had clocked 20,000 miles....mostly on gravel roads.

Dykes around the village were raised by four feet and widened to allow vehicles access for maintenance and dykes were built on the Mamquam. By the end of 1969 and with the ongoing grants received from the province the Squamish River was protected by dykes, including the most vulnerable area from Leskie's Crossing north to Judd Slough and in the south from the confluence of the Mamquam and Squamish Rivers to Buckley's Crossing. Most of the construction took place in the winter months enabling many logging companies and forest workers to work in their traditional down time. The DoS managed the program.

The old narrow, windy highway between Squamish and Britannia Beach was under construction. Still with roadworks, a new bridge replaced the old Red Bridge at the entrance to town and after difficult negotiations with the PGE the laneway between Cleveland Ave. and the Blind Channel was acquired and Loggers Lane was built to enable the logging trucks and industrial traffic to stay off Cleveland.

A firehall was built adjacent to Municipal Hall and a 3rd fire truck purchased. Planning had begun for sewage outfall and treatment plant for the downtown.

A huge dredge was undertaken near the mouth of the Blind channel and Squamish River with spoils creating much of the land the BCR leased to FMC, who in July of /65 announced construction of a \$10,000,000.00 plant on the waterfront.

Council went on record protesting more transmission lines through our community. Despite our opposition a 3rd transmission line was added.

The District of Squamish awarded Carney's a five year contract to begin garbage collection. Bylaws were passed ...the first zoning bylaw, one to prohibit billboards and another to limit parking on Cleveland Ave. to 2 hours.

Outdoor recreation was always important to our residents. Fishing was the most popular outdoor sport in the 60's. The area was famous for it's' steelhead fishery. The lakes were full of trout and the rivers abundant with trout, steelhead and salmon. Fergies Fishing Lodge was a popular destination.

At some point the Province had planned the extension of Hwy 99 north to Pemberton. In the fall of /65 the first phase from the Red Bridge to the Mamquam Bridge got underway.

Talks were underway to create a ski resort and recreation centre at Alta Lake.

A new RCMP facility (the Squamish Youth Centre) was built and opened in June of 69. The Squamish hospital received upgrades new x-ray equipment and a new lab.

Deep Sea ships start to visit...berthing at the FMC dock. They carried propane gas destined for Japan.

Canadian Collieries opened the Empire Lumber sawmill. Unfortunately flying ash from the sawmills' beehive burner became a real nuisance right from the start up. Homes and yards on nearby Hospital Hill were often covered in it. Complaints to Canadian Collieries did not seem to have any effect resulting with a group of angry area residents filing a writ. A course of action to address the problem was put together by the mill and submitted to Council for approval. Council supported the plan to enable the mill to rebuild its burner and burn a limited amount per hour that would prevent smoke and fly ash from being a nuisance.

Chlorine and fluoride was introduced to our water supply. Major upgrades to the water supply were made to water system including replacement of an old damaged weir. A settling chamber was added and improvements made to the chlorination and fluoridation machinery.

In 1969 Capilano College offers 1st courses here ...English, Economics and Psychology. I believe the first classrooms were in a private basement.

Since 1958, when it opened, the highway was prone to rock slides and vehicle accidents. Some resulted in the highway being closed for extended periods of time.

We became home to two Provincial Parks with the opening of Alice Lake and Murrin Provincial Parks.

In 1969 a 4 bedroom home in Garibaldi Highlands on a ½ acre lot sold for \$27,500.00.

At Christmas a prime rib dinner at Chieftain Hotel went for \$3.50.

Spare ribs sold for 75 cents a pound.

1970's

Our population in the early 70's was about 5,000.

In 1969 or 1970 Mayor Brennan was able to have the Province donate 300 acres for future recreation purposes....Brennan Park. In September of 1971 Centennial Fields officially opened. The development of these fields was made possible through contributions from McMillan/Bloedel, FMC, Rayonier, Weldwood of Canada and Anaconda. The project had been estimated to cost \$25,000.00 but thanks to the corporate support and much volunteerism \$7,000.00 was all that was actually required and most of that was for backstops.

A recreation centre including an ice arena opened in the late 70's. The Kinsmen built a campground for the community south of the new recreation centre. In Valleycliffe a park and tennis court behind the Westway Apartments was completed.

