



## Place of Memories Since 1926

Issue No.9 – December 2005

Since 1998 Hollyburn Heritage Society has been producing an annual newsletter to inform you of the history & heritage of "Cypress Mountain" ski area. A small group of volunteers who have preserved almost 100 years of recreational activity since the first ascent of Hollyburn Peak in 1908 by the Vancouver Mountaineering Club, forerunner of B. C. Mountaineering Club.

Incorporated April 2000 and registered charitable status with Canada Customs & Revenue Agency, we welcome financial donations for which you will receive an income tax deduction receipt. Funds assist in the publication of these information bulletins and support other HHS programs that advance the Society's mandate. B.C. Parks & Cypress Bowl Recreations do not receive any funds from HHS. HHS membership is by way of donation: financial – volunteer time – items (photographs, articles etc.) Cypress Bowl Recreations has permitted HHS to mount panels in the "Back Room" of Hollyburn Ski Lodge to relate this history. Restoration or replication of this lodge is a center piece for our society. Constructed in 1926 on this site at First Lake from reclaimed materials from buildings at the old Naismith lumber mill at 2,500 ft. elevation as snow was more abundant at First Lake.

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### HOLLYBURN MEMORIES

By "Snefty" – ART SENFT

WE WORKED HARD IN THE CITY  
FOR WHATEVER WE COULD EARN,  
ALL FOR THE JOYS AND PLEASURES,  
WE COULD FIND ON HOLLYBURN,  
WARM IS THE INFINITE PLEASURE,  
AROUND A FIREPLACE,  
ALL FOR THE WANT, TO FEEL FREE,  
AWAY FROM THE HECTIC PACE.

WE LEAVE OUR CABIN ON SATURDAY NIGHT  
HIKE UP TO THE BURFIELD LODGE,  
NO NEED FOR FANCY EVENING WEAR,  
WE WOULD RATHER SHOW UP HODGE PODGE,  
HIKING BOOTS ON OLD WOODEN FLOOR,  
WE DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY,  
NOT EXACTLY BALLROOM STYLE,  
BUT WE ENJOYED IT ANYWAY.

SUNDAY AT THE 'POPFY,'  
THE JUMPERS GAVE US A THRILL,  
ONLY THE BOLDEST OF US ALL  
WOULD TRY TO CONQUER THE HILL.

TODAY, OUR LIFE IS CHANGING,  
CABINS LEFT, THERE ARE A FEW,  
OLDTIMERS KEEP FOND MEMORIES,  
OUR HERITAGE WILL ALWAYS SHINE THROUGH.

Art Senft was a "Hollyburner" during 1940's to 1950's. He had a small coffee shop near the old mill site called "Snefty's" Old Mill. His shop was bypassed when the new single chairlift became operational. He closed out his business. The shop was later demolished. Snefty now resides in Parksville. During his time he wrote poetry related to sports which was published in the Vancouver Province.

### HHS Annual General Meeting, 2006

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Hollyburn Heritage Society will take place:

Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006

at 7:30 p.m. (1930 h.)

at West Vancouver Seniors' Centre  
NW corner 21<sup>st</sup> St. & Marine Drive

Do come and enjoy an evening of local mountain lore.

### Accomplishments for 2005

Our small group of volunteers was augmented this year by two, who will write our book on the history & heritage of Hollyburn, as one of the ways from our mandate to bring all this historic information to public attention. They are Francis Mansbridge, author of "Launching History: The Saga of Burrard Dry Dock", and Lois Enns, Records Analyst with Corporation District of West Vancouver. Our archivist, Don Grant has spent many hours at his computer selecting photographs and articles for each chapter and making DVDs available for the writers. Some chapters have already been assembled.

Don's Elementary Schools Social Studies program got off to an excellent start spring, 2005. Lions Bay E.S. participated in a 15-week program where Don and an assistant went each week to present a facet of Hollyburn's history & heritage to Grades 2 & 3. Each program was presented to students suitable for their level. They paid rapt attention! This program will continue spring 2006, if possible. Don also added more photo collections to HHS library, and he completed 12 interviews of old time mountain folks.

