



1. Newport Town (Pd)

Sign Location: Lotus Gardens
 Photo Credit: 11.6 Squamish Valley Museum; Squamish Town Centre Association Collection
 Photo(s): Library Archives 11.6 (large), Doug Burnes A 6 (inset)
 334 words

Downtown Squamish in the late 1800s photo right (or Pearl's Place)

Photo Credit: Lesley Keith
 Photo(s): Lesley Keith

Before there were many European pioneers in the Squamish Valley, downtown Squamish was owned by a gentleman named George Magee, who raised cattle and grew hay. He brought in Chinese labourers to build the dykes that can still be found in the estuary, and created hay fields on the tidal flats at the mouth of the Squamish River. In 1890, Mr. Mashiter was hired to manage the ranch. Some of the earliest pioneer families were the Magees, Hickeys and Galbraiths.

The Squamish Valley was a series of pioneer settlements in the early days: Brackendale, Squamish, Upper Squamish, Cheakamus and Cheekeye. During the railway boom (1907 – 1913), the downtown area of Squamish was promoted as Newport and was planned to be the "Gateway to the Orient". Railway investors had grand schemes for the small settlement, as evidenced by this excerpt from the article "Building a Seaport" by Richard Weston.

"Wherever railroads can reach the coast and find deep water there will be found the nucleus of future metropolis of British Columbia. Recent operations on Howe Sound have opened up great future possibilities on Howe Sound.

A new seaport is now in the making it is "Newport" and the last in Western Canada to receive attention.... There is room for many such places in British Columbia but nature though lavish with so many of her gifts has been very sparing in localities for harbour cities, therefore what she has given will undoubtedly be made the most of and Newport in due time will take her place in the front ranks of maritime and commercial importance. She has started and will gain momentum that cannot be impeded." November 1907 issue of Westward Ho Magazine.

The name Newport, adopted around 1912, had to be changed because there was another town with the same name. In 1914 after the boom was over, a contest to rename the town was held and the school children voted to change the name back to Squamish.



2. The Starlight Theatre (Pd)

Sign Location: Basil Milnes office until building built
Photo Credit: Hilda Rizun Photo, Squamish Town Centre Association Collection
Photo(s): Doug Burnes A 15
173 words

The theatre that stood here until 2008, was one of the oldest buildings in Squamish. In the 1920's it became a cinema and continued to be a social gathering place until it closed in the 1980s, becoming an office building. It had many glamorous names throughout its long history. During the twenties and thirties it was the Rex Theatre, during the forties and fifties it was the Star Theatre, and during the sixties and seventies it was the Starlight. Mark Armstrong remembers a "big glass dome on the counter in which orange juice bubbled up and ran down the inside – it mesmerized me. The lobby was nicely carpeted with a bright colourful pattern and it smelled nice in there. There was a beautiful little white porcelain fountain that continually bubbled with ice-cold water that was incredibly delicious and refreshing. Inside the theatre the walls and ceiling were all tongue in groove. Saturday matinees cost a dime, I think, and it was bedlam. The manager was always kicking out the older boys for acting up."



3. William Mashiter House

Sign Location: Fields
Photo Credit: Armstrong Collection
Photo(s): Doug Burnes A 13
193 words

This rambling house, built by William Mashiter in 1903, stood on the corner of Cleveland and Winnipeg, where Fields is today. Mashiter was a prominent and well-respected citizen of Squamish from 1890 to 1938. He arrived in Squamish after years of adventure on the Skeena River and Cassiar trail as a gold miner and fish canner. He came to Vancouver by canoe, and lived in Gastown before settling in Squamish. Mashiter was a jack-of-all-trades – he built the store, post office and hotel in one building in 1890, all located at the first dock. He also conducted Anglican Church services and was a justice of the peace. Before there was a bridge across the East branch of the Squamish River, Mr. Mashiter used his canoe to ferry people over. The story goes that people would hike down along the trail connecting Squamish to the northern

communities of Brackendale, Cheekeye and Cheakamus. Once at the river, they would fire a gun three times and wait for Mr. Mashiter to come in his canoe. Sometimes they had to wait a long time. In 1965 the house was moved to Brackendale and unfortunately burned soon after.



