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2008 AGM ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2008 annual general meeting of the FHABC will be held on Saturday, September 27th at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park, 39645 Government Road, Squamish. Heading north on Hwy 99 turn left on Industrial Way, right on Queens Way, and left on Government Road. Heading south turn right on Government Way. See <http://www.wcra.org/heritage/> for more information.

The business meeting will start at 11:00 AM and be followed by a catered lunch (cost \$10 – 15) and an informative program during which a number of speakers will tell us about local history initiatives involving the Squamish – Woodfibre and Whistler areas.

Please advise Stan Chester [phone (604) 921-9880, e-mail stanchester@shaw.ca] of your attendance by Wednesday, September 24th so that we can finalize arrangements.

Carpooling will be arranged from and to Horseshoe Bay for members walking on the 8:30 AM sailing from Departure Bay, Nanaimo. The AGM program will end in time for those people to be returned to Horseshoe Bay for the 5:20 PM sailing for Departure Bay.



Recycled paper

SQUAMISH VALLEY FOREST INDUSTRY HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

by Eric Andersen, Secretary and Bianca Peters, President
Squamish Historical Society

In the Squamish area, documenting and interpreting local forest industry history has received increased attention in the last couple of years – mainly under the auspices of the Squamish Historical Society.

Varieties of activities, and the establishment of the historical society itself, have been prompted by the recent closures of longstanding industry enterprises (Woodfibre pulp mill and a local sawmill) and the unfortunate loss of important local document archives (Board of Trade and Empire Mills / Weldwood / Interfor).

More active efforts to document and present local industry history are also a response to increasing interest and curiosity expressed by the local public, including newer residents, and by visiting travellers.

The logging industry in Howe Sound and the Squamish Valley began during the last decades of the 19th century, in connection with the establishment and growth of Burrard Inlet sawmilling ventures.

Logging, water transport, and longshoring (especially at Moodyville, east of Lower Lonsdale on the North Shore of Burrard Inlet) became a prominent occupation among native Squamish men quite early in this industrial era. Today, the Squamish Nation is itself the largest owner of forest tenures in the district. The Squamish Historical Society is very pleased to enjoy the interested participation of Squamish Nation community members in helping to document and preserve local industry heritage.

Despite a long and colourful history, and in contrast with other areas of the BC coast, local logging industry activity seems to be not so well documented in photographs – or preserved as physical artefacts. To compensate for this we have needed to “dig deeper” in assembling information, and work more innovatively in combining different media (maps, film, interview text, and photos) to produce narratives for public display or electronic distribution. We have met some quite unexpected results and success in these endeavours.

Significant reliance on information from an ambitious program of interviews with local pioneers undertaken by the Squamish Public Library in the early- to mid-1980s has brought awareness of the importance of maintaining such a program. We have also realized that the most critical gaps in our picture of the area’s forest industry development concern, in fact, the more recent decades – from the 1940s.

Transportation of logs and wood products – by water, railway, and road – is a very prominent theme in the Squamish area’s forest industry history. This is due not only to the ongoing challenges presented by difficult mountain terrain and unpredictable rivers, but also because of a strategic position in a unique coast-interior transportation corridor. Squamish has served as a tidewater portal for Interior forest product exports for nearly a century.

This transportation theme links our Squamish Historical Society efforts with heritage activities of the West Coast Railway Association, and other projects and groups further “up the line” in Whistler, Pemberton, and beyond.

In fact, this theme also links us with the Port Museum of Shimizu, Japan – a “sister city” of Squamish, which began receiving shipments from Squamish Terminals Ltd. in the early 1970s. We are also anxious to initiate exchange with the Showa -no-Mori Kaikan Forest Museum in nearby Izu, Japan.

Another aspect of Squamish geography significant in various ways to forest history documentation and presentation activities is our proximity to the Lower Mainland.

Over the years, Squamish has hosted many visiting journalists and tour groups interested in looking at forestry operations. We have found articles and photos from such visits, interesting for our research purposes, dating from prior to World War I and onward.

A convenient location may also partly explain why the Squamish Forest District has long been a busy arena for forest management research and development – in reforestation technology, prescribed burning, preserving landscape visual quality, and several other fields. This record of local research and development activity deserves attention, perhaps in collaboration with our neighbours working on the Whistler Forest History Project, as well as the Forest Service and research communities.

The now 51-year tradition of “Squamish Logger Sports” is already receiving treatment as a local history topic. Many years of international exchanges are one aspect of this topic.

Establishment of a museum and exhibit facility dedicated to showcasing the “past, present, and future of forestry and wood,” and complementing the West Coast Railway Heritage Park and BC Museum of Mining at Britannia Beach, is a longstanding local vision.

In 2007, a Sea-to-Sky Forestry Centre Society was formed by community leaders and regional industry representatives to realize this facility project – hopefully, at some scale, in time for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The Squamish Historical Society and local partners look forward to ongoing collaboration with groups around BC, in pursuing “Public Forest Education through Forest History.”

