

# Hollyburn Heritage Society



## Issue No. 10 - December 2006

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

Incorporated in April 2000 and having a 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 Partnership do not receive any funds from HHS. HHS membership is by way of donation: financial – volunteer time – items (photographs, articles etc.). Cypress Bowl Recreations Partnership has permitted HHS to mount panels & some artifacts in the “Back Room” of Hollyburn Ski Lodge to relate this history. Restoration of this lodge is a center piece for our society. Hollyburn Ski Lodge was constructed in 1926 on a site beside First Lake from reclaimed materials from buildings at the abandoned Nasmyth lumber mill at 2,500 ft.

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## Accomplishments for 2006

At the beginning of 2006, a few ideas were assembled by the HHS Executive Committee as Capital Projects for this year. However, it soon became evident that this year just might develop into a momentous one. First of all, HHS had suggested in 2005 at some meetings with the District of West Vancouver officials that the restoration of Hollyburn Ski Lodge would make an ideal legacy project for the 2010 Winter Olympics. This idea was picked up when West Vancouver applied for and received an award of \$500,000 as a Capital Culture Award for 2006, \$20,000 of which was assigned to a “feasibility study on the restoration of Hollyburn Ski Lodge.” This study was completed in October, 2006. This fall, HHS members have observed that there has been some stabilization work on the foundation of the lodge.

The second item of interest is the designation of HHS collection of over 5,000 vintage photographs to the West Vancouver Archives. This entailed development of legal documents to owners re the assignment and use of their photographs in perpetuity to both the Archives & HHS.



HHS Archivist/Historian Don Grant hands over a hard drive containing 5000+ historic Hollyburn photos to WVA staff members Veronica Marshall, Volker Schuster, and Carol Howie.

Both of these projects were part of the HHS mandate in their Constitution when drawn up in 2000.

The book project that was started in 2005 has been progressing very well. Francis Mansbridge and Lois Enns, our volunteer authors, have each been writing chapters relating the history of Hollyburn. A publisher has also been selected and agreed to publish the book circa autumn 2009.



Lois Enns (centre right) and friends on a hike to Black Mountain, Summer, 2006

A dozen additional panels each depicting a facet of Hollyburn’s history have been added for display purposes. A display of some is scheduled for Heritage Week in February 2007 in West Vancouver Memorial Library.

Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Pioneer Skiers’ Reunion was held on Hollyburn at First Lake. The weather made it a perfect day – sunny, warm. Almost a hundred attended coming from Seattle, Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast and communities around the Lower Mainland.



Art Sneft, Pioneer Skiers’ Poet Laureate (L) and HHS Co-Chair Gordon Knight (R) at the 2006 Pioneer Skiers Reunion.

Representatives from West Vancouver District, Councillor Jeanie Ferguson, Parks & Community Services Josie Chubak gave an update on restoring the lodge; Ralph Sultan, MLA for West Vancouver-Capilano also attended.

Tone for the day was set when Art Senft, known as “Snefty” read some poetry he composed for the occasion.

## Poems by Art Senft – “Snefty”

### *Hollyburn Then & Now*

I took out a falling contract,  
For many trees that were in the way.  
All to make room for a chairlift,  
To take hikers up most of the way.  
Now! If you look up the mountain,  
My efforts can still be seen.  
A swath going up the mountain  
Where a chairlift once could be seen.  
That will soon be a memory,  
And nature will very soon be  
The magic force that will cover up,  
The mark that was left by me. “Snefty”

### *Chairlift Obituary*

*My work is finished,  
It’s time to rest.  
Above me a chairlift,  
Was put to the test.  
For years it took hikers up the hill  
Now burned out & weary,  
I lay here quite still.*

### *Hollyburn Reunion 2006*

*How nice it is to remember  
Our friends from years gone by.  
To cabin owners & skiers  
And our paradise in the sky.  
On the hills we found our freedom,  
The air is fresh and clean,  
All helping us to remember  
The faces we have seen.*

## Summer Dreaming

*The wonderful days of summer,  
Leave winter far behind.  
Sandy beaches, ice cream cones  
Become foremost in our mind.  
Camping trips and picnics  
Mean comfort food and fun.  
Marshmallows over an open fire  
And wieners without a bun.  
We sit around the campfire  
After a hectic day of play,  
Being ever hopeful that  
The mosquitoes stay away.  
Now, darkness falls upon us,  
The moon drifts across the sky,  
We go to sleep and dream again,  
Of the day that just went by.*

All this was highlighted by music by Howie Able on his guitar, and the delicious refreshments by Cypress Bowl Recreations Partnership.

## Pioneer Skiers' Reunion, 2007

**For the interest of those hikers & skiers in decades before 1970's that come or would like to come to the pioneer skiers' reunion, next year's event will take place on Mt. Seymour on Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007, hosted by Alex Douglas, Mt. Seymour History Project.**

For further info: if you are on his database, you will receive a newsletter circa July. If not phone Alex 604-985-5996 or  
E-mail: clem1710@telus.net.