4. Adam's and Adam's Grocery

Sign Location: Pearl's Seconds
Photo Credit: Lesley Keith Collection
Photo(s): Lesley Keith
112 words

Built by Dave Galbraith in 1912, this general store was known to have a little bit of everything. Although it was terribly hard for customers to find anything in the crowded store, Mrs. Galbraith, who ran the store, knew the location of every single item. Galbraith later sold the store to the Adams brothers. Joe Mulhern delivered groceries for Adams and Adams in the 1930's. He remembered that the snowplow would only clear one narrow lane, so when another car was met on the way to Brackendale, a passing lane had to be cleared by hand.

In those days, Squamish used to get about four feet of snow, consequently everyone traveled with shovels in the winter.



5. The S. S. Burt at Mashiter's Landing, 1894 (Pd)

Sign Location: Westland Insurance
Photo Credit: Dorothy Farquharson Collection
Photo(s): Library Archives 8.11
143 words

Mashiter's Landing was located at the bottom of Winnipeg Street, on what is now the Mamquam Blind channel. It was the original port of entry to Squamish, long before there were roads or a railway connecting Squamish to Vancouver. Until 1956 when the railway went through, the Squamish port was a vital connection to the outside world, and the townspeople would often gather to meet the boats that were the only transportation to and from the city. At low tide the boats would wait outside the mouth of the channel so they didn't hit ground on the tidal flats. Today, there are still descendents in Squamish of the Raes and Judds who are in the photograph.

In 1902 a new wharf was built out to deep water and Captain Cates built a larger boat, The Britannia, to take advantage of the easier access. She served the Howe Sound communities

from 1902 until 1909. Evidence of this wharf can still be seen from the Oceanfront lands at the end of Cleveland Avenue.



22.20
Mackenzie's Department Store in downtown Squamish, B.C. (Photo: Ruth & Barbara)



6. Mackenzie's Department Store

Sign Location: Mackenzie Plaza (Cleveland frontage)
 Photo Credit: 22.20 Julie Desjardin Collection
 Photo(s): [Library 22.20](#), 36.12 inset
 140 words

Mackenzie's Store on the corner of Winnipeg and Cleveland was the main store in Squamish for many years and was owned by Roderick Mackenzie, who bought his first lot for \$2000 during the Newport Boom in 1913. When the boom was over, he bought his second lot for \$35. For more than fifty years, Mackenzie's sold everything from fresh meat to hardware to sewing supplies. Before there were many cars in the valley, his business also made home deliveries. It is said that Mackenzie's only competition for years was the "Adam's and Adams" general store. Ellen Grant recalled that since it was on the other side of the street, the competition was low: before Cleveland was paved, the road was so incredibly muddy due to cattle use that most people would do all their shopping on one side so they didn't have to cross.



7. Bucket of Blood (Pd)

Sign Location: Gelato Carina
 Photo Credit: Louise Fowler, Squamish Town Centre Association Collection; inset 6.78 Scott & Mildred Macdonald Collection
 Photo(s): Doug Burnes B 15, Library Archives 6.78 inset
 192 words

This photograph looks up north on Cleveland during a mayday parade. The large wooden building with the garage door has quite a history – it was built in 1912 and soon became known as the "Bucket of Blood". It was built by Holland and Edwards, a local logging company who worked on the other side of the Squamish River. To keep their loggers happy and entertained, so they wouldn't move on to other camps, Holland & Edwards built the "Bucket of Blood", as it came to be known. Charlie McKinnon's restaurant was downstairs, and the poolroom and hard cider

were upstairs. For those who felt like picking a fight, this establishment was the place to go – thus the name. It was located to the right of where Gelato Carina’s is today. According to Gwen Cash, who came here for a short time with her husband and son in the late 20s, *"Squamish had one long, straggling street, with board sidewalks and false-fronted stores. It looked as if it had been lifted holus-bolus out of a Western movie set."* From the book - *I LIKE BRITISH COLUMBIA* by Gwen Cash (1938) Chapter IV, SQUAMISH



