

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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News and Notes

The magnitude of the Olympics is hitting home and Squamish is rising to the occasion to fully honour this momentous historical event. Hundreds of local residents have already demonstrated their Olympic spirit by training as volunteers for the Games, either at the Whistler mountain sites, or in the Callahan Valley. The Olympic Torch arrived on Thursday, Feb. 4th and Torch related celebrations have brought a high level of excitement to town. We are one of only 200 communities across Canada to be chosen as an Olympic Torch Relay Community. Squamish Terminals has become the home of 330 crew members and 1100 VANOC employees aboard the Mona Lisa cruise ship. The vessel will be moored in our harbour for nearly two months.

During the Olympics, the Squamish Spirit Centre (AKA the Brennan Park Recreation Centre) will host the Squamish



Historical Society, the Squamish Nation, and the Squamish Writers Group, to give residents and visitors a taste of Squamish culture. The SHS exhibit will include various transportation

milestones that opened up our community to the world. The Harry family will be displaying the

Pekultn, a family canoe designed and constructed by Xwa-lack-tun (Rick Harry) and other members of his family and the Squamish Nation.

Tsawaysia Spukwus (Alice Guss), will be available to share stories about First Nations canoe journeys on the West Coast. Lesley Keith, who is a member of the SHS executive, will showcase archival photos related to Squamish before the road to Vancouver was constructed. Bianca Peters will exhibit a transportation themed display including the building of the Seaview Highway, later called the Sea to Sky Highway, and photos from the most recent \$600 million highway upgrade.

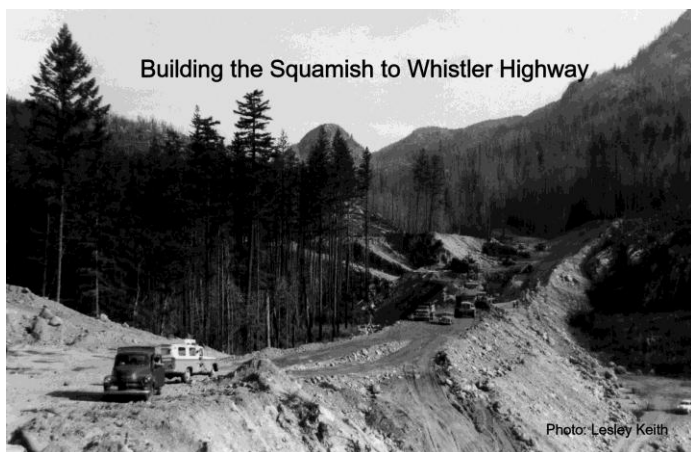
As well, SHS executive member Don Behrner is putting together a display about Diamond Head and winter sports in our back



country over the years. A collection of SHS videos will be featured, as part of our presentation at the Spirit Centre. These include two recent productions, *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart* and *First People of the Pacific Northwest* based on the pioneering work of the early 20th century American frontier photographer Edward S. Curtis. Both productions are now on permanent loan to the Adventure Centre in Squamish.

We have also made three of our newest videos available to the Spirit Centre: *Squamish Valley Logging Lore*, *Tribal Journeys* and *Riding with the First Nations Snowboard Team*. They will be donated to Hilltop House, the Squamish Seniors Centre, the Squamish Public Library and other community organizations.

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 permanent facility to host visitors interested in exploring the history of the Squamish valley. The building will become a fixed venue for SHS meetings, presentations and a production site/workshop.



In January we applied for a Squamish Credit Union Legacy Fund grant to help renovate and equip the building. The immediate beneficiaries of our move to the Wilkie House will be residents



and visitors to our community, local youth, schools and other institutions.

The SHS, through our association with the Hollyburn Heritage Society, in West Vancouver, was instrumental in bringing an original film of the history of the Diamond Head Chalet to the community and recently we presented *City Reflections*, a Vancouver Historical Society production based on the earliest known surviving film footage of Vancouver shot in 1907.

Our partnership with the BC Museum of Mining and the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, points to future collaborations on mining and railway related videos and displays.

Last year the SHS became actively involved with the Squamish Downtown Business Improvement Association's heritage plaque project based on local historical photos. Members of the executive were on hand to take Squamish Cub Scouts on a walk-about tour of buildings displaying the plaques. The youngsters received a condensed local history lesson en route to their Canadian Heritage badges.

A large collection of photos from the Squamish Public Library have been included on our upgraded website, which also provides access to our newsletters, and a link to various videos, including the *Since Yesterday* series documenting 75 years of transportation in and around Vancouver. The website is a work in progress and we invite input from our membership and other interested parties. We always welcome new members, so please feel free to look us up at www.squamishhistory.ca.

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Helmut Manzl hmanzl@hotmail.com