The rebuilding of Municipal hall which had been destroyed by fire in 1976 was finished. As an aside the fire is thought to have started in the adjacent fire hall which also was rebuilt. (the homeless drop in centre)

The Squamish Flying Club is formed, land is obtained from the Crown, and an airport is built again predominately with local volunteer labor and donations. A local squadron of Air Cadets was soon utilizing the facilities.

The District imposes Frontage taxes on properties. The monies were to be utilized to upgrade our utilities. Two of the early projects were a new water main to Garibaldi Highlands and a water reservoir in the Highlands. Major upgrades costing two million dollars and including secondary treatment, were made to the sewage system. The Central Sewage plant downtown opened at a cost of four million dollars. Water system improvements included looping, upgrading and upsizing the utility in many areas.

BC Tel implemented the 898 telephone exchange for all areas north of the North Yards.

With the growing population in the Highlands a site for the Highlands Elementary School is acquired.

Mercury contamination from FMC closes fishery north from Woodfibre up the Squamish River to the confluence of the Mamquam. FMC immediately announces changes to reduce the mercury going into their holding pond that subsequently leached into our waterways. It was anticipated that within the year the 20 pounds of the day reduced to ½ pound. During the time the plant was open the town was subject to several substantial spills. One of those killed most of the vegetation in the downtown area. Residents were compensated for the loss of their vegetable gardens and fruit trees. At that time I don't think many understood the health hazards we were being exposed to with the mercury that was migrating off site and the chlorine gas fumes that burned the lungs. But by the mid 70's the community was better informed and expressed concern re the possibility of a lethal spill. Council directed an emergency response plan be formulated by a committee headed up by representatives from the Emergency Program, RCMP and Council members.

Council was concerned and badgered the company repeatedly on safety measures and the state of the plant.

The District of Squamish put a by law in place to ban industrial use of herbicides and pesticides without a permit. BC Hydro challenged the authority and the District lost the case as Crown Corporations and the Province are not bound by municipal bylaws.

A new million dollar facility to build railcars at the BCR yards was opened by the Premier in 1974. A few years later Railwest closes and 200 workers lost their jobs . The plant closed because the cars could be manufactured elsewhere for less money.

Lobbying by communities between Cache Creek and Squamish for a connecting road from Squamish to Lillooet resulted in the Duffey Lake road opened in summer of 1972.

In 1972 Winter works program on dyking continues to complete Mamquam and Squamish River dykes as well as the Cheakamus Bridge. At that time work also began on a dyke (the spit) that would enable protection of the Terminals docks from the Squamish River. Later in the decade a further winter works project enabled the raising of the dykes between Meighan Creek and Judd Slough to a height of 8 – 10 feet above the road.

Rayonier spends millions on upgrades to pollution control throughout the 70's.

The Municipality auctions off eight acres of the 54 acres they purchased from BCR. This land, adjacent to Cleveland, would soon become the 3rd site of Overwaitea (now Club Flex).

Squamish Terminals opened on a dozen acres leased from BC Rail and 2nd berth was soon added. The Star Columbia, the first ship to load here, arrived on Nov 16 and took on 3500 tons of pulp bound for Antwerp Belgium.

A hotel and new commercial mall was constructed (Sea to Sky Hotel and Extra Foods) on the frontage of the soon to be completed highway 99. Also there was more commercial infill with expansion of the commercial area on Tantalus. The August Jack Motel and a new drugstore were constructed on Cleveland.

Building of the commercial centre in Eagle Run began.

St David's Boys School opened on the site of the present Lions Easter Seal Camp. Their first enrollment of consisted of 60 young fellows mostly from out of town.

An overpass was installed to allow safe passage for pupils of Mamquam School.

GOW Chemicals constructed a two million dollar sodium chlorate plant on the waterfront just north of FMC site.

District of Squamish boundaries expanded to include the Brohm Ridge Development Area. This referenced development was the first one proposed

for the Ridge. Some of the lift structures were put in place before the project failed.

After much fundraising, the 1st senior's home for Squamish, the Cedars, was constructed in 1972. Half a dozen years later the Manor was completed and ready for occupancy.