8. Harding’s Barber Shop (Pd)

Sign Location: Anna’s Attic
Photo Credit: Squamish Town Centre Association Collection
Photo(s): Doug Burnes E 2
193 words

The big building in the centre of this picture was Stan Harding’s Barbershop, built in 1929, and is now Anna’s Attic. To the left of it stood a telegraph office, a fire hall with **the bell tower** where hoses were hung to dry, and a gas station. Later, a pool hall was built next to this building.

Gwen Cash, who lived at the Squamish Hotel in the 1920s, wrote, *"Two Indian villages, one near the roundhouse and the other in the estuary across the Chicamous River [presumably East Branch of the Squamish, or today’s Mamquam Blind Channel], provided a delightful touch of irony. A parental Dominion Government had built four- and five-room cottages for the Indians. But the trouble was none of the tribe would live in them, preferring the Reserve in North Vancouver in the winter and any old place, tent or dugout, in summer. And, of course, Whites couldn’t live in them. So, though there was a shortage of houses in Squamish, there were also a good many unoccupied."*

Although many of the original buildings have come and gone, the Chief still dominates the sky like it does in this photograph.



9. Logger’s Lane

Sign Location: Scotiabank
Photo Credit: Armstrong Collection
Photo(s): Doug Burnes A 11
116 words

Cleveland Avenue was once the Squamish Valley's major route to the harbour. Loggers used the avenue to transport timber from the forest to the log dump where the logs were dumped into the chuck and boomed up to be towed by tug boat to mills in the Vancouver area.

As Cleveland turned into a busy town centre, store merchants complained that wind from the fast moving logging trucks caused their awnings to collapse. As a solution, Logger's Lane was created, parallel to Cleveland. From then on, Logger's Lane was used to haul logs, and Cleveland's awnings remained intact. (Eric – where does this story come from?)

The buildings in the background are the Bank of Nova Scotia and Howe Sound Motors.



10. Gas Station

Sign Location:

Community Policing Station

Photo Credit:

9.7 Mary Goad Collection, 5.159 Bob Armstrong Collection

Photo(s):

Library Archives 9.7, 5.159 inset

174 words

The first gas station in Squamish, Howe Sound Motors served the few cars that putted around the valley before the road came through. Although the highway had been proposed in the 1890's, it wasn't until 1958 that the Seaview Highway - as christened by the politicians - was completed, connecting Squamish to Vancouver. The entire town was festive for days upon its completion, and everyone used the Squamish Highway - as the locals called it - to go shopping in Vancouver.

The inset is a picture of one of Harry Judd's coaches. Harry Judd, a local farmer and pioneer, supplemented his income by running a transport company. Since boats were the only way from Vancouver to the Squamish Valley there was a need for transportation up and down the valley. Judd's company took people from the Government Wharf in the commercial center, to Brackendale where more pioneers had settled due to the abundant, fertile farmland.

First using oxen, then horses, Judd graduated to his first motor stagecoach "The Rapid" in 1911. Often enough it would get stuck in the mud and he would have to revert to horse and buggy.



