

# THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

## The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

Volume No. 3 Issue No. 4 Spring 2009

### AGM UPDATE

The SHS Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Tantalus Seniors' Centre. Our guest speaker for the evening was Trevor Mills - Archivist, West Coast Railway Association, who presented a slideshow on the PGE railway. The slides of railway operations in Vancouver, Howe Sound, and Squamish were taken by his father, PGE locomotive engineer Bert Mills who came to Squamish in 1954, following employment with the CPR after arriving from England in 1948.

Mr. Mills was a dedicated photographer, and Trevor is in the process of digitalizing this large and rare collection of slides. Appreciation was expressed to Trevor for a very entertaining presentation.

A balance sheet compiled by Treasurer Corinne Lonsdale was tabled. It was moved by Mike Jenson, seconded by Betty Adamson, that adoption of the Treasurer's Report be postponed, pending some clarifications on the balance statement.

A letter was read from the Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives, thanking the Society for copies of the films, *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart* and *The West Coast Logging Life*.

### President's Report

During the AGM our president, Bianca Peters,



highlighted the themes of "communication" and "cooperation" in referring to the recent offer of exhibit collaboration with the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, and the updating of the Society website. She noted that the

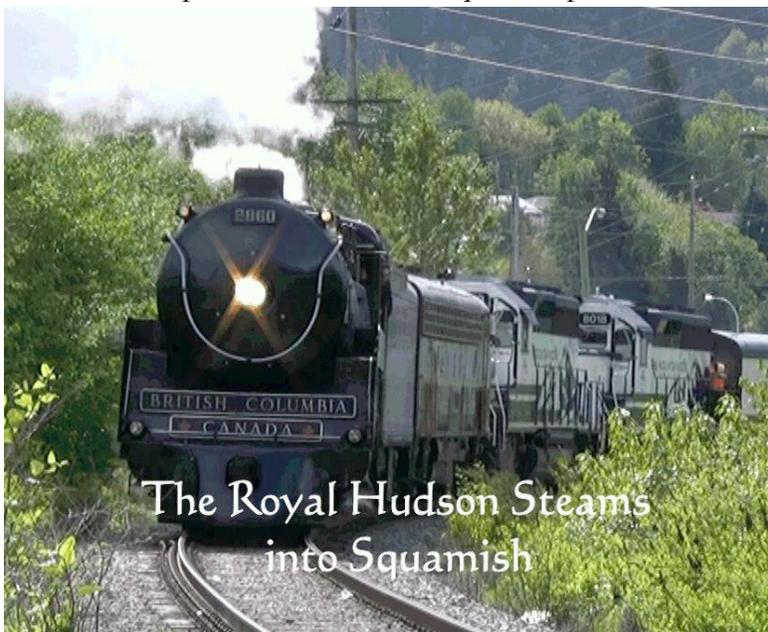
initiatives mentioned in the last year's AGM report ("planned upcoming activities") were each completed. We continue to collaborate with various local historical organizations, including the BC Museum of Mining and for the past two years the SHS has been a member in good standing with the BC Museum Association.

We have also been actively involved with the Squamish Downtown Business Improvement Association's heritage plaque project based on historical photos from local archives and we are in the process of making historical posters available to local shops and businesses, based on our extensive Squamish photo collection.

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### Future SHS Film Presentations

On Saturday Sept. 26, 2009 we will be airing *City Reflections*, a popular Vancouver Historical Society production based on original footage taken from the front of a streetcar as it travelled along various Vancouver streets in 1907. *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart*, was originally previewed at



The Royal Hudson Steams into Squamish

the Totem Hall in Squamish this past February and will debut at the Adventure Centre on Nov. 21, 2009 as part of our fall fundraising and membership drive. It will be shown in conjunction with a short introductory film *First People of the Pacific Northwest*, also produced by the SHS, based on the pioneering work of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century American photographer Edward S. Curtis.

### SHS Executive

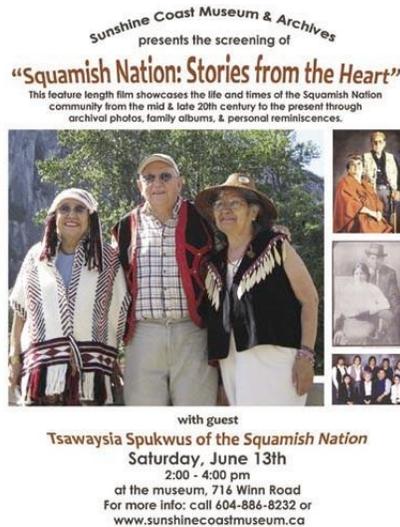
The following SHS executive members were elected at the AGM:

President– Bianca Peters  
Vice-President– Mike Jenson  
Treasurer – Corinne Lonsdale  
Secretary – Betty Adamson  
Director–Don Behrner  
Director–Spen Hinde  
Director – Lesley Keith  
Director–Helmut Manzl

### SHS/SCM&A Collaboration

Recently the SHS teamed up with the Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives to show *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart*. The following summary appeared on the SCM&A website:

“The Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives presented a film screening of *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart*, with guest presenter Tsawaysia Spukwus on Saturday, June 13th from 2pm to 4pm. at the museum. *Stories from the Heart* is a collaborative film project that documents the history of the Squamish Nation from the perspective of Tsawaysia Spukwus. Working together with Helmut Manzl of the Squamish Historical Society, they produced a feature length film representing the life and times of the Squamish people from the mid and late 20th century



**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](mailto:info@squamishhistory.com).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Helmut Manzl [hmanzl@hotmail.com](mailto:hmanzl@hotmail.com)

to the present through archival photos, photo albums, and personal reminiscences.

This film is a poignant example of grassroots storytelling and history-making. We hope that by providing examples like this, you will be inspired to tell your own stories. Each one of us feels differently about our identity and history, but we share an understanding that those points of view should be nurtured and preserved to provide a more complete history of our times. There is not one story but many!”

### Wilkie House Update

For the past few years the administrators of the Tantalus Seniors Centre have given the SHS temporary access to their facility to house our materials and host our meetings. Recently we were invited to become the exclusive occupants of the Wilkie House at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, where the SHS will display our growing collection of photos, artifacts, media productions and archival materials. Our new home will provide a fixed facility to host visitors interested in exploring the history of the Squamish valley. The building will also become the venue for meetings and presentations.

### Grant Application

Thanks to the hard work of Mike Jenson we have received our charitable society status. Since its inception, financing for SHS projects has come from donations and membership fees. At the moment the costs for a number of our projects are paid out of pocket by individual members, so new funding sources are required to continue our ambitious plans. We have recently applied for a Squamish community grant to outfit our permanent facility/office at the Wilkie House and to purchase the equipment and resources required to promote the history of the region.