

THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 2

Sept. 2006

SHS News

This has been a busy spring and summer for the SHS. In addition to the newsletter, our virtual museum is up and running and has been well received by the community. There were 22 members in attendance for our second meeting held May 4th at the Railway Heritage Park in Squamish.

A number of important topics related to the future direction of the society were discussed and committees were formed to address the long-term goals of collecting and preserving stories and artifacts related to our past. Our guest speaker was Bob Ringrose, Operations Manager of Woodfibre, who discussed the establishment and development of Woodfibre from its inception nearly 100 year ago to the recent closure of the plant.

The next meeting of the SHS will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, September 7th at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park with guest speaker Don Evans of the WCRHP. There will be a full agenda, including a discussion about our organization's goal of building a Howe Sound Forestry Museum and Archives in time for the 2010 Olympics.

The SHS received official incorporation papers on



May 9, 2006 and our next step will be to obtain revenue status from Revenue Canada. Squamish Savings has generously donated \$1000 towards the cost of registration and incorporation, post office box and web site design and hosting for a year. Squamish Savings will also be donating a SHS banner for events, but more sponsorship from various sources is required in order to carry out all our plans.

Future Plans

The SHS Fall Calendar includes dates for visitations to the Legion, Tantalus Seniors Centre and Hill Top House, where personal recollections, as well as photos and other historical materials, will be retrieved.

Towser Jones and Robert Campbell have generated an oral history manual that includes such topics as: preparing for interviews, developing questions, and conducting effective interviews.

There will be a library event in October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Squamish Public Library and our organization has been invited to attend. Next year will be the 50th



anniversary of Logger's Sports and the members of the SHS will discuss what our role should be during the celebrations.

The SHS has also been invited to participate in the 12th annual Brackendale Fall Fair. We will be taking over the historical booth set up by the late "Lefty" Goldsmith. His artifacts have been donated to the SHS and they will be used for display purposes at the fair.

We have also received correspondence from Eric Anderson, a forest industry consultant. He has underscored the wealth of historical resources contained in the Chamber of Commerce Development Project document archives. He also suggested a number of specific historical themes, such as the first European pioneers who settled in Squamish, road building to Squamish, the Forest Industry and the evolution of Logger Sports, railways and port development.

The Forestry Museum

Only five months have passed since Woodfibre ceased operations and the loss is already being felt throughout the community, as forestry families leave and another important part of our past disappears. In order to preserve the town's forestry history, SHS President Bianca



Peters has proposed a Forestry Museum and Archives as an Olympic legacy in the style and design of BC Canada House, the log structure that was an instant hit at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Italy. "Currently our community has a fantastic mining museum and a superb railway park," she says, "but nothing to

showcase our forestry heritage, an industry that was paramount to the Squamish economy and culture for generations."

She believes that a museum displaying our forestry heritage would not only be a significant asset, but it would also ensure that the legacy of those early communities, companies and individuals, who made a lifelong commitment to the forest industry along the shores of Howe Sound are not forgotten.

The museum grounds could also be a suitable venue to house a Log Book Park to recall the loggers' stories and instil a sense of pride in our community's past.

A delegation from the SHS presented the museum concept to the mayor who requested additional information before a decision is made. Peters envisions the SHS facilitating a variety of government and private sponsorships to make the museum and archives a reality before 2010.

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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