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Hollyburn Cabins

Doghouse is located on Grand National Trail

An easy drive for us today, back in the day, the only way to get to Hollyburn was to hike from the top of 22nd or 26th street in West Vancouver. On a good set of legs, this trek would take about 2 hours.

The first cabin was built in 1985 by Edward Mahon. Not long after, more cabins, like the Doghouse built by the Swansen family (and still used today), were being built by the dozens and expanded to over 100 in the area.

Given no roads in the area and all materials had to be carried up the mountain, one can truly appreciate this feat.



Hollyburn Lodge

Only surviving original/now renovated ski lodge on the North Shore. Built in 1926.

In the early years, all supplies had to be carried up for your day of skiing. Later, provisions could be purchased along the way. Most famous was the “Bread Lady” (guess what she was known for) and the “Old Mill Shop” (hot dogs, chips, hamburgers etc).

Soon lodges were built to supply a bed for the night. Ski the day, dance the night. As many as 400 would make the trek up on a typical Friday night. Bug Lights, a tin can fitted with a candle, created a long luminous chain.

Near the shore of First Lake is the Gerry Hardman snowpost. Gary lived in a tent where Earl's is now on Marine Drive in North Vancouver. He started coming up to Hollyburn when he was 11 years old and would ride the log flumes on shingle bolts down the hill.

Fun fact: First commercial interests at Hollyburn was logging. Then it was know as Mt. Vaughn.

“Holly” came from the Holly Trees that John Lawson admired as he stopped at train stations on his way to Vancouver. He soon transported two such trees to plant at this home at the foot of 17th street in West Vancouver. Not such a easy task as he had to transport the tress on a row boat from english Bay. The roaring creeds were referred to as “burns” in his native Scotland. Soon the name became popular and Mt. Vaughn was renamed.

A Scandinavian social Philosophy:

“Be of good cheer, you’re welcome here. If sad and alone, let this be your home. Here you will find, a welcome most kind.”



Burfield Trail

Fred Burfield was a volunteer ski patrol and offered first aid when needed. Later he worked as a forest ranger. In 1946, the family purchased Hollyburn Lodge.

After the age of “tows” to get up the ski hill, Fred bought a bombardier to act as a “snow bus” ferrying skiers to Hollyburn Plateau.

When Cypress Bowl Road was built in 1970, the bus was no longer needed.



Off for a day's skiing in the Winter Wonderland on Baldyhorn Plateau, West Vancouver.

What —NO CAVIAR?

NO, not at West Lake Lodge. Overnight rates of \$1 on Saturdays or holidays and 75 cents on weekdays includes use of cookstoves, dishes and kitchen utensils. You may have your own supplies packed for 3 cents per pound. Phone W. Russell at West 29-L.

Fragrant, hot coffee and sandwiches are always obtainable at the Lodge.

Skis rent for 35 cents an hour the first hour and 20 cents on hour thereafter, or \$1 a day. (Special rates for school children except on Sundays.) Your own ski checked for 10 cents a week. Special ski instruction for novices.

For overnight guests, spring beds, mattresses, blankets and flannelette sheets—a king's couch after a bracing day in the snow.

No, no caviar at West Lake—just good, clean, wholesome fun, fresh air, exercise, and dreamless, health-giving sleep.

TWO ROUTES —to the Winter Wonderland

WINTER WONDERLAND

West Lake

SKI CAMP AND
HIKERS' LODGE

Baldyhorn Plateau

"No, no caviar at Westlake-just good, clean, wholesome fun, fresh air, exercise, and dreamless, health-giving sleep."

West Lake Lodge

"The Other Lodge"

The growing popularity of skiing had the growing demand for overnight accommodations fostered by the Hollyburn Ski Camp opened up the possibilities for another camp.

