



**City of Powell River**

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**City installs piece of forestry history**

Powell River, BC – A piece of forestry history has found its way back to its original home in Powell River.

The steam donkey, or steam powered winch, from the Anderson sawmill operation has been installed at Lindsay Park. Andy and Clara Anderson ran their sawmill on Powell Lake in Block Bay from 1932 to 1960 on land leased from the Powell River Company. When the lease was cancelled in 1960, the Andersons moved the entire sawmill to their property in Mowat Bay with the hopes of setting up the milling operation there, but they could not get an operating license and it never ran again.

Unable to find somewhere to put it in Powell River, the Andersons donated the entire sawmill to the Burnaby Village Museum confident that they would get the big machine up and running again. But after discovering how costly the restoration would be, the idea was abandoned. It wasn't until 2014, when the Burnaby museum was looking to divest themselves of the sawmill that plans for its return home began to take shape. Funding for the project was made possible through a grant from Powell River Community Forest, and the work was done in partnership between the Powell River Forestry Heritage Society, the City of Powell River and qathet Museum and Archives. Now back in Powell River, the steam donkey has been set-up in Lindsay Park, close to Mowat Bay where it was originally operated.

Today many steam donkeys can be found abandoned in the forest, rusting away as relics of the past. They revolutionized logging in the early 1900s, replacing horses and oxen on a logging site by lifting, dragging, and moving logs. The one installed at Lindsay Park is called a two-drum roader. It was built in 1918 by Vancouver Engineering Works.

The machine is one of several pieces from the Anderson sawmill celebrating Powell River's rich forestry history that will be installed throughout the city.

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