

# **THE MOUNT SEYMOUR HISTORY PROJECT** **July 2019 NEWSLETTER**

## **THE 27th ANNUAL PIONEER SKIERS REUNION HOSTED BY HOLLYBURN HERITAGE SOCIETY and MSHP**

**Wednesday, Sept 18th, 2019, from Noon to 4 pm.**

In September pioneer skiers and cabin owners from the early days of the North Shore Mountains will gather for friendship and memories. If you built a cabin on Hollyburn, Grouse or Seymour, or were part of the ski or hiking scene during the 1940's, 50's 60's 70's and even 80's then you should attend and meet many old friends. **LOCATION:** Mt Seymour Three Peaks Lodge, in Mount Seymour Provincial Park

**Important changes:** The lack of snail mailing of the reunion newsletters continues. We'll continue to create it and e-mail it out, but there will be a limited print edition. If you don't do computers I'd suggest asking your children or grandchildren to email me, and I'll add them to the e-mail list and then they can print the newsletter for you. Alternatively, you may view the newsletter at the [www.mtseymourhistory.ca](http://www.mtseymourhistory.ca) web site. Anyone who has not been to the reunion in the past 2 years or emailed either HHS or MSHP will not receive this mail out, so it's OK to call family and friends and remind them of this reunion. As more and more people are using computers, your E-mail address would be appreciated. If you got this newsletter by E-mail why not forward it to family & friends and suggest they also get onto the e-mail list.

The Mt. Seymour Three Peaks Lodge is wheelchair accessible. Event can be both indoors and outdoors. There will be coffee and tea available. There may be food services open on the mountain, see web site for details, [www.mtseymour.ca](http://www.mtseymour.ca) .

## **Introduction to the Hollyburn Heritage Society Website**

Rather than put any HHS printed news in the newsletter I've decided to just copy a section from the web site. The web site is right up to date and if you don't do computers then get your grandchildren to call it up on their computer, I-pad or phone and let you see all the fantastic information collected on this informative web site.

## **Welcome to the Hollyburn Heritage Society Website**

Although the website includes content far beyond Hollyburn Lodge at First Lake, it is all linked in some way to the Lodge, the people that owned, operated and/or worked at the Lodge, and to the succeeding generations who have enjoyed and continue to enjoy its unique character and recognize its important place in the history of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

There is much on the website for you to peruse & enjoy. Currently there are 241 web pages. A recommended starting point is the "[Site Map](#)", which gives you an overview of the entire website and links to all the pages. Tony Flower's nostalgic, heart-warming tribute to Fred Burfield and the Burfield family, "[Called To Higher Ground](#)", is a good introduction to the colourful history of Hollyburn Mountain.

Hollyburn's past history, (pre 2010), is the main focus of the sub-pages listed under "[Pioneers](#)", "[Hollyburn History](#)", "[Cabins](#)", "[Competitive Sports](#)", and "[Recreational Skiing](#)" while Hollyburn's more recent history, (post 2010), is the main focus of the sub-pages listed under "[Physical Geography](#)" & "[Cypress Now](#)".

The "[Geography](#)" and "[Cypress Now](#)" sub-pages feature recent photos and videos of Hollyburn's cross-country and snowshoe trails and summer hiking trails, providing opportunities for people who live at some distance from Vancouver or who have physical issues that limit their mobility, to explore these trails on their computers and/or smart phones.

Each year, a core group of Hollyburn Heritage Society members takes photos and videos on Hollyburn Ridge and in Cypress Provincial Park. The main purpose of this initiative is to provide a rich legacy of materials for future Hollyburn historians. Many of these contemporary photos are initially uploaded to the [Hollyburn Heritage Society Facebook page](#).

To find information about particular persons, places, cabins, events etc., try entering key words in the Google Custom Search Box at the top of each page.

Many Hollyburners feel a strong, emotional connection to the mountain, feelings that may be evoked by the following videos. (see the Web site to view videos)

HHS book "Hollyburn, The Mountain and the City" is still available at local bookstores. And "Flight was in his Spirit" The life of Harry Burfield by Marion Ann Burfield was issued in 2012 and should be on the coffee table of anyone interested in Ski History.

Do visit HHS website <[www.hollyburnheritage.ca](http://www.hollyburnheritage.ca)> - over 180 pages; this is a fantastic web site. [www.facebook.com/HollyburnHeritage](https://www.facebook.com/HollyburnHeritage) is also a good site. Also there is a link there to [www.hollyburnridge.ca](http://www.hollyburnridge.ca) which is the web site for the cabin owners on Hollyburn. It's also a great resource for the history of the North Shore Mountains.

## **OTHER SKI HISTORY NEWS**

The Deep Cove Heritage Society have published their book "Echoes Across Seymour" The book is available for \$39.95 from DCHS office at 4360 Gallant Ave in Deep Cove, purchase from DCHS and get complimentary membership. I'll have copies available on Seymour.

The MSHP continues to receive articles for its archives. As I always say: “I don’t want your stuff, but don’t toss it out”. Give it to me or give it to the museums/archives of the North Shore, [www.nvma.ca](http://www.nvma.ca) . Simply, don’t throw it out and make sure your children know not to toss it.”

Also, along with the Outdoor Education Department of Mt. Seymour I’ve starting my 3<sup>rd</sup> summer of **Uncle Al’s Cabin Tours**. I’ve created a small museum and after a 10-minute introduction; I lead the group on a 2-hour tour of the Goldie Lake area visiting an old cabin and a few cabin sites.

See <https://mtseymour.ca/uncle-als-cabin-tours> or call 604-986-2261 x217 for tour dates and registration. I’m more than happy to do any special groups or specific tours for any pioneers or their families.

This February 2019 the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival had the World Premier of [South Chair Media](http://www.southchairmedia.com)'s superb and beautiful film short ECHOES ACROSS SEYMOUR, SCM has posted it online for all to see:

<https://www.southchairmedia.com/#/echoesacrossseymour/>

From the film description: For forty years Alex Douglas has lived atop Mount Seymour. An explorer, an educator and an avid outdoorsman, Alex has made a home for himself in one of the last remaining cabins on the mountain. When the resort opened in 1938 local skiers began building cabins to stay in during the winter season. At its peak there were more than 300 cabins on the mountain while today only ten are still standing. Alex’s passion for preserving the history of the mountain permeates every aspect of his life. He spends his days educating the public and exploring the hills for remnants of the forgotten cabins that once dominated the landscape. With a watchful eye and a curious mind, ‘Uncle Al’ has discovered dozens of abandoned cabin sites and put together an impressive collection of artifacts found on his adventures. As he reflects on his life, Alex hopes to inspire a new generation to explore and appreciate the mountain he calls home.

Produced By: Geoff Hewat, Gordie Rogers, James Ryan & South Chair Media

Directed By: Gordie Rogers, James Ryan

Cinematography: Geoff Hewat, Gordie Rogers

That’s all for now; Thanks: Alex Douglas,  
604-986-2261 local 259: [1710clem@gmail.com](mailto:1710clem@gmail.com),  
Facebook: “Alex Douglas” or community page “Mount Seymour History Project”  
Please check it out. [www.mtseymourhistory.ca](http://www.mtseymourhistory.ca)