

Whistler Museum and Archives Society 2012 Request for Proposals

The Whistler Museum and Archives Society is currently accepting artists' proposals for a sculpture memorializing Whistler pioneer, and Finnish logger, Seppo Makinen. Proposals will be accepted until March 1, 2012.

Project information

The estate of Seppo Makinen generously provided funds for this project.

The Museum is particularly interested in life-size, representational work in wood, but will consider all mediums and styles. The sculpture will be located at the base of Lost Lake Park near the Passive Haus, backing onto Blackcomb Creek and Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. Site visits can be arranged, if necessary.

The project is open to all experienced artists. Submissions will be reviewed by the Whistler Museum Board of Trustees to determine the winning proposal. The Whistler Museum and Archives Society reserves the right to make no selection in this process if an appropriate submission is not presented.

The Museum and Archives Society is responsible for constructing the base upon which the sculpture will be set. The completed sculpture will be the property of the WMAS. Maintenance of the sculpture will be the responsibility of the WMAS.

Project Schedule

Call for artists issued	January 26, 2012
Deadline for Submissions	March 1, 2012
Artist Selection	March 5, 2012
Creation of Sculpture	March 5 – June 1, 2012
Project completion date	June 1, 2012

Project Budget

The project budget is not to exceed \$5000, including HST.

Submission Requirements

Proposals should include:

- A drawing of the proposed sculpture, accompanied by a description of the concept.
- As the sculpture will be exposed to adverse weather conditions, a maintenance plan would be an asset.
- Project budget which will include all costs
- Timetable
- Artist resume, examples of other work and contact information.

Submissions can be e-mailed to curator@whistlermuseum.org or dropped off in person at the Whistler Museum by 5 PM on March 1st, 2012.

There is no compensation for proposal preparation.

For more information please call Leah Batisse, Executive Director at 604-932-2019.

Biography of Seppo Makinen

Seppo Makinen was born in Viipuri, Finland on December 6th, 1928. Seppo left Finland in 1953 and travelled the world. In 1962 he met Franz Wilhelmsen, later the first president of Whistler Mountain, at the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver. Having astute business sense, Makinen pursued this new acquaintance with Wilhelmsen and mentioned that he had been clearing the power lines at Alta Lake. A business relationship that lasted sixteen years was created. Between 1964 and 1980 Seppo and his work crew cleared just about all the original runs on Whistler Mountain. The last run, completed in 1980, was named "Seppo's", in recognition of his contribution to the development of the Resort Municipality.

Seppo had seen some of the highest highs and the lowest lows throughout his life. At one point he was one of the richest men in Whistler. His 7000 sq ft log house on Nesters Road was infamous for its incredible 14-person hot tub, parties that could last for days and for always having room for anybody looking for a place to stay. In the winters Makinen would head on down to Acapulco in a shiny red T-bird. At one point, the Finnish logger married a gorgeous Mexican actress. Even though the marriage only lasted three years, Seppo never forgot her, as evidenced by the fact that he kept her picture over his bed for the rest of his life.

However, during the 1980s, economic troubles ended the days when being a lumberman meant huge profits. With a dwindling income, he eventually lost ownership of his home. But Seppo kept it together and continued to be an icon of the Whistler community. In 1998 a fire broke out at his famous log home on Nesters Rd, and the structure burnt to the ground, leaving Makinen homeless. The Whistler community rallied to help Seppo, but things just weren't the same and Seppo ended up spending his last year living in a camper in Day Lot 4.

Tragically, Seppo passed away in his camper on November 28, 1999, most likely from hypothermia after hitting his head in a fall. He had been living in Whistler for 35 years. Over 800 people from all over attended his memorial service and he continues to be missed today. Friends and acquaintances of Seppo described him as:

- Kind
- Generous
- Charismatic and charming
- Full of great stories
- Great sense of humour
- Loved to have a good time
- Hard working
- The toughest guy in Whistler
- Always willing to make new friends

Seppo in his later years



Seppo is on the far left.