

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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NEWS & NOTES

The Squamish Historical Society is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of BC with a major event to be held at the Adventure Centre in Squamish on Saturday June 7th.

The title of the function is:

150 Years of Squamish as Transportation and Tourist Gateway and Portal

In 1858, Governor James Douglas dispatched an expedition led by Joseph McKay to explore the Squamish Valley as a possible alternative route to the Interior. McKay traveled down from Fort Pemberton to the Head of Howe Sound with the help of native guides, and reported to Douglas the route would be "quite practicable".

During the 150 years since McKay's report, Squamish has become an important Pacific Trade Gateway and also the "Sea-to-Sky

Country" Gateway. Plans are in place to make the June 7th

event one of the largest celebrations of its kind ever undertaken in the community, and the SHS is looking forward to a large turnout. Festivities will get underway at noon and continue until 6 pm

The schedule of events will include a display of photos submitted for a historical photo contest in the categories of buildings, people, and events,



with substantial prizes in each category: 1st \$100, 2nd \$50 & 3rd \$25 There will also be a BC 150 cake cutting ceremony, with notable guests in attendance, and an antique

Road Show with expert appraiser Al Bowen who will assess the value of heirlooms and artefacts submitted and explain the story behind each object.

Two new Squamish related films, produced by the Squamish Historical Society, will debut in the Squamish Adventure Centre theatre.

Brackendale Then and Now is an hour-long feature film that uses photos and video interviews to trace the contribution various families and individuals made to the history of Brackendale and Squamish from the earliest days to more recent times. The film begins in 1888 with two founding families: the Judds and the Raes. It goes

on to celebrate the lives and times of numerous individuals and families who were instrumental in bringing the community to viability, including Thor Froslev, the founder of the Brackendale Art Gallery.

The second film, *The West Coast Logging Life*, presents a unique collection of logging related photos and videos, from many sources in BC,



Washington State and Oregon. It outlines the skills employed by lumberjacks, and traces the evolution of the forestry industry, one of the most important economic engines on the West Coast, from early animal powered logging, to the steam donkey and railway logging, to logging with heavy equipment and finally hel-logging.

In addition to these cinematic excursions there will be a Squamish Nation Story Telling Circle where Squamish Nation elders will share their oral stories and traditions with our community.

Representatives from Service BC (formally BC Government Services), will outline their contribution to the development of the province over 150 years through photos, displays, and a PowerPoint presentation

Additional displays will be set up by the Britannia Museum of Mining, the Squamish Public Library, and the Squamish Classic Car Club will set up across the road from the Adventure Centre on Loggers Lane

A commemorative Squamish Historical Society Poster will be on sale to mark this event.

The SHS would like to thank our sponsors, the Squamish Adventure Centre, the Squamish Chief Newspaper, the Squamish Legion, Nesters, the Watershed Society, Triton, Squamish Streamkeepers, Squamish Nation, and Westmana.

The SHS has procured a number of photos and other artefacts from the Tantalus Seniors Centre and will display a series of large photos from various collections at the June 7th function. One of our main objectives is to showcase our heritage by making it available in a format that

will reach the widest possible audience. To achieve that goal the SHS is producing films and other visual presentations, including slide shows and PowerPoint arrangements developed by our members.

Three new films are in the works, or planned for the future. One production will trace the historical contribution the Squamish First Nation made to the community of Squamish.

Another production will showcase the evolution of the annual Loggers Sports festival, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007.

A third film, in the planning stages, at the moment, will be the history of the Woodfibre community, which became one of the main employers in Squamish in the early years of the last century.

The West Coast Logging Life and Brackendale Then and Now would not have been possible without the input of many residents in this community, who provided their time and materials including, interviews, photos, films and documents.

We wish to thank them collectively for their generous contribution to the preservation and promotion of our historical heritage.

Our last membership meeting of the season will be on June 12th at Café Gelato in downtown Squamish. The executive will be taking the summer off and will return in time for the Brackendale Fall Fair. The next meeting will be the second Thursday in September.

We are always looking for new members: \$25 to sign up, \$10 renewal. Membership forms online at www.mysquamish.com. We look forward to a new updated website with enhanced photo archive (thanks to Cindy Cardiff, Trek Photography).



Myrtle Hurford on duty at the new Squamish telephone exchange on Cleveland Ave. (1950)

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.ca

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