

A TRIBUTE TO THE LOGGERS

Loggers Memorial – Usk BC

Good afternoon. My name is Frank Donahue and on behalf of Bill McRae Jr., Debbie and to many others too many to mention just now – welcome!

Just what is a Memorial? We will define it as a lasting symbol of remembrance and tribute to lives ended by those who provided value to friends, neighbours, family and country. And that's why we've gathered here to accomplish.

This Memorial is also a tribute to those men who survived having the courage to carry on the work within days of losing a co-worker and friend, knowing there would be a funeral within days. A tribute to the women who prepared lunch buckets; sending their men off to the bush, most often with silent prayers for their safe return. These women became the backbone of the household, handling many daily chores, the finances, family discipline, and this applies to those widows whose men would never return.

There are many names once so familiar with the bush. To mention a few; Little, Pohle, Sande, Froese, Hobenshield, Adams, Sarich, Long, Houlden, Jackson, Skoglund, Cooper, Williams and McRae. These were followed by Webber, Munson, Elsworth, Hull, Cutler, Almgren, Wood, Takhar, Penner and many others – even Martin and Ryan and to more current Lax k'Walaams and Hoi Choi.

Yes, those were the Captains of Industry – but check these names and they are among the community builders we respect today. Of course there are so many others who supported the logging industry and made similar contributions to our prosperity and development – but we don't pay sufficient homage to our loggers – and therefore this Loggers Memorial is long overdue.

Logging built our roads, schools, public buildings and paid for the infrastructure that allowed our homes and businesses to become reality. Logging provided food on our table, clothes on our back and shelter from the elements; we are the product of a logging community.

If you've spent time in the Northwest – you've been touched by logging. **FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN – NOR SHOULD WE.**

FRANK DONAHUE

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