

Hollyburn Heritage Society



Issue No. 15 - December 2011

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 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, if over \$25. Funds assist in the publication of these information bulletins and support other HHS programs that advance the Society's mandate. HHS membership is by way of donation: financial - volunteer time - items: photographs, news articles etc. (please, no equipment - we have no place to store it!) Cypress Bowl Recreations LP, the ski operator permits us to display panels in the "Back Room" Hollyburn Ski Lodge.

Restoration of this lodge is the centerpiece for our society. It was constructed at this site, 3,000 ft. elev., beside First Lake in 1926, using reclaimed materials from a building at 2,500 ft. elev. part of then abandoned Nasmyth logging operation

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"BLACK TUSK" OF GARIBALDI

Prominent on the northern skyline from Sea to Sky Highway south of Squamish and from Howe Sound on ferries is Mt. Garibaldi and on its left, is a black spike named Black Tusk. First ascent of this peak was by William J. Gray and party in 1912 during the first summer camp of the BCMC, held in Black Tusk Meadows. Gray was enthusiastic about this scenic mountain area; he blazed a trail from juncture of Rubble Creek and Cheakamus River to the meadows. It is not certain whether this trail followed up The Barrier route or on flank of Black Tusk massif, where later a packhorse trail was developed.



The Black Tusk c. 1910 (George Barker Collection)

This era was an exciting time for mountain exploration. 1910, BCMC with ACC investigated the southern region of Garibaldi area. There was the 32 Km (20 miles) Pemberton Trail from Squamish to Pemberton developed and long used by the First Nations peoples of this region. Alex and Myrtle Phillip followed this route in 1911 to their paradise at Alta Lake. It took two days travel to these areas, first by Union Steamship from Vancouver to Squamish, then the trek to Daisy Lake, trailhead to Black Tusk area. In 1910, Howe Sound & Northern RR constructed 9 miles track north of Squamish. Pacific Great Eastern (later BC Rail) incorporated in 1912, took over HS&N and built track to Daisy Lake. This greatly facilitated access to Black Tusk area. By 1915 the rail line had been completed from Squamish to Chasm on Fraser River.

Since 1912 hikers and mountaineers have travelled to this area in heart of Coast Mountains so close to metropolis of Vancouver. Geologists and botanists were attracted for its uniqueness.

Accomplishments

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games are now history and with little follow-up it might be assumed that HHS may not have had much going on for 2011. Well, quite the opposite.

Spring saw completion of the restoration of Fred Burfield's 1949 John Deere tractor/crawler. In May 2007, HHS, under the leadership of member Peter Tapp, began a project to restore this tractor. Learning that the John Deere Corp. has a vintage equipment restoration program, Peter developed and submitted a proposal that was accepted, quite an accomplishment, considering many proposals are sent in each year. The John Deere Corp determined that they would undertake the restoration of the tractor/crawler through their dealership in Langley, B.C.



Tractor/crawler at the Langley plant before restoration, 2007

During the next three years, much work was done, but the machine required tractor treads before the restoration could be completed. In April 2011, a set was finally obtained. The now completely restored tractor/crawler is back in its original working condition. In partnership with the Hollyburn Ridge Association (HRA), it had its public display at West Vancouver Community Day Parade Saturday June 4th.

There was also an opening for it on the snowy slopes of the power line run at Cypress Mountain Cross Country ski area parking lot on Sunday June 12th. The little tractor showed how it used to give kids a ride on a dish sled. It is anticipated that a display pavilion will eventually be built near Hollyburn Ski Lodge to shelter it and its

UBC professor Dr. E. M. Burwash was among the first geologists. Circa 1937 Bill Mathews (Dr. W. H. Mathews) examined the area extensively and studied it intensely. Without going into great detail, Black Tusk and its companion Table Mt. were formed in Miocene or Pliocene times and are remains of volcanoes which have been eroded to their roots, leaving only a few of original lava flows and the core itself. The physiographic history of the area over eons of time included three major land uplifts. Following the last uplift, two huge eras of glaciations occurred with an interglacial period between them. The glaciers that still cover sides of some peaks are remains of second ice sheet. And, Bill mentions in 1937, "records show that they are now receding with rapidly increasing acceleration." As an aside note - Bill was 19 when he published this article in Canadian Alpine Journal.