HHS is sincerely grateful to The West Vancouver Community Foundation, Corporation District of West Vancouver & Cypress Bowl Recreations for their assistance.

The other project that was emphasized this year is the restoration / replication of Hollyburn Ski Lodge. Since the venue for snowboarding & free-style skiing for the 2010 Winter Olympic Paralympic Games is in District of West Vancouver, they established a citizens' committee to determine how our community would like to celebrate 2010. Of the many ideas suggested, one was restoration, if possible, of the venerable Hollyburn Ski Lodge.

November 27<sup>th</sup>, North Shore News – announcement, "W. Van wins 2006 cultural capital award." Among several projects listed is "A feasibility study will be conducted for the Hollyburn Ski Lodge." This study is required to determine whether or not the lodge is restorable.

goes around the heel, wraps back and tied.

This style of binding reminds the writer of a style of binding in early 1950's that was nicknamed 'suicide binding' – there was no way to release your foot in a bad fall, and could end up breaking a leg. (This information from: "World Ski Book" 1949 & "Backcountry", October 2005)



MOQUEAN SKIS JUST ABOVE KANAS VILLAGE.

2004-style Tuwas skier in the Altai Mountains area in China.

Crossroads of Hollyburn

## THE OLD MILL

COFFEE BAR  
CONFECTIONERY  
MT. SUPPLIES

Always Open

Support YOUR Mt. Store  
and Watch It Grow.

JOHN  
CAVERLY

ART  
SENF

HOLLYBURN RANGERS – PACIFIC  
COAST MILITIA RANGERS (PCMR)

Most of us grew up with the title "Ranger." There were the Texas Rangers, from cowboy movies; the Lone Ranger from radio and early TV series; "Ranger" is the title given to

### Snowshoes

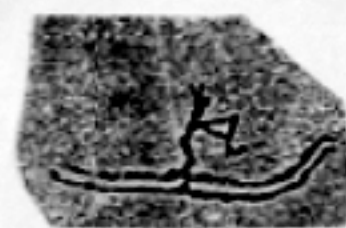
A history

In Canada's north country – ("north of 60") – located on the north slope of some mountains are scraps of ancient ice, leftovers from Canada's last ice age 10,000 to 15,000 years ago called "snow patches." These patches are not part of a glacier, which is a "river of ice", but static patches – they do not move. As such, archeologists, both native (First Nations) and Caucasian have been examining these patches for bits of ancient peoples' belongings.

Many of the artifacts from the various ice patches are quite spectacular:

A part of an ancient snowshoe; two-meter long darts, some of which have sinew wrapped around them and the stone points still attached; arrows complete with feathers; ochre paint and barbed antler points. These pieces fared well over the centuries because they were preserved in the ice patches. Incidentally, ochre paint is still used by the local First Nations people in some ceremonial events.

Gladstone Ice Patch lies in a north-facing bowl on the side of a mountain in the Ruby Range, traditional territory of the Champagne-Aishetik first nations, about 2,000 metres above sea level. It is the biggest ice patch the researchers have explored and one of the oldest. It has yielded the most artifacts, the majority of which are projectiles related to hunting caribou. They range in age from the 9,300 year old dart to a 1,400 year old leather pouch or moccasin, both of which Cody Joe found in 2003. Such items would not be found in a glacier, as the action of the glacier would have eventually ground up anything left on them.



Rockcarving from Rødøy (an island on the west coast of Norway) 4,000 years old. The oldest known depiction of a skier. The Association for the promotion of skiing. (In Norway)

those that patrol national & provincial parks.

Hollyburn has a B.C. Parks representative, often referred to as the "park ranger" and there is a representative from West Vancouver District also referred to as "the ranger" who resides in the cabin near Marr Creek Bridge that has the word "Ranger" on it. However, during WWII there was another group called Hollyburn Rangers. This is their story.