## HHS Annual General Meeting, 2007

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Hollyburn Heritage Society will take place:  
Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
At 7:30 p.m. (1930 h.)  
at West Vancouver Seniors' Centre  
NW corner 21<sup>st</sup> St. & Marine Drive**

**Do plan to come, we'd luv t'see ya!**

## POLLOUGH POGUE

Pollough Pogue has become one of the legendary figures on Hollyburn. We have little knowledge of his early life, other than he was English and had contracted polio during childhood. However, during the 1920's & 30's he became a prominent personality on the mountain. Pogue was writing articles for *The Vancouver Province* when in January, 1925, he wrote an article to promote Rudolph Verne's skiing venture on Hollyburn. It appears that Pogue was already familiar with the area, and his article with its glowing descriptions of nature convinced city folks to come up and see for themselves.

Later that year, during Eilif Haxthow's time at "The Restaurant", Pogue decided to take up residence on the mountain; first in a tent that leaked in which he got soaked in the autumn rains. He then moved into one of the little cabins near "The Restaurant" which Eilif & friends had renovated. Pogue's bout of polio had left him with an eye inflammation – iritis. He claimed the clear fresh water from a nearby creek healed his eyes.



**Pollough Pogue's camp on Hollyburn Ridge, May, 1925. Pogue is standing on the far right.**

It was on the ski trails on Hollyburn that Pollough finally learned to ski, when he was fifty. Like most mountain people of his generation, his preferred mode of transport over snow had been snowshoes.

For a couple summers he manned a mountain fire lookout for which he received little remuneration. In 1927, he was appointed Special Constable by West Vancouver to curb vandalism on Hollyburn.

Pogue continued to contribute articles to *The Province*, about 450 stories were published over the years to late 1920's. He claimed he was 'fired' by the editor of *The Province* for writing so many stories about Hollyburn. He and his wife started publication in 1931 during winter months of "Hiker & Skier," a small but informative little magazine for those interested in skiing. Pollough was the editor and Mrs. Pogue was the publisher. It continued until the WW2 war intervened.

The Pogues had three children, a son Mickey and two daughters Mollie and Tommy. Mickey inherited his father's love of the mountains. He graduated from UBC in forestry and worked in the industry. He became an expert skier and enjoyed ski jumping as well as ski competitions. He participated in a cabin on the mountain called "Orphan Eight." The credo of this cabin was "no women allowed," but that didn't stop the girls from pursuing its members. In 1934, Mickey assisted Irish Beaumont in the construction of the largest ski jump trestle in the Lower Mainland at West Lake for Ron Brewis.

After Rudolph Verne had the ski camp moved to First Lake, Pollough Pogue moved to a small cabin located on the slope just east and above the First Lake Dam – today, to the left of the Main Trail and across Nasmyth Bridge. In 1932, for two years, he shared his cabin with a couple weekend hikers/skiers, Bob Forrest & Don Dewar. Pogue was an affable host, Florence Brewis wrote about him always having a pot of tea on the stove for passersby. His idea of washing the cup was to step outside, fill it with snow and ream it out, then fill with tea. A typical mountain man, Pogue's garb was an ancient woolen toque or out-of-shape

fedora, heavy grey logger's shirt open at the neck to show his seldom laundered Stanfields, thick woolen pants held up by broad suspenders and belt and logger's style moccasin boots. It appears Pogue left the mountain when the Grand National trail was constructed down to Westlake circa 1940.

## Skiers Passed On

### Ron Glover – 1928 to 2006

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006, a group of old Hollyburners attended the funeral of one of their own – Ron Glover.

Ron, a native of West Van attended Pauline Johnson E.S.& W.V.H.S., grew up on the mountain as did his brothers Bob and Jack. The old timers Johnny Halstead who ski jumped with Ron, Jack Laidman, Bert Baker, Rusty Bridges, school mates and teenaged Hollyburn terrors talked of their experiences with Ron – Ron's cabin, ski trips and jumping tournaments. Ron spent 25 years with Air Canada. Upon return to Vancouver and retirement he volunteered up Mt. Seymour and with West Vancouver Police. One skier who knew him said that Ron was always ready to lend a hand to help. Ron leaves three children.

### Bob McLellan – 1922 to 2006

Bob, a native of Vancouver attended Vancouver Technical School and graduated in Mechanical Engineering from UBC, 1946. Bob developed a life long interest in mountains as a teenager, continued it as a member of Varsity Outdoor Club at UBC and later with B.C.M.C. & Alpine Club of Canada. Extremely versatile, Bob had a fine baritone voice, joyously singing operatic arias a week before his demise. He was also a creative engineer owning his own business specializing in cableway and ski-lift design. Bob designed the double rope tows from one motor for Norm Deacon's Westlake ski area on Hollyburn in mid 1940's.

He was predeceased by his wife Jean in 2000 and is survived by their five children.