

## AGM Speakers John Powell and Ian Pooley



“Volcanoes and Glaciers” was the topic of John Powell’s presentation at the Friends of Black Mountain AGM on Feb. 8th. Showing recent photographs of landforms of the Okanagan, he identified evidence of volcanoes and glacial erosion and deposits that shaped our valley.

If you look at the top bench of Rutland and scan across to the top of the sharp cliffs of South-East Kelowna you will get an idea of the depth and breadth

of the ancient Penticton Lake. Imagine the water then flowing north to the Fraser and you will get a sense of the changes that have taken place since 10 million years ago. The string of lakes, including Lake Okanagan and the river, now Mission Creek are remnants of this earlier age.

Undulating hills, hanging ‘U’ valleys and grassland plains are all evidence of glacial erosion and depositions. This terrain is unlike any other in B.C.



Jumping ahead to the more recent past, Ian Pooley gave a well documented presentation of the history of early settlers of Black Mountain going back 150 years.

Ian used old photographs, some dating back to the early 1900s taken from his grandfather’s album, to illustrate early ranches, farms and orchards of the area.

From early cattle grazing on what was once common land to the era of land ownership by the big cattle ranchers, and finally, the era of early preemptors trying to eke out a living on the grasslands, the history of Black Mountain is one of success for some, but failure for most.

Eli Lequime, an early rancher, took advantage of the opening up of the government land reserve in 1879 to purchase land circling a good part of the mountain, from Scotty Creek to the south slopes of Black Mountain. These slopes became the location of the Pyman horse ranch in 1911. Pyman did well