

CELEBRATING THE BEACHCOMBERS

It's been 40 years since the quirky TV series aired its first episode

The Beachcombers television show is firmly associated with Gibsons and the Sunshine Coast. It remains indelibly imprinted in the memories of many who grew fond of the quirky stories set in the scenic coastal village on the edge of Canada. The popular series has been viewed in over 60 countries around the world and holds the record for Canada's longest running TV show with 387 episodes spanning from 1972 to 1990. Considered an important piece of Canadian film history, as well as a valuable documentation of life in Gibsons, the Beachcombers celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

The show was exceptional because it was a Canadian "original" and one of the first major Canadian series that did not follow an American prototype. The Beachcombers took place on the northwest coast of B.C. and followed the life of Nick Adonidas (Bruno Gerussi), a Greek-Canadian log salvager, and his native business partner Jesse Jim (Pat John), as they earned a living tracking logs that had broken away from logging booms and barges. An old codger named Relic (Robert Clothier) was their unscrupulous competitor who would scheme ways to steal their business, only to be foiled again and again by Nick and Jesse.

The Beachcombers created a strong sense of place; the landscape, the weather, the small coastal town. Although Gibson's Landing has certainly changed over time, this unique sense of place remains, and icons from the series like Molly's Reach and the Persephone still sit centre stage. The Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives has a variety of artifacts and archival materials including props and signage from the Beachcombers set, Relic's toque and running shoes, and scripts from some of the early shows. With the 40th anniversary of the series upon us, we can now look back with some historical perspective and celebrate what the long running series means to our community. Without a doubt, The Beachcombers will always be an integral part of the history of Gibsons and the Sunshine Coast. **CL**

By the **SUNSHINE COAST MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**



From top: Colour photo from Beachcombers episode "Starry Stranger", Season 10, Episode 9, 1982. Robert Clothier is hanging upside down on the Gibsons bluff. Clothier often performed his own stunts; B&W publicity shot of Nick, Molly and Relic in Molly's Reach taken in 1981.