

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

Volume No. 2 Issue No. 2 Fall 2007

Forestry Centre Update

The Forestry Centre is a long-term collaborative project between the Squamish Historical Society and the Sea-to-Sky Forestry Centre Society. After a number of meetings and the full endorsement of District Council the concept is now another step closer to becoming a reality.

A comprehensive business plan has been submitted by Andy Czuczor, Brooke Hanson, Andrew Mc Lean, and Maggie Skiber, four MBA students from UBC. They believe that “the Sea-to-Sky Forestry Centre, through its prime location, magnificent building, and thought provoking experience, will provide its visitors with a newfound appreciation and understanding of one of B.C.’s most important industries.”

The Forestry Centre is slated to open its doors in September 2009 and will be housed in a unique building incorporating “green” concepts and technologies. Sitka Log Homes, located in 100 Mile House, has submitted a striking log home design comprising 6,300 square feet, based on the distinguished structure exhibited at the 2006 Torino Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

When the Forestry Centre opens its doors

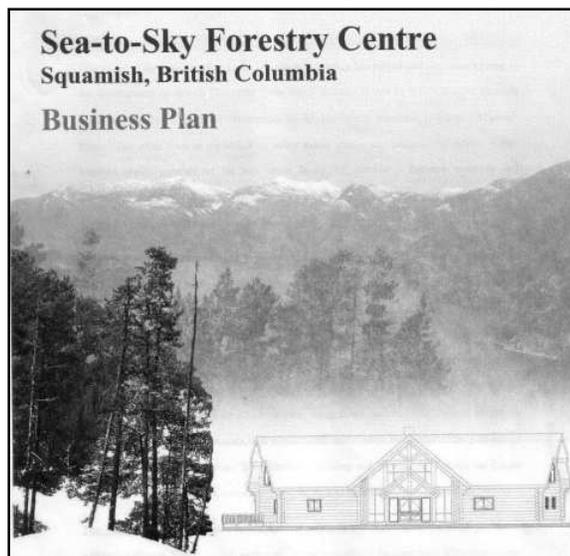


across the road from the Adventure Centre, in Rose Park on Loggers Lane, it will celebrate the role forestry has played in the Howe Sound

region and educate guests about the environmental sustainability of the forestry industry by showcasing leading edge forestry products and practices currently in use in B.C.

It will feature information kiosks, as well as permanent fixtures and a variety of traveling displays, to engage visitors of all ages. Murals, posters and other exhibits, including the stunning Squamish Log Books, will be put on show either in the building or adjacent to it.

The marketing plan will insure the development of a strong community connection; it will also tap into the growing tourist stream passing through town before and after the 2010 Olympics.



Over 20,000 guests a year are projected to visit the Centre, including local residents and school groups.

A Director and Curator, along with a Board of Directors, will act as managers for the facility.

Capital funding of \$3.3 million will be required for the

construction of the building. This initial cost will be covered by private donations and various government grants. Admission revenues, ongoing forest industry sponsorship, as well as donations and private grants are projected to sustain this not-for-profit operation.

The Sea-to Sky Forestry Centre is slated to become an important cog in the economic revitalization of Squamish by helping to enhance the growing tourism sector. It will work in partnership with the Museum of Mining in Britannia Beach, and the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish.

In the next few months plans for the interior design and overall structure of the Centre will be finalized and construction will commence shortly after these deliberations have been completed. Procurement of exhibit materials is already underway and the ensuing months will no doubt prove to be both labour intensive and highly rewarding for the supporters of this exciting project.



Other News and Notes

The SHS display at the Brackendale Fall Fair, featuring archival photos and artifacts, as well as a historical video, was very well received and underscores the strong connection the SHS has made with the community. Our next Film Series presentation, entitled the “Early Days of the Diamond Head Chalet” will be held on Friday, November 16th at the Squamish

Adventure Centre. This approximately thirty minute full colour film covers the construction of the Chalet in the early 1940’s and the ensuing exploration of Garibaldi Park into the 1950’s. Rolf Brandvold, whose parents Ottar and Joan built the Chalet, will be on hand to narrate the footage.

The Squamish Sustainability Corporation will be sponsoring the event and there will be three showings of the film that evening at 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm. SHS Members are asked to RSVP to reserve a seat. General admission is by donation.

In addition, to kick off the screening the Britannia Mining Museum will be joining the Squamish Historical Society to air a seven-minute film tracing the rehabilitation of the Britannia Mill. This short feature is a testament to the importance of saving history by rescuing a heritage building and a national landmark in the heart of the Corridor.

Copies of the Squamish Forestry Film, covering the period from 1942-1958, will be sold as a fundraiser in DVD format for \$20.

The film will make a wonderful Christmas stocking stuffer. Order forms will be available for extra copies if required.

This historical footage will also encourage local residents with additional information about that period in Squamish history to come forward and share their recollections.

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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