Looking east towards (L-R) Guard Mtn., Sentinel Glacier, & the Glacial Pikes, 1929 (Gerry Hardman Collection)

Folks interested in the botany of Black Tusk also came to the Meadows in 1912. Specifically, John Davidson, Provincial Botanist. John came to Vancouver in 1911 from Glasgow with the directive to identify the botany of the many climatic zones in B.C. He considered Garibaldi region a large outdoor classroom where he spent many summers with BCMC and Vancouver Natural History Society, which he helped found in 1918 with Charles F. Connor. Tad Harper Letson's father was in the area in 1916 when he hiked up Panorama Ridge and took the accompanying panorama using a Kodak bellows camera.



View of the Black Tusk from Panorama Ridge, 1916

companion equipment, Burfield's 1952 Bombardier SnoBus - used to transport people from the top of chairlift to the Hollyburn Lodge. It was restored in 1983 and has been in use in Manning Park for last 28 years.



Restored John Deere tractor (crawler), Hollyburn Lodge, First Lake, Hollyburn Ridge - June 2011

During the past year, our Archivist/Historian, Don Grant, has made several presentations his latest film, "Hugh Aikens: Mountain Photographer." He has also created several new pages on the HHS website and updated others by adding photos and videos.

Hugh Aikens: Mountain Photographer



Elm Lakes, Garibaldi Provincial Park 1942 Hugh-Turley Aikens c. 1942 Near Mt. Baker, Washington c. 1942

Now this year is a "Hollyburn Heritage Society" Facebook page. We encourage visitors to the HHS Facebook page. SEE ALSO "Hollyburn Lodge Restoration Project"

If you are interested you can still obtain our coffee/beer mugs for \$7.50. Please phone Iola Knight (604-922-7358) for more information.

Tad said of the picture, "Dad must have hiked in and up, took the photo then returned to join the army." (WW 1)

The entire Garibaldi area caught notice of provincial government in 1920's, and it was dedicated as Garibaldi Provincial Park in 1926. A topographical study was completed in 1927, with their publication of a 4x8 foot blueprint map as guide for hikers & climbers - cost \$1.

Hiking and mountaineering in the area became a favoured activity. PGE rail line was located across the Cheakamus River from Daisy Lake; it was here around "Garibaldi" Station a small community developed.



Pacific Great Eastern (PGE) train near Garibaldi Station, Daisy Lake, August, 1929 (Gerry Hardman Collection)

The trip from Vancouver into the meadows still required two days. Near the station, a lodge close to another small lake, Lucille Lake, was built to service arrivals from Vancouver. 1940's, this lodge was called McDonald. They had a telephone - it was indeed needed. The train was often late thus causing travellers to miss Union boat at Squamish.

Logging industry was also active in the valley with logs moved to mills at Squamish. With logging, men referred to as gypo loggers came to clear a cut-block of debris. This was often followed with a controlled burn to encourage new growth. To augment their income, they acquired packhorses to take peoples belongings up to the meadows. They also set up portable tent camps. George Wallis set up his h/q near Mimulus Creek, while Bert Lamb set up in center of meadows beside the trail.