The first Santa Clause parade in the downtown held in 1978 with Santa arriving by helicopter.

8.4 acres north of the Blind Channel Bridge was sold to Squamish for 1.00 by BCR. (Rose Park area) At the time several pioneer family homes in that area were occupied.

A referendum to enable borrowing for an incinerator was defeated.

Residential development continued. Most permits were for single family but a number of townhouses were approved as well.

A mobile/modular home park was approved for Area east of Ross Road and north of Depot. As well the cooperative housing project in Brackendale moved forward. The Spiral and Wagon Wheel Trailer parks are developed. Bracken Park was approved. It enabled mobile home owners to own their own land.

It is interesting to note that in the early 70's the opportunity for Squamish to be a coal port was suggested and the main topic at the all candidates meeting. The Mayor said it would be driven and decided on by senior levels of government ... that we would not have much say as we had no jurisdiction on the land to be used....the railway owned it all and not subject to our land use

bylaw. At that time Premier Barret seemed to be in favor of moving it forward as long as there was no ecological damage. In 1973 the province announced there would be no coal port in Squamish because it could prove harmful to the estuary and Mamquam Blind Channel.

It was also around this time that Mayor Brennan wrote a letter to Council directing Council to determine which way they wanted the municipality to grow. Should it move forward with only heavy industry or should they press for the full recreational development of the SLRD corridor?

The 1980's

The population had grown to about 10,000.

Residential development continues throughout the valley and school enrollment is 3,052 in 1980.

The worst flood in 2 decades occurred in Dec. of 1980. Between two and four hundred homes were affected. As well the bridge over the Cheakamus washed out requiring the placement of a Bailey bridge.

Rayonier sold to a consortium. The mill was modernized and a new 200 million dollar pulp plant constructed. Up to 400 workers were to be employed there in the future.

The new acute care hospital is constructed and opens and Hilltop House is constructed providing 30 intermediate term care beds and 8 extended care beds.

A four million dollar warehouse built at the Terminals

Phase one of the Industrial Park slowly develops. Property was offered at auction in 1983 with no takers. Later in the year the first lots (Tim Horton's/Wendy's site) were sold to a holding company. The first building in the park opens. (I think it was owned by Lyle Long) Triton Steel and Imperial Oil are among the first to relocate to the Industrial Park.

Dryden Creek Resort approved and moves ahead despite local concerns that Dryden Creek would be compromised.

The Tri Services Building housing the RCMP, Fire Dept, and Ambulance Service on Tantalus opened officially in October 1980.

Disasters on Hwy 99 have moved the province to do upgrades in key areas. Locally there is still a push for an alternate route. The province committed to spend 139 million over the next 12 years upgrading ...widening to four lanes where possible and replacing wooden bridges.

Mountain FM hits the airwaves.

Province provided further funding for dyking. Improvements continue to be made to the pump stations and dykes on the Mamquam and Squamish. Work began on the Stawamus in 1983.

A huge water reservoir on Northridge is hollowed out of the bluff and a second water intake is constructed on the Mashiter.

The Sikh temple was constructed.

The curling club was rebuilt at the adjoining the Golf Course Clubhouse.

Our mascot Gary Baldy, a project of the Expo 86 committee, made his debut. The Squamish pavilion another Expo 86 committee project was constructed. A wharf is constructed in the Blind Channel for the MV Britannia which operates in conjunction with the Royal Hudson. Council entered into a 'Fee for Service' agreement with the Chamber of Commerce to provide tourist information.

The new Loggers Sports grounds were relocated to area near Brennan Park and were completed for the 1983 event.

The Chieftain Centre constructed and Overwaitea moved to its' present home.

MacDonald's, 7-Eleven and the Petro Canada locate on the corner of Cleveland and Hwy 99.

The Estuary Management Plan is finally passed and moves toward implementation.

Helicopter service starts up with operator Vancouver Helicopters

Westcoast Railway Museum Association announced plans for a railway museum in Squamish. In the late 80's representatives from the West Coast Railway Museum met with me, as the Chair of the tourism committee, to determine if we would be interested in a working railway museum...comparing the scale to one in San Fransisco. They were desperate

for a locale for their massive inventory of Rail cars and memorabilia. That was the beginning of the West Coast Railway Heritage Park.

