

# THE SQUAMISH HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of the Squamish Historical Society

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our annual AGM and elections will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Tantalus Seniors' Centre. The website is ready for launch. We are waiting on the outcome of the AGM so we can add the names and photos of the future board of directors. At the executive meeting held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park we toured the Wilkie House and the Cowichan River Car. The SHS Executive sees great potential in the Wilkie House as a permanent first display within our community and we are very grateful to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park for offering it to us. While at the Park, archivist Trevor Mills gave us a peek at his new inventory data base program "Past Perfect." Trevor will be our AGM night guest speaker offering us a talk and slide show about the history of the PGE railroad in our community. We are very excited to be playing host to Hollyburn Heritage Society archivist Don Grant who will be showing his film about the Diamond Head Chalet at the BAG on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm. Admission by donation. With the successful showing of the pioneering, logging, and Squamish Native elements in film, we are pursuing leads for a potential film tracing the history of other cultures in our community, namely the Sikhs. If you have any suggestions for this film, please forward them to me. We



Addie Kermeen & Alex Williams  
Squamish Nation

recently received a non-profit status file number from the Canada Revenue Agency, dated March 16<sup>th</sup> and have been placed in their inventory pending review by a Chamber Officer. Based on the current volume of applicants in their inventory they expect to assign our application to an officer within 6 months.

*Bianca Peters, President SHS*

## NEWS & NOTES

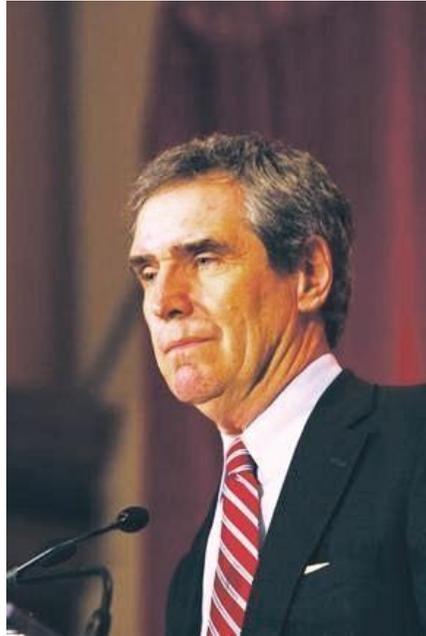
On February 28<sup>th</sup> over 75 people attended the first public screening of *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart* at Totem Hall. A shorter 1 hr and 20 minute version of the film will be shown later this spring at the Adventure Centre, along with a companion production *First People of the Pacific Northwest* based on selected images of Indigenous People from the State of Washington, British Columbia, and the coast of Alaska, photographed by Edward S. Curtis between 1896 and 1930, during his epic documentary journey across North America. *Squamish Nation: Stories from the Heart* opens a window on the lives of the local First Nation community from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Their compelling stories are documented through archival and original family photos and personal recollections and reminiscences. The film also showcases the award winning art and totem

carvings of former Squamish resident Xwa Lack Tun (Rick Harry). An original photomontage traces recent tribal canoe journeys and the construction and launching of *The Pekuln*, the Harry family canoe. The film shifts from the past to the present with an account of the acclaimed First Nations snowboard team. In the final section young Squamish Nation paddlers continue the canoe-based tradition of their ancestors during the annual RCMP- Squamish youth canoe race.

Brackendale resident Ellen Grant, who has deep roots in the community through her maternal grandparents, Harry and Annie Judd, was our guest moderator during a recent SHS strategy session. A number of key goals arose from that meeting and they were narrowed down to the top four: to maintain and expand our affiliation with the WCRHP, to upgrade our website, to address new sources of revenue, and to improve our network for sharing information about the past. All four will become major objectives for the organization, along with other projects, in the next few years as we move forward.

Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> was a historical day for Squamish when a standing room only crowd was on hand for a question and answer session with Michael Ignatieff, the leader of the Liberal Party, and the first national leader to visit the community in an official capacity.

In his opening remarks he revealed that during his UBC teaching days he frequently came up to Garibaldi Park for some much needed R&R. "You can clear your head up here," he told the audience. Mr. Ignatieff



received a clock from Acting Mayor Paul Lalli as a token of the community's appreciation and a reminder to keep Squamish in the loop for federal grants and funding, if he becomes the Prime Minister. The discussion ranged from Canada's role in Afghanistan, to the economy, and the environment. Under his watch our military role would end by 2011, but his government will ensure that we will continue to be actively involved in infrastructure development.

In reference to the local economic front, he pointed out that it is not in our best interests to ship logs elsewhere to be processed. "We have to get out of the basement and up the value chain," he said.

When asked about his sustainability agenda he promised to "introduce an environmental policy that does not set one region against another." The carbon tax was a "killer," he noted. As an alternative he offered to introduce a practical "cap and trade" program with hard caps to reduce emissions to 1990 benchmark levels. The historic visit was well received and the audience left with a better understanding of the direction the Leader of the Official Opposition and his party will take the country if they assume power.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

We are looking forward to expanding our membership and new members are always welcome. Yearly fees are due at the AGM and this year only those with paid up memberships will receive our emails. Keep local history alive in Squamish by renewing your membership now and please invite a friend to join.

**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](mailto:info@squamishhistory.ca)

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