

What's in a Name?

Ski trails in cross country areas are usually given names - to describe a trail's location; to help skiers know where they want to go on the map of trails. The cross country area on Hollyburn has 16 km. of trails that begin at the parking lot, heading east and north. They all have names. The origin of some names is easy.

SITZMARK - that's what you leave when you fall in the snow and leave your shape. "Fill in your bathtub!" calls the skier from behind.

TELEMARK - another easy one; the graceful turn done by the skier who knows how to effect this deep snow turn.

Some trails indicate their location; **BROTHERS WEST, BROTHERS EAST** - both parallel a canyon area on Brothers Creek. Also **POWERLINE** - everybody's correct on the origin of this name.

How about Burfield, Collins, Romstad, Mobratten?

BURFIELD - Anyone who has been reading our bulletins will know that Burfield was named after the Burfield family, who owned the ski camp lodge & buildings from 1946 to 1984, just preceding the area's acquisition by B. C. Parks.

COLLINS - named after Harry Collins. Winner of cross country ski races on Hollyburn in the 1920's, Harry built a small cabin on the shoulder area between Strachan & Hollyburn from logs he cut on the slopes of Strachan. His logging created access for early skiers to higher slopes on Strachan where the snow was better. Since his cabin was often buried in snow, entry was via a hatch he built on the roof. Old time skiers from the ski camp recall staying overnight with Harry in order to get more Strachan runs in on one day. They stayed until Sunday. There are two Collins runs; the easy 'pony trail' in the alpine area and a cross country trail considered a 'black square' that starts at top of the Powerline to intersect with Sitzmark.

ROMSTAD - This name proved elusive until it was found in the 1927 & 1928 Canadian Ski Annual that a skier named A. Romstad competed in the 'Old Boys' group in the first New Year Cross Country Competition on Hollyburn (approx. 3 1/2 miles). He won the race in a time of 26 min. 30 sec.

MOBRATTEN - Tom's name is a real legend in ski jumping; one of the 'three musketeers', the others being Nordahl Kaldahl and Henry Sotvedt. A group among many Norwegian skiers for whom ski jumping was their passion, they travelled throughout the northwest to compete and loved every jump.

WELLS GRAY - named for a B. C. minister of Parks & Forests in the 1940's. There is also Wells Gray Provincial Park.

Several runs have been named for lakes in their vicinity - **TRIANGLE** and **LOST LAKE** runs.

GRAND NATIONAL - The run that connects the First Lake ski area to the West Lake area was well known in the era before present day cross-country skiing.

POPFLY - The history of this run is a bit confusing. Today, the Popfly run is west of Telemark extending from Sitzmark up to the Powerline. Before CBRL and B. C. Parks, skiers did their own packing of the slope. The first Popfly run was across First Lake from the lodge extending from the bottom of Telemark diagonally up to Wells Gray. This area was the predominant ski hill on Hollyburn, especially for beginners. It was the site for one of the rope tows and ski jump trestles. Popfly was so named because it had many little bumps, on which a skier 'popped' up one side and 'flew' off the other. Could these be early 'moguls'?

Hollyburn Heritage Society



Place of Memories Since 1926

Issue #4 - November 2000

2001 - 75th anniversary for Hollyburn Ski Camp Lodge at its First Lake site

Hollyburn Heritage Society (HHS), creators of the Hollyburn Ski Camp Heritage Project and the Hollyburn Cypress Heritage Project, is the official title of the group of pioneer skiers who have seen fit to preserve the history, culture & heritage of this area. Come in to the ski camp to have a rest, a hot chocolate or a cool beer and see our displays of old photographs, memorabilia and ski equipment from yesteryear in the "Back Room".

2001 will be the 75th anniversary for the lodge at its present site. Folks have lamented that it might be replaced. Our society decided rather than wait for a new building, to mount displays in the old lodge.

HHS has received registration from Revenue Canada for a charitable Donation number and welcomes donations for which you will receive an income tax deduction receipt.

Commemorative coffee mugs and beer steins are for sale in the cross country area at the Hollyburn Gift Shop & Hollyburn Ski camp, and in the alpine area at the Cypress Gift Shop.

Coffee Mugs\$7.50
Beer Steins\$8.50

Funds from donations and sales assist in the publication of these information bulletins and support other museum objectives. All funds are used to advance the museum mandate, B. C. Parks or CBRL do not receive any funds from the Hollyburn Heritage Society.