Another initiative that I lobbied hard for came to fruition with the construction of the pullout at the Chief. It was a rare happening for 2 ministries to come together and undertake a project but that one was carried out by both Ministry of Parks and Ministry of Highways.

The Brackendale Eagle Festival is born. (I believe the count was over 3,000 at one time in the mid 90's.) People come from all over the pacific northwest to participate in the count and festivities.

The spit was discovered as a great launch for windsurfing enthusiasts. The Squamish Windsurfing Society formed.

We added another provincial park to our community when Shannon Falls was designated a Provincial park.

During the 1980's dogs and parking and illegal suites generated most complaints.

A group of local Valleycliffe residents came together to form the Valleycliffe Ratepayers Association. This organization was extremely active and a great assist to Council. The major issues being the numerous secondary suites, drug houses, and traffic. They also were proactive in forming the first Block Watch in our area.

The 1990's

Our population was approximately 10,000 in the early 90's.

Highland Energy built an Independent Power Project on the Mamquam and we expanded our boundaries to take the area into the municipality.

Council entered into an agreement with BC Transit for a public transit service.

Phase 1 of the Industrial Park is sold out and mostly developed.

The Howe Sound Women's Centre acted as the proponent to enable the Castle Rock Housing project.

A multi million dollar ski resort is proposed for Brohm Ridge (some of the proponents and the name have changed, even the scope to some degree but the process is still ongoing 22 years later)

Can oxy shut down its' chlor-alkali and chlorate plants.

A Super 8 was constructed on frontage of Business Park despite much controversy and Canadian Tire was the first occupant of the Garibaldi Village area.

Secondary suites in single family homes in all residential areas were legalized.

BCR began paying a Grant in Lieu of Taxes after many years of freeloading.

Council purchased Phase 2 of the Industrial Park from the Crown. A

Granite operation and Carneys' located in Phase 2 of the Industrial park along with Mountain Building Centres.

The new Squamish Station Mall opened in the downtown along with the Howe Sound Inn and Brewing Co.

The new Totem Hall opened

Finally the Capilano College Squamish Campus opens its' doors!

The West Coast Heritage Railway Park opens to the public.

Marina Estates took shape and provided the beginnings of a pedestrian walkway along the waterfront.

Eagle Watch organizes offering information and viewing experiences to visitors to the eagle viewing area.

The Brackendale Farmer's Institute is resurrected.

A new Squamish Library was built. The new Squamish Aquatic Centre opened at Brennan Park. Patrick Sullivan donated two stone sculptures to the community.

The 300 members of the Valleycliffe Ratepayers Assoc. implemented the Block Watch program and took on other local neighbourhood issues.

BCRail begins moving its maintenance to Prince George.

The Stawamus Chief became a Provincial Park.

Squamish claimed and trademarked the name Squamish the Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada.

A ground water supply was developed at Powerhouse Creek. The water is of the highest quality and limited our need to take surface water from the Stawamus.

A new firehall was constructed on the old Curling Rink site. It was dedicated to the memory of Squamish's first Fire Chief, Alex Munro.

The community rallied behind the forest industry turning back preservationists who were determined to stop all logging in the TFL.

Rose Park was designated and Lily's Garden planted and maintained by the Carson family.

The old RCMP building became home to the Youth Centre.

The Slo-pitch and all weather fields were constructed.

Quest University, Canada's first not for profit university, chooses Squamish as its' home.

The Royal Hudson ceases its' run to Squamish.

2000-2011

The Province announced the closure of the Squamish Courthouse.

The District of Squamish obtained a 50 year lease at \$1.00 a year for the Royal Hudson that now makes its home at the WCHRP.

The RCMP facility across from Tim Horton's was completed.

The Malamute becomes part of the Stawamus Chief Provincial Park.

Gaming came to our area with the opening of Chances.

The Squamish Hostel (Inn on the Water) was built and opened.

Squamish embraced the Bear Aware program and are one of 3 certified communities in the Province.

The Squamish Estuary is designated as a Wildlife Management Area .

The Pavilion is deemed to be structurally unsound and taken down.
A new O'siem pavilion was constructed near the same site.

