

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

Volume No. 3 Issue No. 2 Fall 2008

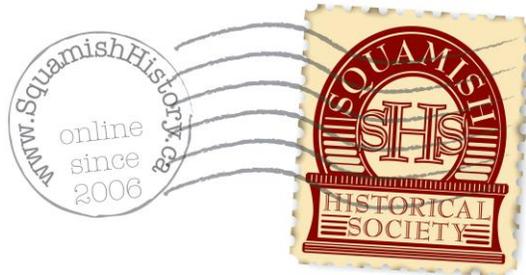
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2008 was definitely a busy and meaningful year for the Squamish Historical Society as British Columbia celebrated 150 years! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their time and energy, and fellow citizens, non-profits, local businesses and government agents for their continued support. Our focus in 2009 will be to take all the information we have acquired over the past three years onto our new website with an eye to a more permanent physical home in the near future.

We look forward to sharing our community's history at our upcoming events, including original film screenings and historical presentations while seeking grant funding as we receive our charitable status. I also look forward to cementing bridges between the SHS and other heritage and cultural organizations in the New Year as the Corridor awaits the arrival of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

NEWS& NOTES

Two new films, produced by the SHS, debuted in the Adventure Centre theatre this summer and fall. The first production, *Brackendale Then and*



Now is the story of the hardships and triumphs encountered by families and individuals who shaped our community from the late 19th century to the present. The narrative is

developed through interviews with local residents, including descendents of the founding Judd and Rae families, on site footage, and an extensive collection of original photos.

The West Coast Logging Life showcases the evolution of the forestry industry in Squamish and other communities in Oregon, Washington State and B.C. It traces the development of

logging techniques and technology ranging from ground lead to high lead logging with steam donkeys and railroads, to large scale mechanized truck and heli-logging.

Both films were shown on various occasions in the community and *The West Coast Logging Life* is now a feature presentation on a permanent basis in the Adventure Centre theatre. The production has been distributed to all local elementary schools, and will be made available to educational institutions and



Chief Jimmy-Jimmy and his wife Cecelia

libraries in other jurisdictions. Copies have been made available to the Squamish library, and the Langley Centennial Museum will be showcasing the film as part of their forestry history education program.

A third film, *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart*, is in the final editing stages. The film traces the story of the Squamish Nation over the past 100 years and explores the future ambitions of the first inhabitants of the Squamish valley. It combines original archival and family photos and interviews with members of the Squamish Nation in Squamish and North Vancouver. The film will debut at the Totem Hall in February 2009. It will also be made available to schools and libraries in the Sea to Sky corridor and the Lower Mainland.

Besides film production, the SHS has been involved with the Heritage Fair school program, co-ordinated by the North Vancouver Museum and Archives. The program encourages students to use the medium of their choice to tell stories about Canadian heroes, legends, milestones and achievements, and then present the results of their research in a public exhibition.

On various occasions the SHS has supplied guest speakers to local elementary schools and our members have made historically themed presentations to community groups at the Brackendale Art Gallery and Hilltop House seniors' centre in Squamish.

We also have an ambitious oral history project underway based on interviews with local residents. These stories will eventually be woven into a coherent narrative, or a series of narratives, and be made available to the community in DVD format.

Another project involves a number of SHS members travelling to the Lower Mainland to

catalogue Squamish related photos and artifacts presently housed at UBC and the Vancouver Public Library.

This past September we successfully hosted the Forestry History Association AGM in conjunction with the West Coast Heritage Railway Park.

We continue to collaborate with various local historical organizations, including the B.C. Museum of Mining and the West Coast Railway Heritage Park. We have also been actively involved with the Squamish Downtown Business Improvement Association's heritage plaque project based on historical photos from local archives.

The SHS has been instrumental in establishing a committee to investigate and co-ordinate the construction of a forestry centre in Squamish to display and interpret our forestry heritage. The Forestry Centre organizing committee has generated a business plan and is at the funding application stage. Communications from the committee will be channeled through Bianca Peters and Mike



Wallace, the chair of the FC committee. Plans are also underway to scan the entire Squamish Library archive collection (photos and text included) into bite

sized PDF files. Our website is being revamped and will be upgraded with a flicker account. It should be up and running early in the New Year. At the moment our membership is hovering around the 50 member mark and we are looking forward to expanding that base in the coming months.

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 hfmanzl@hotmail.com