

HOLLYBURN HERITAGE SOCIETY 2018 REPORT

Archivist/Historian Don Grant

During the past year, the Hollyburn Heritage Society has continued to collect text documents and photos related to the history of the North Shore mountains, many of which have been uploaded to our website, posted on our Facebook page, and included in our annual newsletter along with Hollyburn Ridge Association's bi-annual Ridgerunner magazine.

Mike Furlong sent us several photos from his grandmother's albums. Of particular interest were photos taken about 1910 during an excursion to Capilano River and a hike to the Lions. Mike also sent us some rare photos taken near West Lake about 1944.

Coincidentally, we received a document sent by John Taylor from the "Great Canadian War Project" which included notes about an ascent of the Lions about 1888 by Joseph Watson Taylor (March 1, 1869 - January 4, 1932), John's grandfather. Reference to this possible (but not confirmed) first ascent of the West Lion was included in David & Harry Crerar's recent book, "The Glorious Mountains of Vancouver's North Shore Mountains – A Peak Bagger's Guide."

In the Fall of 2017, the Hollyburn Heritage Society website was expanded to include a new web page, "Physical Geography", along with the following sub-pages.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

1. Views from the Major Summits in Cypress Provincial Park (Photos)
2. The Hollyburn Shoulder & Romstads Run (Photos & Video)
3. Hollyburn Plateau Lakes (Photos)
4. Hollyburn Lodge, First lake (Videos)
5. Hollyburn Ridge Lakes (Photos)
6. West Lake (Videos)
7. Natural Historians at Work on the Brothers Creek Trail (July 2013 - Photos & Video)
8. Old Growth Conservancy on Hollyburn Ridge (Photos)
9. Black Mountain Plateau Lakes (Photos)
10. Yew Lake in Cypress Provincial Park (Photos & Videos)

Maps, contemporary photos & videos and some explanatory notes are featured on these pages. Currently visitors to the website may access 218 web-pages.

Most of the PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY photos, and additional photos as well, were posted on the Hollyburn Heritage Society Facebook page along with photos of changes made to Hollyburn Lodge and the surrounding area by "The Crossing" film set crew. Since January 1, 2018, HHS has posted photos and text 71 times on their Facebook page.

Thirty iconic photos taken between 1927 and 2017 along with their captions are displayed on a new webpage, "History". They provide a quick overview of key events/changes on Hollyburn during the past ninety years. The current plan is that these photos will be installed on the Nasmyth bridge railings in 2019.

Since January 1, 2018, HHS & HRA History & Heritage Committee members have been collecting information regarding Hollyburn rangers, which will be included in a series of articles to be published in upcoming editions of HRA's bi-annual publication, the Ridgerunner.

Another major focus has been the collection of photos and documents related to the "Golden Age on Hollyburn (1927 -1939)" that will also be included in a series of Ridgerunner articles. To this end, Committee members have been converting microfiche scans of Vancouver Province sports articles into searchable Word documents. Recently, Ruth Asemgeest and her siblings have given HHS access to an extensive collection of photos and documents from the 1930's and '40's which were created by their parents, Jack and Thelma Hutchinson. The photos number in the hundreds, most of which we have not seen before. In recent weeks over 250 photos and some documents from this collection were scanned. After the Golden Age articles have been written, HHS will scan 100's of photos taken by Thelma Hutchinson (and others) on Hollyburn during WWII.

All the photos, videos and documents created by the HHS/HRA History & Heritage Committee during the past year have been added to two hard drives, one of which belongs to HHS and the other to HRA. These hard drives also contain digital copies of documents and photos collected by HHS since 1998. We have created an index of all the items stored on the most recently updated Hard Drives. It is our hope that this list will help future researchers find the photos, movies clips, and documents they need for their own research projects.

Storage of tangible assets; i.e., photo albums, slides, artifacts, etc., continues to be a major concern. Currently, these items are being stored in the Grant & Leskiw residences. HHS has requested storage space from DWV in the past. This request was part of the HHS submission related to the West Vancouver Arts & Culture Strategy document.

During the past year, lola Knight researched and wrote a detailed article about the development of downhill skiing on Hollyburn based in part on the personal experiences she and her husband, Gordon had had skiing on the North Shore mountains. This article was published in the Spring 2018 edition of the Ridgerunner.

lola is one of the four founding members of the Hollyburn Heritage Society, the other three being her husband Gordon, along with Bob Tapp and his wife, Greta. According to my records, lola has been secretary-treasurer since HHS was formed in 1998. This year, lola has decided to step down as Secretary-Treasurer but will continue to be a valuable resource person for our Society. I know that because lola is still sending me emails. We are very fortunate that lola's son, Tony and Cheryl Leskiw have stepped forward to take on key roles.

In 2016, the HRA & HHS History & Heritage Committee was formed. Currently, this Committee includes Don Grant, Jill Newby and Kathryn Pipke. All three of us are involved in some way with the research projects referred to earlier. Kathryn and Jill have helped lighten my load as HHS archivist/historian including, among other things, the updating the HRA/HHS pamphlet.