HHS is seeking assistance from you, readers of the HHS newsletters. How would you like to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Hollyburn Ski camp lodge - a pin - a badge - a party - OR? Phone/Fax your suggestion to either Bob or Gordon.

We are acquiring a good collection of artifacts. We need pictures - of the Swedish cabin builders - interior of the ski camp - later transports, half-tracks, buses, trucks - the chairlift - Deacon's tows. We will copy and return.

For more information:

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Photo: Isabel McLaurin

8th Annual Pioneer Skiers' Reunion "Millenium Gathering" Wednesday, August 16th

"Yesterday's activities, today's history;
today's activities, tomorrow's history."

Since 1992, a small committee from Mts. Seymour & Hollyburn has organized a reunion for all skiers on any local mountain from the 1920's to the 60's. Originating on Hollyburn, this gathering alternates with Mt. Seymour. This year it was held on Hollyburn. HHS decided to host the event this year. Since it was Year 2000, HHS decided on a theme to celebrate: the millenium; incorporation of HHS; also HHS being successful in receiving funding for some major items for the museum from both the Canada 2000 Millenium Partnership Program and the District of West Vancouver. The CMPP people in Ottawa referred to our museum project as "Hollyburn Top of the Mountain Museum." It was decided to utilize the CMPP funding to film this gathering and record interviews with skiers/hikers/cabin owners from the early days.

August 16th was indeed memorable. About 200 oldtimer skiers/hikers came to renew acquaintances, visit HHS displays of photos, and compare 1940's skis with today's carving skis

and snowboards. Highlight of the day - unveiling a replica of the sign over the original entrance to lodge by Anne Sotvedt, 97-year old widow of ski jumping champion Henry Sotvedt. In her talk, Anne related a story when Henry was performing a jump on the First Lake Ski jump. A large crowd was gathered; in the quiet when Henry was finishing his outrun, their four-year old son called, "Do it again, Daddy!"

Music was provided by Don Hardy on keyboard; light refreshments were enjoyed by everyone. HHS acknowledges and appreciates the many contributions by CBRL to the success of this event.



Photo: Gordon Knight

Art Sneft (Snefty)

Art was one of those people who became a legend on Hollyburn. He lived in North Van while having fun on Hollyburn. In 1943, with Bill Christie they rented the cabin "Valhalla." In 1946, Art helped Bill construct his unique octagonal cabin. Art then bought into and operated the "Old Mill" Coffee Shop from 1947 to 1949, when construction of the chairlift bypassed this location. Old Mill referred to the 1919 Nasmyth mill operation located west of the present intersection of Stanton Avenue (Westlake Road) and the Cypress Bowl Road at approx. 2,500 ft. (763M). On the radio Art was the "Sports Talk" poet with over 182 sports related poems "on air. Now resident at Parksville, Art wrote the following poem recently for our gathering as he reflected on his life on Hollyburn.

THOUGHTS OF AN OLD TIME SKIER

By Art Sneft (Snefty), the Old Mill

HOLLYBURN FERRY - THEN A LONG HIKE
OHI HOW NICE TO BE FREE,
HEAVY, HEAVY THE PACK BOARD GETS
ALL FOR THE RIGHT TO BE FREE.

SET DOWN THAT LOAD, YOU'VE MADE IT,
CABIN COMFORT YOU NOW SEE,
STOKE UP THE FIRE, ENJOY A DRINK
OHI HOW NICE TO BE FREE.

NEXT DAY YOU SCAN THE SKY
AND THE HILLS, NO SIGN OF SNOW CAN YOU SEE

HAS CABIN FEVER GOT TO YOU?
ALL FOR THE RIGHT TO BE FREE?

THEN THE SNOW BEGINS TO FALL,
SKIS WAXED, AND EVERYTHING READY,
YOU TAKE THAT FIRST RUN, TO FEEL YOUR WAY
.....YOU MADE IT! SLOWLY, BUT STEADY.

YOU HERRINGBONE UP THE POP-FLY,
YOU SNOWPLOW, THEN CHRISTY DOWN,
HOW TO STOP AT THE BOTTOM?
A SITZMARK WILL SLOW YOU DOWN.

FREEDOM COMES IN MANY FORMS
WHEN YOU VENTURE UP TO THE HILLS,
NO THOUGHTS OF DEBTS OR TAXES,
OR THOSE EVER ANNOYING BILLS.

NOW HERE WE ARE TOGETHER,
OLD FRIENDS ONCE MORE WE SEE,
WE MADE IT SIMPLY BY FOLLOWING OUR CODE,
OUR WISH TO BE HAPPY AND FREE!