

was the most elaborate. The start was 60 feet above ground. Hurricane Freda in 1962 knocked it down after only one tournament.

Rudolf Verne moved east and became an early Vice President of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association. The Swedish men involved in those early days of skiing on Hollyburn all returned to Sweden after selling to the Burfields. Oscar Pearson later returned to work as a greeter for Hollyburn Aerial Trams, which pre-empted the present highway from early 50's until mid-sixties.

In its first 10 years of growth the ski camp was the center of competition not only between clubs but other areas. It became known throughout the Northwest as the "jumpers" home base.

Saturday night dances were the highlight of many skiers' social life. The floor was so springy that it was said, "Stand still, the floor will teach you to dance." Hence, our coinage of the phrase – "A place of memories since 1926."

To assist with the museum component, the West Vancouver Historical Society will be coordinating the efforts of their



Interior of lodge - 1940 Photo: Howard Rode



Ski hill in front of lodge with first rope tow and ski jump. Photo: Late Paul Jaffary

sub-committee (HSCHP) to gather historical artifacts, pictures and stories.

Anything you wish to donate or have copied may be submitted to:

Bob Tapp
Hollyburn Ski Camp
Heritage Project Committee
1278 Inglewood Avenue
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1Y6

For information please call (604) 926-3748

Hollyburn Ski Camp Heritage Project



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The Cypress Bowl Master Plan shows the creation of a heritage site around First Lake that includes some cabins and the lodge building. C.B.R.L. will undertake to dismantle and reconstruct the lodge to a standard, acceptable to BC Parks and West Vancouver, BC.



This sketch shows the historic park area within the Cypress Park Nordic area.

Reconstruction will attempt to retain the board and batten exterior walls and shake interior; exposed log beams to appear similar

to the original building.

Hollyburn Ski Camp Heritage Project will attempt to create, not a true museum, but "A Place of Memories since 1926" with photos, newspaper clippings and artifacts from the 70+ years of this treasured area.

HSCHP committee has already received some photographs and artifacts for display and has written letters to old-timers for their memories and memorabilia. We need:

- Ferry ride tickets
- 22nd street hiking groups
- Interior photos of lodge
- Pictures of personnel – Oscar, Stena, Andrew, The Burfield family – Pop, Harry and Rene, Fred & Evie and Peggy
- Rope tow pictures – Ski jumps pictures
- Locals – Norm Deacon, "Smoky" Neilsen, Bert Baker and other operators

Photographs you can't part with will be copied and returned.

To raise awareness for this project and to meet preliminary expense – copying, stationary, postage etc., 200 tea/coffee mugs were sold last winter at \$7.50 each, at the mountain gift



Lodge from across First Lake Photo: Bob Caverley



Nasmyth's Mill on Hollyburn - 1923
Woodblock print by Upham

shops. These are still available at the gift shop at the Alpine area.

The lodge site on First Lake was originally the site of a cabin built by the flume builders in 1919. This 13,200 ft. flume was built by A.V. Johnston for James Nasmyth who was developing a logging operation on Hollyburn. Before the advent of roads and logging trucks, timber products were brought down to millsite by flume. This V-shaped flume was constructed with 2-inch thick planks with 30-inch sides and four feet across, coursed down the mountain from the vicinity of last switchback on present highway to the waterfront terminating in a pond adjacent to Sherman Station on P.G.E. At the same time, crews were installing dams and ditches connecting several small mountain lakes and ponds to augment water supply for the flume. These ditches were hand-dug by veterans from the First World War. They started above Romstads ski run, coursed roughly parallel to Wells Gray run connecting with 5th and 6th lakes east of Wells Gray above the power line; 4th lake is behind the "Warming Hut"; 3rd lake is west of 4th lake. There was originally a stream that roughly followed Telemark run to First Lake. Nasmyth logged in this area until about 1923

when a combination of deep winter snow made logging difficult and summer drought caused water scarcity. He was unable to get timber products to tidewater – his luck ran out. He abandoned the operation.

In 1925 Rudolf Verne hiked into this area and saw veritable skiers' paradise. A group of Swedish skiers determined that the abandoned cookhouse would make a good ski camp base for hikers coming up the trails. However, it was soon evident that at an elevation of 2500 ft. was below an average winter's snow level. In 1926, the ski camp was moved to its present location at First Lake at 3000 ft. elevation. Also at this present time, Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club was formed using the camp as its headquarters. Thus, the ski camp and this club became the first organized ski club on the Pacific Coast. The Nordic immigrants to Vancouver promoted skiing on the mountain and its companion sport, ski jumping. There were several ski jump platforms built on the ridge: Mabratten, Third Lake, Little Slalom Hill at Romstads are some; and the most used



Ski jump at First Lake. Photo: Late Paul Jaffary

was the Trestle at First Lake which was built twice. The Jack Pratt Memorial Jump on the site of the Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club cabin