



JAN HOLMBERG

MANY OF THE fascinating people who have chosen to make Whistler their home started as visitors or short-term residents. They found themselves drawn in – not only by the mountain views, but the community spirit. Here are some of those faces.

Jan Holmberg

Now limiting himself to a gallery and frame shop, art junction@function, Jan Holmberg and his partner Ted Nebbeling have at one time or other owned and operated 12 retail gift, clothing or delicatessen businesses in Whistler. The dynamic duo were retail pioneers when Whistler's main Village was built at the end of the 1970s.

Why did you first come here?

We had been weekenders in Whistler since 1977 and we had a restaurant on Howe Street in Vancouver one block away from Whistler Mountain's corporate headquarters. Whistler Mountain execs were full of stories about development potential

in a new Whistler Village. We took the bait. There was nothing here (in Whistler).

How long had you planned to stay?

We made a commitment to stay from day one when we opened The Gourmet, the first retail store (a deli) to open in the Village, in October, 1980.

Why did you decide to stay?

There was such a Klondike gold rush atmosphere. When we opened The Gourmet, we added a bakery because there wasn't one. We opened the first Whistler T-shirt shop, the first gift shop – if we could have cloned ourselves we could have opened 30 businesses.

BY **CHRIS WOODALL**
PHOTOS BY **BONNY MAKAREWICZ**