For more information see our website <http://www.squamishhistory.ca/>



EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF FOREST HISTORY IN BC

From information provided by Emily Jane Davis

On April 25th a conference at the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC brought more than 20 people together to explore different perspectives on forest history. It was sponsored by the NiCHE (Network in Canadian History and Environment) Forest History Cluster, a subgroup of a national network of scholars dedicated to the study of history and nature in Canada. The cluster is organized by Dr. Graeme Wynn of UBC Geography and assisted by Emily Jane Davis, a Ph.D. student.

Graeme Wynn welcomed everyone to the conference and described the activities of NiCHE, in particular its origins as a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council funded network and described the other cluster groups, including the forest history cluster.

The conference's intent was to unite professional foresters, academics, museum curators, and others on the subject of forest history via panel discussions and a tour of the Special Collections exhibit on forestry. Each panel explored the experiences and contributions of professional, academic, and archival / curatorial works. The day concluded with an open discussion on the future of forest history between all panellists and the audience.

Cultural / Ecological Perspectives Panel

Charles Menzies, UBC Anthropology - spoke of the ways in which aboriginal people are elided or forgotten in much research and of some of his own experiences with the Forests and Oceans for the Future Project.

Sarah Gergel, UBC Landscape Ecology - presented on the historical nature of forests. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining skills such as airphoto interpretation to enable forest history research. Sarah explained the value of forests at a variety of scales and how these values can be quantified over time.

Marguerite Forest, Council of the Haida Nation - summarized some projects, particularly on the identification of culturally modified trees (CMTs) on Haida Gwaii, which is a potential "hotbed" for forest history research given its at least 10,000 years of forest use.

Professional Foresters Perspectives Panel

John Parminter, FHABC - described the activities of the Forest History Association of BC and trends in forest history research. The focus of research has shifted from an industrial basis to a range of topics including environmental and social issues. Also, the number of publications in forest history has declined in recent years.

Barbara Coupé - presented a range of perspectives, including the role and perceptions of professional foresters, the importance of ecological and environmental considerations, forest history in the Interior, on what forest history means, and what types of research it can encapsulate.

Stan Chester, FHABC - described his hopes for the future of forest history from both the perspective of foresters and from his position as President of the FHABC. He contextualized these hopes within the current complex situation of BC's forest industry and the challenges that it poses for the collection and use of forest history resources.

Mike Apsey, Ministry of Forests and Range Centenary Celebration Society - discussed the history of the Forest Service and how and why its 100th anniversary will celebrate past accomplishments with a sense of optimism for the future. He also explained his experiences in looking for forest history sources across the province.

Museum / Archival Perspectives Panel

Lorne Hammond, Royal BC Museum - discussed a range of issues pertaining to archival collection and museum display of materials, including the challenges of collecting and processing materials; the protection of local, community, and indigenous knowledge; the maintenance of interpretive skills; and the need to digitize a number of important collections that may otherwise be lost.

James Tirru-Jones, Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum - described the work and exhibits of the museum, emphasizing the importance of primary, original sources in forest history and their accessibility. He also gave some history of Prince George's mills and the associated challenges of recording and working on it.

George Brandak, UBC Rare Books and Special Collections - spoke to the patterns of archival collections and research that exist in BC and the need to sustain and create archives if we wish for a meaningful future for forest history. He suggested a proposal to the Association of BC Archivists to build a provincial acquisition strategy for forest history.

Academic Perspectives Panel

David Brownstein, Historian and Independent Scholar - much work has focused on the forest industry as an economic phenomenon, and little else. New work may explore the role of science and policy-making, how ideas about forest management have diffused around the globe, and a forest history of BC from time immemorial to the present.

Richard Rajala, Historian, University of Victoria - described what he sees as "good times" for forest history at large and listed a vast array of topics and projects that have been conducted on the subject. He then listed some gaps and contemporary challenges to both the forest industry and the creation of forest history.

Richard Mackie, Historian - discussed forest history through the lens of his experiences as a freelance historian in the 1990s. He emphasized the importance of the form of a freelance or commissioned book for inclusion of photographs and stories key to the telling of local and personal elements of forest history and the significance of local forest history.

As a result of subsequent discussions, the following action items were identified:

- 1) Maintain communications between those interested in collaboration and inform and reach out to other interested groups and individuals.
- 2) NiCHE can partially fund a small, controlled selection of oral histories and make portions available as podcasts.
- 3) NiCHE should partner with the MoFR's Centenary and communicate any activities and resources created or learned about through this partnership to the broader group.
- 4) Those with expertise and interest in creating a names database should hold discussions. The scope of this project and linkages to various archives need to be determined.
- 5) Attention to "deep history" and changing forest structures and uses over time involve an understanding of landscape and forest structure, as well as various technologies for mapping past uses.

