

President's Report



by Ann Brousson

March was a noteworthy month for the members of the West Vancouver Historical Society. On March 14th, our own Don Grant held a successful and touching presentation of his film "Hollyburn Lodge through the Seasons and the Generations". His 60 minute film was attended by an overflow crowd at the Seniors Centre and transported its viewers back to the early days of the Lodge and the mountain. It is to be hoped that our goal of restoration of Hollyburn Lodge soon comes to fulfillment. Many years have been spent on this project and we hope to see progress soon.

West Vancouver has now had its first official celebration to honour the centennial year. For those of you who attended the Memorial Library on March 15th, 2012, the occasion was memorable. 1700 people enjoyed the entertainment, the cupcakes and balloons, and official speeches by local dignitaries. The party atmosphere was enhanced by actors dressed up in period costumes representing people

from the past. It was entertaining to be in a conversation with Charles Nelson, the first Reeve of West Vancouver.

Following rapidly upon the heels of that special day was our own exhibit opening in the Museum.

"A Journey Through Time" came to life on March 20th and continued on at the Museum until April 28th. A great deal of work went into its production and we all enjoyed the results. We hopped through the decades drawing attention to local topics: the Ferries, the Mountains, the Yacht Clubs, May Day, early Businesses, Streetscapes to name but a few. All were depicted with pictures from our Archives, and from other donors in the community. Artifacts from Bas Collins, Bud Griffiths, and the Archives helped bring the topics to life. Your support for this kind of exhibit was much appreciated. Many thanks to Bas and Bud.

Plans for the centennial celebration on June 2nd, 2012 are accelerating as the date approaches. Hollyburn School, the alma mater of some of us, turns 100 this year and an event filled morning is planned for the 2nd of June from 9:30 - 1:00 pm at the School. After that time, festivities will proceed to Ambleside Park. Come out and enjoy the maypole dancing, the bands, and children's activities

and performances. Forty children will be on a panel which will draw attention to significant people from West Vancouver in "The Walk of Fame". Mark your calendars now and enjoy this historic day.

At the Society, we are carrying on with the sales of our book "Cottages to Community" at public events and through our designated small businesses in each neighbourhood. The quantity of books left is now down to the 500's, so we ask you to purchase what you need while the stocks last.

Our summer barbeque will be on Saturday, August 25th, 2012 starting at noon on the grounds of the Gertrude Lawson House, 680 - 17th Street. Hamburgers, pie, beverages, and fun are served up on a pleasant summer day for all to enjoy. Come out and support us.

Our speaker at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 16th will be Barrie Chapman, who will entertain us with tales of the history of the early West Vancouver telephone system. This meeting will be at the Seniors Centre at 7 pm in the Marine Room. We look forward to seeing you there. The election of Board Members for the 2012-13 year will take place at this meeting.