After Pearl Harbour, December 1941, spring 1942, in the event of an attack, plans were assembled to evacuate isolated coastal communities, but where could the people go. Logging and fishing communities, referred to as 'camps', were usually built on or near the water with little inroads on the adjacent land. There was no place to go – they had to stay put! The federal government decided that armed forces under the Pacific Command would be deployed to strategic locations, but this was not much help to the long, irregular sparsely settled coastline of British Columbia. Thus, in March 1942, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers (PCMR) came into being. A volunteer home guard composed of residents, with their local knowledge could become a valuable auxiliary service. Men in a camp were given a rifle, if they didn't already own a gun. They had meetings at their local community hall to learn about defending their area. The women in camp took a First Aid course – usually the St. John's Ambulance or a Red Cross course overseen by a local informed woman or the camp First Aid man.

In April 1942, the formation of a force of Home Guards took place to protect West Vancouver from attack by way of Hollyburn Ridge. Major Angus McAlister of Caulfeild was appointed to command No.2 Company, Coast Defence Guards, Hollyburn Ridge Rangers. Recruitment took place and was open to all men not eligible for active service and who are interested in outdoor life. Geordie Tocher at age 15 joined the group, he said he was a big kid. According to instructions received by Major McAlister, the Hollyburn Rangers covered the whole of the municipality; to report unusual happenings in the area; to act in case of emergency to repel attack by hostile forces and such other duties that may

### Origin of Skiing

The Stone Age rock carving of a skier is from Rødøy in Norwegian Nordland and found by Guttorm Gjessing in 1933 is possible testimony that skiing was present in Arctic Europe as early as 4,000 years ago. However, the sport of skiing was considered to have originated with the Scandinavians circa 1800's. There is apparent agreement that it really started as a means of winter travel about 8,000 years ago with the Tuwas people living in the Chinese Altai Mountains region near Lake Baikal. It appears that skis were developed after snowshoes which were brought to North America via the Bering land bridge, circa 10,000 years ago by the ancient Jomon people.

Spring 2004, Naheed Henderson, a woman, Dave Waag and Nils Larsen set out from the United States to investigate further the Tuwas skis. They had been accidentally seen in 2003 by a group that included Naheed who had been in this region. The skis used by the Tuwas were handmade, huge wooden with horsehair covered bases.

With this expedition, this group wanted to investigate further the culture and design of the Tuwas skis. Using the North American styled ski equipment they found it too light for the funky type of snow they encountered – it was wind swept, freeze-thaw type conditions, crusty and often soft underneath. The Tuwas skis were heavy and solid. A Tuwa man remarked that the North American skis were too short, too narrow and too soft for skiing in Altai. The Tuwas skis were made from a 7-inch diameter spruce, cut down by axe. For three days, the ski maker splits the log and whittles the two pieces into ski planks using only axe and a wooden block plane. The tips are carefully bent & shaped using the wood stove. After the skis dry for a few days, some old winter horse leg skin & hair is stretched and tacked to the bases. The skis are extremely long and wide; they use a single pole, called a tiak, which is as long as the skis and about 1 inch in diameter. The bindings for each ski are long leather straps that run through four holes in the ski coming up under the foot to form an X under the boot. A long leather tail off the X

be considered necessary. It is believed that the steep trail from vicinity of the pumphouse on Pumhouse Road down Montezambert Creek to Sunset Beach was constructed by the Rangers in case of attack in the vicinity of Sunset Beach.

Also in place to protect Vancouver around English Bay several gun emplacements were installed. The general public knew little about what went on. For a couple years after Pearl Harbour attack, the city was under a "blackout."

As soon as the war was over in August 1945, the Hollyburn Rangers duty was finished and they had a "Standown."

However, the Canadian Rangers are still in existence. They are comprised of about 3,900 men & women who act as the eyes and ears of the military and exert Canadian sovereignty in isolated and remote areas, especially in the Arctic. 32 Rangers are based in Gjoa Haven, Nunavut, many of whom are Inuit. They have intimate knowledge which they educate the recruits from the south – landscape, survival, build an igloo, navigation, even how to turn on a Coleman stove without burning down the tent.



Hollyburn Rangers with their guns and in "Dry Bak" uniform