The old Rotary Clock also was removed and replaced with a new one.

Squamish was the site of the Olympic home stay program and the transportation hub. We are also proud to be the home to several of the Olympians and celebrated their successes and participation later in the spring with a parade and autograph opportunity downtown.

Interfor, BCRail and Western Forest Products all ceased operations.

The District of Squamish acquired the Nexen site and constructed the Adventure Centre. Two municipal corporations, The Squamish Oceanfront Development Corp. and The Squamish Sustainability Corp., were set up to take care of these two facilities at arms length from Council.

The first proposal to develop the Nexen lands was not popular with the community and nixed by Council. The Board has since brought forward a plan and marketing is now underway.

A controversial IPP project on the Ashlu was approved by the Province, who was only able to do that by implementing new legislation that enables them to override local government land use authority.

Carney's composting facility opened in the Business Park, operated for a couple of years and then closed due to the nuisance odors that were generated.

Garibaldi Village construction is completed.

The District of Squamish was able to initiate a commuter bus to Whistler in 2005. Unfortunately it was heavily subsidized and had to be pulled in 2011.

The District also guaranteed a loan to enable the completion of the WCRHP Roundhouse which opened in 2010.

The community came together with donations and volunteer labor and undertook to revamp the old firehall next to Municipal Hall into a drop in centre for the homeless. A society, Helping Hands, formed to operate the facility.

The Test of Metal has become so popular that it sells out within hours of registration opening.

Squamish Live, a two day concert event, has located in Squamish and guaranteed use of our facilities for 5 years. It attracts thousands who come to see the top music acts that perform on the Slo-pitch and Al McIntosh Loggers Sports Grounds.

Major upgrades were made to the Mamquam Sewage Treatment Plant and the water systems. The Central Sewage Treatment Plant in the downtown was dismantled and Wilson Slough was rewatered.

Quest University constructed their campus and opened their doors. It is widely acclaimed as one of the finest universities in Canada.

Big boxes... Wal-Mart and Home Depot locate in Business Park

The future as I see it

We live in the most beautiful setting in the world. I believe we will protect those values that will ensure that setting is not compromised. We will not allow polluting industry back into our valley. We will make good use of our waterfront and open spaces with parks, residential and light manufacturing. We will continue to attract residents who wish to escape higher real estate costs and are looking for a quality lifestyle. The downtown will redevelop over time with more multi family homes replacing the old homes on small lots. With higher density, Cleveland Ave. will thrive with small specialty shops and eateries. We will continue to be a community that is respectful and celebrates our diversity and many cultures: a community who come together in times of need; and a community that will continue to strive to be one where its residents can live, work and play without leaving home.

We are a changing population. Our demographics are very different than they were even a decade ago. As much as many moved here for the lifestyle, many also moved here because we were in close proximity to the Lower Mainland and affordable. Today we are not as affordable. We need to diversify. We need jobs. Most of our employment opportunities are in the tourism and service sectors. While it is good to be focused on tourism and be the service center of the corridor we also need jobs in other sectors...R&D and light manufacturing as examples. We need to get our population off the highway. I attracting good jobs a challenge.

However, I believe our biggest challenge will be to elect individuals who can reach the middle ground between being idealistic and realistic...using common sense. These individuals need to have a good business sense. The District of Squamish is the 2nd largest employer in the area with a budget of about 30 million. The revenue comes mainly from the taxpayer, who is

already stretched to the limit. We need to try to elect a balanced group one that is representative of all age groups and interests. Our residents need to take more interest in what is really happening at City Hall. Printed media and social media sources are often inaccurate.

Not in my backyard or NIMBY is another challenge. Few look forward to changes in their neighbourhoods. Good projects need to be accommodated. Individuals need to think past their immediate neighbourhood and put their mind to the community at large and the greater good.

Other challenges include:

River control

Transportation

Affordability

Airport use

Policing costs

In closing I want to recognize and thank the Squamish Public Library who placed all newspapers up to 2002 in digital form. Thanks also to the Squamish Chief. The past editions of the Squamish Times and Squamish Chief provided the information I needed for this presentation.

I also want to make it clear that the preceding report is an accounting of my perception of our growth and development. The thoughts and opinions are my own.

Corinne Lonsdale