Located on Hollyburn Ridge, the lodge "featured a coffee bar and dormitory accommodation. The main room had a huge fireplace where skiers could warm themselves between runs, "We had a dance every Saturday night for the whole winter!" There were ski rentals and three rope tows in front of the lodge. The dormitories could sleep about 70 people. "These were little rooms that had four or five bunks in each room!" A bunk rented for \$1 a night. The lodge had its own power *generator and guests could do their own cooking or buy meals at the coffee shop.*"

West Lake Lodge was destroyed in 1986 by fire. Possibly from sparks landing on the roof from the wood stove.



First Lake ski jump, circa 1940



First Lake Lookout (From Well's Grey)

The most popular and original ski jump areas as at First Lake. Built between 1927-1930, an impressive looking trestle and been built and hosted many ski jumping competitions.

Any Sunday afternoon at the Hollyburn ski-camp you may see the club jumpers practicing on the First Lake ski-hill.

"The ski-jumper, when he springs into the air from the take-off, after shooting down the runway, probably comes as near to flight as man unaided by a machine ever will. He flies for a considerable distance, with arms beating the air like wings, lands and flashes over the smooth snow on a long tangent line which ends in a beautiful curving turn."

In the summer, first lake was also the site of many "swimming regattas."



Mobraaten ski jump circa 1936

Souvenir Program

VANCOUVER SKI ZONE
and
CITY SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by
Ski Promotion Committee of Hollyburn Ridge

for
VANCOUVER SKI CLUB
and
HOLLYBURN-PACIFIC SKI CLUB

HOLLYBURN RIDGE
April 7 - 9th, 1939

GOOD FRIDAY

Cross-country Races: 9:30 a.m.

Jumping Tournament: 2:00 p.m.

SATURDAY

Vancouver Inter-High School Ski Tourney

EASTER SUNDAY

Downhill Races: 10:00 a.m.

Slalom Races: 2:00 p.m.

Mobraaten

The Mobraaten ski jump was built to honour Tom Mobraaten who competed in the 1936 olympic Winter Games.

Tom also competed in ski jumping tournaments throughout the west and had established himself as one of Canada's top ski jumpers. The Mobraaten trail was also used as a downhill ski run and for Slalom races. For some time a tow was in operation here.

One word of advice from Tom Mobraaten:

*A word of advice to those who are going to jump on icy snow conditions. Always have a look at the take-off and inrun, making sure they are well raked and in good condition before going up to the top. In other words, **look before you leap.***



Rope Tows

Old Rope Tow Trail and Popfly Tow (now Zig Zag)

The first rope tow was a small portable rope tow around 1943. Soon after the number of tows increased rapidly, to include over 8 tows.

Most were closed by 1965 due to safety concerns, although Popfly tow at First Lake continued operations till 1983.

It's debatable if the Popfly tow (now where Zig Zag trail is approximately located) was named after Fred "Pop" Burfield or if it got it's name children from children launching themselves airborne while on the tow. This was much to their delight and the horror to parents and tow operators.



Jack Pratt Trail

In 1958, the Vancouver Ski Club built the Jack Pratt Memorial Jump to honour the memory of club member Jack Pratt.

Since the late-1930's, Jack had been considered a strong contender in cross-country, down-hill, slalom and ski-jumping competitions. His specialty was cross-country.

The Vancouver Ski Club had hopes that the opening of the Jack Pratt Memorial Jump would herald the beginning of a new era of ski jumping on Hollyburn. This was not to be. There were only two officially-recognized competitions on the jump. Damaged in 1962 by Typhoon Freida, the jump eventually collapsed under a heavy snow load in 1967, the last of the ski jumps on Vancouver's North Shore mountains.

Today, the Jack Pratt cross-country trail passes by the former site of this jump.



HOLLYBURN HISTORY MINI TOUR

Our ski area has some very colourful history. For more go to the [Hollyburn Heritage Society website](#).

For super skiers, feel free to add in one of the original race routes:

Top of Romstad, Pacific, Well's Grey to the plateau, back up Well's Grey down to Hollyburn Ski Camp (the lodge)

Enjoy!