11. JT Lake Hardware Store

Sign Location: Squamish Martial Arts
Photo Credit: Dorothy Farquharson Collection
Photo(s): Library Archives 8.27
170 words

This photograph was taken sometime after 1913. The J T Lake Hardware store was a large building, with a boarding house on the second floor. In 1914, one of the boarders left an oil lamp lit on his dresser, after taking off the chimney and going downstairs to clean it. While he was gone a towel hanging from the towel bar on the dresser caught fire and by the time he returned, his room was a mass of flames. The first thing the boarders tried to rescue was a stove. But it got caught in the stairwell, blocking the major route out of the house, and everything else was lost. The fire spread to other buildings on the street and the whole block of buildings burned. Minnie Armstrong, who lived in the building at the time, had to keep moving from building to building with an 18-month old baby in her arms, as the buildings caught fire.

Mr. Lake built had a lovely large house built for his family on Fifth Avenue between Winnipeg and Victoria, where it stands today.



12. The Boom is On

Sign Location: The Chieftain Hotel
Photo Credit: Eleanor Bishop Collection
Photo(s): Library Archives 46.10
188 words

During the railway boom in the early 1900s, Squamish was a bustling and promising little place. In fact, two grand hotels were built as shown in this photo taken on the corner of Victoria and Cleveland looking west towards Second Avenue. The hotel to the left was the King George Hotel (built 1910), and to the right was the Newport Hotel (built 1912). Now the Chieftain Hotel, the circa 1957 neon sign was made famous by the TV series "Men in Trees".

In the early days, the Newport was a popular hangout with the loggers, because owner Bob Carson allowed them to wear their caulk boots into the building. During prohibition, Carson legally served a 2.5% alcoholic beer called "near beer."

The Newport burnt down in 1956 and on the night of the fire the whole town came out to watch. The hotel's furniture and contents lined the street, while onlookers could hear the kegs of beer exploding inside. Mark Armstrong's grandmother, Moonie Hartnell, said, "It does my heart good to hear all those barrels of beer blowing up." The hotel's regulars didn't necessarily agree with her sentiment.



13. Log Dump (Pd)

Sign Location: Parkside Restaurant
Photo Credit: 26.10 H. Brightbill Photo, 17.15 Ed Aldridge Photo
Photo(s): Library Archives 26.10, inset 17.15
68 words

Before 1921, what is now known as the Mamquam Blind Channel (where the Squamish Yacht Club is today) was used for unloading logs from railway cars. The logs were put into booms and towed to Vancouver by tugboat. The inset shows how massive much of the timber coming out of this valley was. There are still some standing "giant" trees aged at 800 years old in Paradise Valley.



4.18
Viewpoint of Victoria & Howland Ave.
during 1940 flood. Building in background still used
for business today. Margaret McCallum in foreground.
Walter W. Burnes/
National Archives

14. Squamish Floods – Cleveland (Pd)

Sign Location: H & R Block
Photo Credit: Squamish Town Centre Association Collection; 4.18 Lynette Halvorson Collection
Photo(s): Doug Burnes E 6, [Library Archives inset 4.18](#)
181 words

Downtown Squamish is below sea level in the Squamish River delta and has suffered from major floods throughout its history. The October 1940 flood was so bad that it caused navigation to come to a halt in Howe Sound due to the debris. Although the floods were extremely devastating, people say they brought the community together. The people of Squamish had many ingenious ways of coping with floods. In those days, wood was plentiful and cheap so sidewalks were built out of wood; it was a happy coincidence that the sidewalks functioned like rafts during a flood. The only drawback was that after the flood was over, **everyone** had to go and collect his or her portion of sidewalk. This picture looks north up Cleveland Avenue. Margaret McCallum (inset photo), the Waltz In Café owner, stands at this very intersection. The building in the background, now H & R block, was Yarwood's Drugs, owned by Bun Yarwood, the first and only druggist in the area for many years. This building was raised about a meter after the flood.



