

# THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

## The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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### SHS News

The membership and executive of the Squamish Historical Society have been busy this fall working on various projects and initiatives designed to retrieve and promote our past. The oral history project is well underway and will be expanded as we move into the New Year with numerous leads on interview subjects. Many people in the community and beyond have visited our website and it continues to be an important channel for information related to Squamish history.

The SHS has been involved in several community events including the Brackendale Fall Fair, the Mashiter/ Squamish High School grad reunion and the Women in History Month in partnership with the Squamish Public Library. We have been given access to a number of stories written by local historians and Lefty Goldsmith's collection of artifacts will be housed in the SHS archives.

### A Recipe for Success

Don Evans, the Director of the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, was the guest speaker at our September meeting. He provided the group with timely advice about successfully running a non-profit organization. His first suggestion was to develop a strong vision that includes establishing a market, positioning ourselves in the marketplace and undertaking a cost analysis.

He also pointed out that we need to devise a financial plan and strategy that will ensure the organization can sustain itself. This includes securing funding on a continual basis and establishing a permanent location for the



organization. He believes that in order to establish credibility it will be important to deliver what we promise. His third directive was to make sure the leadership of the organization is visible, accountable and passionate

about our objectives. He added that we should be prepared for the unexpected, be ready to make changes along the way, and be willing to create mutually beneficial partnerships with other groups. Another recommendation he made was to manage and care for our collection by cataloging, recording, and presenting the materials and displays as efficiently as possible.

### Future Directions

A number of proposals and issues were discussed at the SHS Directors' meeting. The Industry, Commerce and Business committee has been renamed the Forestry Museum and Archives Committee and will report to the membership about developments related to its mandate.

The Directors decided that questions about committee structure and focus would be discussed at the next membership meeting. It was resolved that the SHS should continue to develop the Virtual Museum and Gallery including stories, photos and a streaming video.

The Directors also discussed the need for a fundraiser and membership drive to raise funds to sustain the organization's present initiatives including a post box, charitable status and web site hosting. Another proposal was to contact Quest University to provide storage space for SHS materials. In order to realize these goals, next year will be a year of considerable planning and fund raising.