

A memorable New Year's eve

Rebuilding a club

On this New Year's eve, we will ski through the gate of the year without a mortgage. A time to celebrate.

It's also a time to recall an earlier New Years eve, 1979, the night the lodge burned down. They say a drunk left the screen off the Swedish fireplace, a spark got on the floor and away went the lodge.

But not the club. A club is people, not a building. You can only guess at their feelings as they looked at the ashes next morning, but at some time after the shock wore off, they must have decided that the club was too valuable to lose, that they would rebuild the lodge.

They were builders. I've often thought there's more to that word than we know because builders work with more than brick and stone—they build the flesh and blood relations that hold us together.

Estimates are that there were upward of 300 members at the time. Many drifted away. Among those who stayed, four serve today in elected office: Wayne Carlow, Adrian Verhiel, Maurice Jones, and Dieter Hanebutt.

Wayne Carlow, then lodge director, remembers this time well, driving from Vancouver to Whistler for an endless round of council meetings, permits, and negotiations. Maurice Jones became a resident at the BCIT lodge part of the winter. He had seven and a half months extra time built up with Hydro, time that he used on the lodge.

By all accounts the volunteers were a great crew. For sure they had to be. There was no road to the lodge, only a trail from the highway. Next time you go from the parking lot up the stairs, think about packing everything from the highway! Whatever the volunteers could do for themselves, they did to save money, carrying ladders, insulation and, on one great work party, put in the windows.

A number of threads had to go forward at the same time. Financing for instance. "The old lodge," says Wayne "was on leased land-- the government owned it-- but then the government gave it to the Whistler Resort Association and we had to start over again."

The WRA offered to sell them land, but at a price well above what the members could afford. The club members set about winning allies. "We had to convince people we were a non-profit organization," says Wayne. Al Raine was among those who came on side as was John Reynolds, lending their influence at Whistler council, pushing for permits and for a road. Eventually they would get the land for \$75,000.

While these meetings were going on, Bill Janyk, treasurer, was negotiating with the banks for a mortgage. Minutes of October 12, 1983 show him estimating financing at \$110,000 to date for construction and the principle on completion at \$375,000 including cost of the land. "Any restrictions to selling the land?" he was asked. "None" he replied.

The mortgage, for \$375,000, came January, 1984 guaranteed by

Maurice Jones, Alec Marshall, and Bill Janyk. There would be a second mortgage two years later for \$89,443 with ten members sticking their necks out to guarantee the loan.

There's a lot of information from those early years some on paper, some in memory, waiting to be assembled, and it should be assembled before that collective memory goes to the great lodge in the sky. We need to stretch a cord back in time through that momentous New Years eve, 1979, to the start of the club, and hang all the events, triumphs and personalities through the years to make a recorded history of the lodge. What a compelling story it would tell.

Next New Years eve marks 20 years and the millenium. So drink a toast as you go through the gate of the year--it's a historically momentous time for the club.

"He builded better than he knew-the conscious stone to beauty grew." Emerson

Meet your Lodge Director

Maurice Jones, the lodge director, has sole responsibility for administering and supervising the contract between the society and the lodge manager.

If you have any concerns--or you want to register praise-- about the lodge, take them directly to the lodge director. We could tell you that the complaint department is just beyond the outdoor hot tub, but in fact Maurice is very accessible.



Meet your Lodge Committee

Gary Allbright	Fred Pearson
Pauline Croft	Mary Connolly
Dieter Hanebutt	Maurice Jones

The lodge committee is an advisory committee to the Lodge Director.

Board of Directors

President:	Gerard Brunel	604-241-0756
V/President:	Wayne Carlow	604-980-0493
Treasurer:	Gail Sklar	250-334-0494
Secretary:	Diana Newton	604-433-3183
Lodge Director	Maurice Jones	604-988-3570
Social Director	Olga Jandera	604-524-8945
Publicity:	John Hardy	604-228-0442
Director at Large	Adrian Verhiel	604-987-1760

free boots: Adrian reports a pair of Lange ladies racing boots, size 7, Model XR9, left in the lodge last year by a tourist who didn't want them. At the lodge.