15. PGE Station

Sign Location: Squamish Arts Council Building
Photo Credit: 26.20 W. Green Collection, 26.21 W. Green Collection
Photo(s): Library Archives 26. 21, 26.20
191 words

The Pacific Great Eastern Rail was completed from Squamish to Pemberton in 1914. Previously, the Pemberton Trail was used to carry mail and freight and it was common to see long trains of packhorses winding their way along the narrow trail. By 1921, the railway made it up to Quesnel and gained the nickname "Prince George Eventually", and "The Railway from Nowhere to Nowhere" until it was completed to Prince George in 1952. The PGE was a vital link for the people along its route. In those days, the train would stop wherever passengers waited. They simply had to wave a piece of red cloth, and it would lurch to a stop – perhaps that's why it was known to be late on occasion. Many other things regularly delayed the train – snow slides, landslides, falling rocks, floods, fires and mechanical failures. For these reasons, the railway connection to Vancouver wasn't completed until 1956 and even then the inaugural run was delayed by a landslide at Porteau Cove.



16. August Jack (need to find a good photo) (Pd)

Sign Location: August Jack Hotel
Photo Credit:
Photo(s):
194 words

This is going to be a photo of August Jack. I am in the process of working with Alice Guss on this one.



17. Cleveland Slough (Pd)

Sign Location: Squamish Library
Photo Credit: 5.79 Bob Armstrong Collection
Photo(s): 5.79
194 words

Downtown Squamish is built on an estuary and throughout the early half of the last century it had a series of tidal sloughs running through it. This picture looks north on Cleveland,

from a bridge that used to cross Cleveland just south of Victoria Street over Turnie's Slough. It is said that the sloughs smelt terribly in summer, and were a breeding ground for mosquito larvae. However, they provided hours of entertainment for the kids of the Valley, who raised ducks, rafted and canoed in summer and skated in winter. The sloughs were filled in late in the 1950's.



18. Hotel Squamish (Pd)

Sign Location: Oceanport Hotel
 Photo Credit: Squamish Town Centre Association Collection
 Photo(s): Doug Burnes C 11
 111 words

Built as the King George Hotel in 1910, this original building became the Squamish Hotel or Hotel Squamish and is now the Oceanport Hotel. It was a popular residence for young loggers. The Reverend Wilson, a well loved Anglican Minister, also resided in the Squamish Hotel. Not feeling he should retire, he arrived in Squamish in 1924 after many years in the ministry and served the congregation until his death in 1935. It is said that he won over the young loggers because he allowed them to store their liquor in his room for safekeeping from the other young men who might be tempted to "borrow" a drink here and there.



38.18
 Fashion show in PGE Hall. Top: Elmore Sullivan, Marianne
 Jacobson, Mae Fremont. Second row (l. to R): Shirley Nudd, Adee
 Morrison, Peggy Lane, Aileen Smith. Front row (standing) Violet
 Harrison, Tom Martin.
 Community Events



19. Pacific Great Eastern Hall (Not Charging)

Sign Location: Bowling Alley (temporary)
 Photo Credit: Squamish Town Centre Collection, 38.18 Aleeta Armstrong Collection
 Photo(s): Doug Burnes C 9, inset 38.18
 125 words

The PGE Hall, later known as Hudson House, was built in 1930 by the railway and by community volunteers. For years, it was used for community events – dances, basketball games, concerts, weddings, the May Day Celebration and the Fall Fair. These were family events, so it was common to see little ones laid to sleep in a corner of the building while the festivities continued. If townspeople arrived early it would be up to them to carry in firewood and start the fires in two giant stoves. Apparently, the railway workers and the loggers used to compete to see

who could host the best dance. People remember that the PGE Hall was filled with neighbours visiting, fiddles, harmonicas and fun, and that the entire town came to most events.



Pic of Mashiter School

20. Lower Squamish School

Sign Location: Sea to Sky Community Daycare
Photo Credit: There are two better pictures **one of the school from the front** and the Mashiter School picture would be better. **(Doug Burnes B-9)**24.47 Rose Tatlow;
Photo(s): Library Archives 24.47;
103 words

Though there wasn't a school in Squamish village proper until 1909, the first school in the valley was built in the Mamquam area in 1893. The first school downtown was held in the Mashiter store, then the King George Hotel, and then finally a small wooden building was built on Second Avenue. Because of the railway boom and the rapid growth of the Squamish community, a canvas tent was added to the school to create space. It wasn't until 1915 that a more permanent school, the Mashiter School, was built. Mary Jukes taught, and most of the students were Galbraiths, Magees or Hickies.



