

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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Squamish Log Books

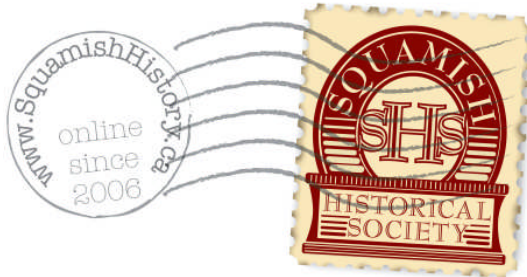
Our past has now been immortalized in a series of striking Log Books carved out of Douglas fir. These unique artifacts are truly in a league of their own. They not only recall the development of Squamish from prehistoric times to the present, based on the storyline written by Ken Drushka, but also showcase the artistic skills of local carver Glenn Greensides.

They were assembled and carved at the Loggers Sports Grounds and took 2 years to complete. Each of the 28 beautifully crafted pieces depicts a distinct historical period. Glenn's main objective is to bring our history to life and to underscore the positive role forestry has played in the development of this community.

The plan is to eventually display the Log Books in a dedicated park. At the moment visitors to the Adventure Centre can enjoy these stunning artifacts and get a better understanding of our rich forestry heritage.

SHS News

The SHS is one year old and is about to host its first Annual General Meeting. The gathering will be held in the Eagle Room at the Sea to Sky



Hotel on Thursday, April 12th at 7 PM. Membership renewals will be due at the meeting and new members fees are \$25 a year and returning

memberships will cost \$10. Our website at www.squamishhistory.ca is being upgraded by Capilano College interactive design student Neil Smart.

As part of his practicum, he has been busy taking our virtual museum to the next level with a web delivered multimedia presentation about Squamish from 1900-1920. Subsequent installments are expected in the coming weeks.

“We’re very pleased to have Neil on board,” says Bianca Peters, the President of the SHS. “He has some great ideas to evolve the website into an interactive portal into our community’s past.”

Included on the site will be vignettes from film footage, uploaded interviews with Squamish pioneers, and 3-D images of historical artifacts and relics.

The website will also offer the Society a secure place to house and display important local historical documents.

A permanent blog for personal stories and historical photos is also in the works.



Squamish Historical Film Début

As part of the Wild at Art celebrations this year, the SHS began airing a 69 minute video of colour film footage depicting logging operations in the Squamish area from 1942 to 1958. Both showings of the video proved to be very popular and were sold out quickly.

Beginning with the sweeping panoramic view of the Squamish area in the 1940's, from the vantage point of the old highway, the film focuses on logging from the perspective of the west side of the Squamish river. Also included are scenes from the 1958 Loggers' Sports Day event.

According to Bianca Peters, after watching this never-before-seen footage she was "immediately transported to a Squamish Valley of years ago" and she couldn't help getting nostalgic about the life and times depicted in the film.

Bianca also recalls "people were saying things like 'There's my Dad!' What was great is that it really recognized the importance of forestry to Squamish. It laid down the roads; it built the downtown."

During the second showing, a number of local residents helped narrate sections of the film. SHS member Eric Anderson interviewed some of the "old timers" after the viewing and he has shared the results of those discussions with us in the following commentary:

"Don Behrner and his wife Rhetta believe company owner Gerry Dent, after whom



Dentville was named, was the cameraman for the whole production. Don confirmed that the entire Fry Creek drainage operation, on the west side of Squamish River, was undertaken by Squamish Towing Ltd. Don also has a detailed recollection of the logging operations on Hospital Hill.

Vic Hurford confirmed that the daring high-rigger, topping the spar tree in the film, was Al Hendrickson and the three loggers raising the spar tree, half way through the film, were Bruce Carson, Rob Ryan and Norm Barr of CRB Logging Ltd.

Jeff Fischer, a CRB Logging forester, formerly with Interfor, revealed that the entire Empire Mills Ltd. company archive was discarded when Interfor dismantled the sawmill."

This film is a fascinating depiction of the forestry industry in its heyday here in Squamish. It is also a reminder that

unless the community makes a greater effort to recover these resources, our past will be irretrievably lost.

Many documents, like the Chamber of Commerce archives for example, have been discarded or destroyed over the years and each time a little bit of our history disappears.

As Eric Anderson points out, we need to approach the District of Squamish, as well as other agencies and organizations, to secure their archives, before these valuable materials are no longer available.

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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