

## Whistler Museum archives a town born for the 2010 Winter Games

Did you know that Whistler was actually born for the 2010 Winter Games? Franz Wilhelmson, the man who opened Whistler for skiing in the 1960s, did so in hopes of hosting the Olympics. It's just one of many interesting facts in Whistler's history.

Whistler has a unique story and the Whistler Museum & Archives Society is gearing up to share it with the world through the launch of "Whistler Olympic Journey Exhibit." Created by the local community, the exhibit allows the journey of Whistler to come to life.

"The story of how Whistler evolved as a four-season destination resort has never been told in a comprehensive manner. This exhibit does exactly that in a fun and educational way," said Jehanne Burns, manager of programs & promotions.

The exhibit utilizes and builds upon the museum's extensive collection of "mountain life" artifacts from photographs to antique skis. The exhibit tells tales of local lore and showcases connections between themes including Natural History, Pioneer Influence, Olympic Visions, Mountain & Resort Development, Environmental Preservation and the Road to Future Sustainability.

The Whistler Olympic Journey Exhibit will be open to the public this winter and focus on much more than just the nuts and bolts of how the 2010 Olympics were won and the previous bids. Burns calls the exhibit all-encompassing.

"Even the formation of the mountains is part of the Olympic dream. If the mountains weren't the geography that they are then the story would never have unfolded the way it did," Burns said.

With the mountains as the backdrop, the exhibit introduces the public to the people behind the place. The local champions and legends of Whistler are folks like Myrtle and Alex Philip, who moved to the West Coast in 1911 and dreamed of opening their own fishing lodge. From pioneers to Olympic winners, the exhibit showcases the people who made Whistler happen.

"The focus of the exhibit is on the people who had the vision and courage to "make things happen", on the place that inspired them, and on the underlying principles that drove them. So it is really about the Olympic spirit. It is about the community and the magic of this place," Burns said.

Along with the Olympic spirit, the Whistler Olympic Journey Exhibit captures the imagination through interpretative elements, audience participation and good old fashioned Canadian humour. Whistler's Olympic Journey Exhibit creates an extraordinary experience for visitors to the 2010 Games. But it also engages the local community by showcasing Whistler's local culture, pride and heritage.

So step into Whistler's history this winter before, during and after the Games and experience the legends for yourself. For more information on the Whistler Museum & Archives Society, check out [www.whistlermuseum.org](http://www.whistlermuseum.org).