21. Brightbill House

Sign Location: Squamish Savings
Photo Credit: Ruth Fenton
Photo(s): Lesley Keith
73 words

The Brightbill home was built in 1933 and owned by Harry "Brownie" Brightbill, a railway engineer who worked on the "Fisherman's Special" a line going from Squamish to Lillooet. He was known for his perfectly shined red pickup truck and his beautiful garden. His home stood exactly where Squamish Savings stands today. The house was been relocated to Stan Clarke Park where it served as a museum, before being moved to The West Coast Railway Heritage Park where it stands today as part of the museum's display.



38.2
L. to R.: Robert Armstrong, Clint Bonarick, Leigh Armstrong, May Day Parade on Cleveland Avenue. Varwood Drugs in background. ~ 1958.
Health & Building
Community Events



35.15
May Day Parade at the Old Town
Photo courtesy of
Clayton Thorne
Community Events

22. May Day Parade

Sign Location: RBC

Photo Credit: 35.15 Aleeta Armstrong; 38.3 Clayton Thorne

Photo(s): Check the Library archives for better photos. [Library Archives 38.2 \(large\), 35.15 \(inset\)](#)

92 words

[Doug Burnes STCA Collection – E13](#)

The Mayday Parade was Squamish’s most important celebration, until the Squamish Days Logger Sports Festival started formally in 1958. Each May on Victoria Day, a huge parade would wind its way through downtown, followed by a maypole dance in one of the fields. Later, a senior girl would be ceremonially crowned as Mayday Queen and a community dance would ensue. A children’s dance would lead into an exclusively adults dance. As a young person, it was a big day when you were finally allowed to stay for the adults dance.



23. Dogs in the Street (Pd)

Sign Location: Squamish Veterinary Hospital

Photo Credit: Squamish Town Centre Association Collection

Photo(s): Doug Burnes E 16

177 words

Squamish has always boasted a high number of dogs per capita, even in the 60’s. Earlier in the century, downtown Squamish was even more animal friendly. In fact, livestock were so free to wander in the early 1950’s that a pound law was passed to prohibit cows and horses from walking through the downtown area because of the mud problems created by their hooves. As reported in *The Weekly Squamish Review*, 1948, *"A clean-up campaign is much to be desired in Squamish. Cows and horses wandering about the streets are an aggravating nuisance to car drivers and pedestrians alike. The animals cannot be expected to keep themselves off the streets and sidewalks, so action should be taken to correct the situation."*

Another casualty of the clean-up campaign was the old derelict Mashiter Hotel (circa 1890) on the Blind Channel. It was demolished. This photograph was taken on the corner of Cleveland and Winnipeg in the 1960’s, when only dogs were left to roam. [In fact, Squamish now boasts the highest per capita dog ownership in BC.](#)



24. Logging in Squamish

Sign Location: Century 21 Office

Photo Credit: Squamish Town Centre Association Collection

Photo(s): **Use log birling with spectators on the bridge from STCA B11;** Doug Burnes D 11,
111 words

Until recently, the major industry in Squamish was logging. In the early 1900's, there was such an abundance of timber that only the choice logs were profitable. Loggers worked very hard – in fact it might take two men more than a day on a hand saw to cut a tree like this down. The Barbour brothers, the French boys and Mr. Yap were some of the earliest loggers in the valley. Merrill and Ring, an American company, bought a lot of land in 1890 from the government for 25 cents an acre. In 1926, they logged the Squamish valley, until their departure in 1940, but still own land in Squamish today.