Hollyburn Lodge Restoration Project

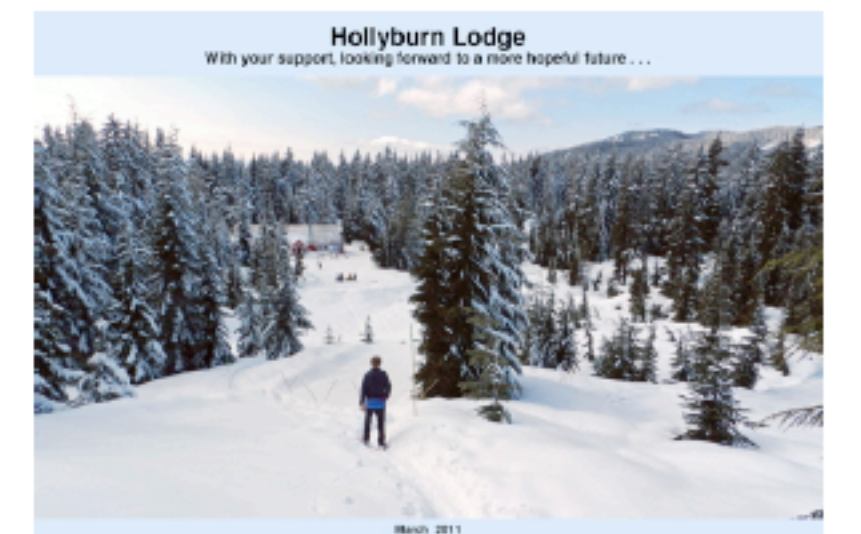
Since April 2011, HHS has been working closely with the District of West Vancouver on the Hollyburn Lodge restoration project. Things are beginning to happen again. Early next year we hope to give you specific details about the plan going forward. In the meantime, HHS will be gathering evidence of public interest in and support for the restoration and continued maintenance of Hollyburn Lodge.

You can show support for the Hollyburn Lodge project by doing one or more of the following:

1. Visit the "Hollyburn Heritage Society" Facebook page and indicate you 'like' the page.
2. Upload photos of Hollyburn Lodge, cabins, skiers, snowshoers, snowscapes, etc. to the HHS Facebook page.
3. Post your Hollyburn Lodge/Ridge stories, comments and questions on the HHS Facebook page.
4. Email HHS your Hollyburn Lodge/Ridge photos, comments, questions, stories/yarns/poems (hollyburnheritagesociety@telus.net).

You can also help by participating in our new film project, "Hollyburn Lodge Through the Generations", that will be premiered at the West Vancouver Historical Society March meeting in 2012.

Included in the film will be video-recording interviews with people who care about the lodge and want it to be there for future generations to enjoy. If you would like to be interviewed for this film, or have any questions/comments about the interview process, please send us an e-mail using the above e-mail address.



Hollyburn Lodge With your support, looking forward to a more hopeful future... March 2011



Black Tusk Meadows campsite circa 1938 (Gerry Hardman Collection)

1930's, a small log cabin was constructed in lower meadows called L.D. Taylor Cabin for a mayor of Vancouver. He believed there was sufficient water and head for hydro generation unit for City of Vancouver. Engineers working on this project built the cabin and worked from it. The project was abandoned when it was found that The Barrier was unsafe. The cabin remained and was used by groups, especially UBC VOC in winter & spring trips. Later ACC renovated it and is also used by park rangers.

Up to 1942, the meadows were a summer destination. Christmas that year, the first winter climb into meadows and first winter ascent of Black Tusk took place by six UBC students members of Varsity Outdoor Club. For years following this trip, a winter foray to the area became an annual event. Women first joined winter trips in 1944. This organization was, and still is, active mountaineers in the area - with post-exam spring jaunts, autumn trips as well as those at Christmas. Autumn trips are made by students in Vancouver School Trek Program.

L.D. Taylor's concept may have failed, but 1946, B.C. Hydro used Daisy Lake and part of valley north as reservoir for the Daisy Lake power development and the first long distance power lines became evident. For this development a tote road was constructed to Squamish. 1950, there was thrust to connect Squamish to Vancouver. The first connection was B.C. Rail that had taken over PGE in order to complete this project. Road connection from Squamish to Daisy Lake was improved. 1957, highway connection to Vancouver was accomplished. Now, one could drive from Vancouver to trailhead; hike to meadows and return same day. And hikers indeed have made use of this day trip.