



Steelhead Community Association volunteer Paul Roberts sits inside the excavator and watches (left to right) SCA chair Terri Cameron, Steelhead pioneer Doreen Cameron, Mayor James Atebe and project coordinator Roger Pells break ground for the new community hall.

CAROL AUN PHOTO

# Ground broken for new community hall

By **CAROL AUN**  
Mission Record

After years of planning, fundraising and negotiating, there's finally a hole in the ground in Steelhead for a new community hall.

The first patch of dirt was dug out by Mission Mayor James Atebe Saturday morning at the site of the old school house on Cardinal, close to Dewdney Trunk Road, where the hall is slated to be built.

It has been a long time coming, said Terri Cameron, chair of the Steelhead Community Association (SCA).

Residents of the community have talked about building a hall for more than a decade. A centre is needed to bring Steelhead residents together for meetings and community events, but more importantly, it will be used as an emer-

gency centre for the area.

Last year, a winter storm knocked over several dozen trees and cut off power to Steelhead, which essentially isolated the northern Mission community. At that time, Atebe wished there was a place residents could go for help and support.

"I knew the community needed a central gathering place," said the mayor moments before the ceremony. "Council felt their support is really needed here."

This hall will help define the community, and promote civic pride, Atebe continued.

"Steelhead has a strong community spirit," noted Atebe. "It takes all individuals in the community to build a place to call home."

And many of these individuals will be coming together to lend a hand putting up the new hall. According to a brochure

on the project, Steelhead is home to a number of talented people who have proven ability in every aspect of the building trade. Some members of the SCA are designers and some have built their own home. There is also a log grader, electrician, plumber, project coordinator and heavy duty machine operator.

The Steelhead Community Hall will be an 1,800-square-foot log post and beam structure, which compliments the area's landscape.

The hall will be built on a one-acre lot, leased from the district. Earlier this year, the district also donated logs for the building. Other supporters of the project include Arnold's Rental, Davies Sand and Gravel, Genstar, and members of the community, particularly Mark and Cindy Diamond.

Steelhead has been without

a community hall since the 1970s.

The first hall was built in 1928. The hall opened June 2 and the first dance was held July 19.

Unfortunately, the building burned down after the dance.

Another hall wasn't built until 1955 when land was generously donated by an anonymous resident. The hall opened in April 1956 and remained active until the association sold the land and building around 1970.

The old schoolhouse in Steelhead was used as the gathering place until it was torn down in the 1980s. Since then, residents have opened up their homes for needed meetings or social functions.

If you would like to help, please contact Terri Cameron at 604-826-2692. For more information, visit [www.steelheadcommunity.com](http://www.steelheadcommunity.com).