For more information see the NiCHE website <http://niche.uwo.ca/node/10>



JOHN DAVIDSON: THE LEGACY OF A CANADIAN BOTANIST

by David Brownstein

The University of British Columbia Botanical Garden and the Virtual Museum of Canada are pleased to announce the launch of "John Davidson: The Legacy of a Canadian Botanist / L'heritage d'un Botaniste Canadien" at <http://www.botanyjohn.org>

This digital resource tells the story of "Botany John" Davidson (1878-1970). Davidson was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and was active in the Aberdeen Workingmen's Natural History and Scientific Society. He immigrated to Vancouver, BC in 1911 and popularized nature study through illustrated public lectures. Davidson created the Vancouver Natural History Society and the University of British Columbia's herbarium and botanical garden. Today, many consider him an environmental folk hero for his conservation efforts.

The website houses over 5000 digitized objects, including Davidson's herbarium sheets, lantern slide collection, field notes and speech texts, as well as oral history interviews and contextual narratives. Botanyjohn.org is an invaluable resource for students and researchers interested in the history of botany in both Scotland and northwestern North America. We particularly invite your participation in the online forum to discuss photographs from the collection. See <http://botanyjohn.org/forum>

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I am looking for information about the Hornsby Chain Track steam crawler that was used around the Coal Harbour area, near Port Alice, circa 1927 to 1930 in the pulp / logging industry.

This is a Canadian historically significant machine - the first commercial bulldozer / caterpillar track machine in the world. If you have any information or can direct me to anyone who does I would be very grateful.

David Davies, Hornsby Research
9405 Doyle Rd
Black Creek BC V9J 1E6
E-mail: djdavies@uniserve.com

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Burch, Gerry and J. Parminter. 2008. Frederick Davison Mulholland, P. Eng., B.C.R.F. – the father of sustained yield forestry in British Columbia. Forest History Association of B.C., Victoria, B.C. 134 p.

Carradice, J.H. and K. Grozier. 2007. 55 years in the Vancouver Forest District / Coast Forest Region of the British Columbia Forest Service – a collage of stories, facts and trivia (revised edition). B.C. Forest Service, Victoria, B.C. 266 p. ISBN 978-07726-5826-5. \$25.20 Softcover. B.C. Government Publications product number 7610003319. <http://publications.gov.bc.ca/>

Day, Ken. 2007. History of the UBC Alex Fraser Research Forest (1987-2007) – excerpts from management and working plan # 3. Faculty of Forestry, UBC, Vancouver, B.C. 39 p. http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/resfor/afrf/Reports_Index.htm

Friesen, Abe. 2007. In over my head. Blitz Print, n.p. 183 p. ISBN 978-07795-0191-5. (Retired president of Pope & Talbot Ltd. tells his story with an inside look at softwood lumber and other life experiences.)

Pyne, Stephen J. 2007. Awful splendour – a fire history of Canada. UBC Press, Vancouver, B.C. 584 p. ISBN 978-07748-1391-4. \$85.00 Hardcover.

Revel, John. 2007. Devil's club, black flies, and snowshoes – a history of the Aleza Lake Forest Experiment Station, 1940's to 1964 (and beyond). Aleza Lake Publication Series No. 1, Aleza Lake Research Forest Society, Prince George, B.C. vi + 43 p.

Zhang, Daowei. 2007. The softwood lumber war: politics, economics, and the long US - Canada trade dispute. Resources for the Future Press, Washington, D.C. xvii + 301 p. ISBN 978-1-933115-55-9. \$85.00 USD Hardcover. ISBN 978-1-933115-56-6. \$38.95 USD Softcover.

NEW FHABC WEBSITE AND ONLINE NEWSLETTERS

Thanks to the creative efforts of member David Brownstein, the FHABC now has a more robust host for its website and a new URL <http://fhabc.org/> This will enable us to add more content as the previous website was limited to image files.

Some back issues of the FHABC newsletter are online courtesy of the MoFR library, at

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/Library/lib_Forest_History_Newsletter.htm

That link and others are given on our website.



NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

After 27 years and 85 issues, John Parminter is retiring as the FHABC's newsletter editor and handing over the reins to Barbara Coupé, a professional forester who recently relocated from Williams Lake to Prince George in order to attend UNBC. Barbara is interested in both creative writing and forest history and will bring a fresh perspective to the newsletter.

In giving up these duties I would like to express my gratitude to all the authors who contributed material over the decades and to the many members who let me and the FHABC Executive know that they enjoy receiving and reading their newsletter. I am confident that our members will support Barbara by providing her with material so that we can continue to document our province's forest history and tell of our experiences.

John Parminter



This newsletter is the official organ of the Forest History Association of British Columbia. Please submit newsletter material and send changes of address to the Editor: Barbara Coupé, # 312 – 3033 Ospika Blvd S, Prince George BC V2N 4L5 Phone: (250) 562-1051. E-mail: bjcoupe@telus.net

Membership in the association is \$10 yearly, or \$45 for five years. Please send dues to the Treasurer: Art Walker, 564 Oliver Street, Victoria BC V8S 4W3 Phone: (250) 598-4455 E-mail: jaws564@telus.net

The President: Stan Chester, can be reached at 5686 Keith Road, West Vancouver BC V7W 2N5 Phone (604) 921-9880. E-mail: stanchester@shaw.ca