



What's happening in...

# DEEP COVE HERITAGE SOCIETY

July 2014

## Blueridge a place to raise families



*DCHS #4903* Maureen Morrison (at left) with baby Marianne and her grad friends with their babies pose on a very undeveloped Derbyshire way in July 1963. The Morrison's moved to Derbyshire in 1962, the house is across the road from this photo. From collection of Maureen Morrison.

by *Lynda Noel*

The same elements that attracted people to settle in Blueridge in the beginning of its development continue to attract people there today. These sentiments have essentially not changed since '58 and '60 when development began.

Blueridge/Seymour Heights was a bedroom community of Vancouver and was ready to be developed as such with the final construction of the new Second Narrows (Iron Workers Memorial) Bridge in 1958. It was a quiet, family-oriented neighbourhood with few facilities and no town centre.

When the Second Narrows was completed in 1958, a general sentiment regarding the development of Blueridge at the time was, "Why would you want to live way out there?" Blueridge would have seemed like

living at the end of the line.

The theme of a quiet bedroom community continues to this day. Blueridge did attract, and continues to attract, families with young children. Marnie Armstrong grew up in the area in the 60s and returned to raise her own family. Quiet streets, neighbourly neighbours and no noisy commercial area are features that are the hallmark of the community.

The few businesses that did exist at the time were located along Keith Road, which would later become Mount Seymour Parkway. At the corner of Parkway and Emerson Street was the Mount Seymour Store, more commonly known as Fay's. There was the United Church and a community hall. These were the only commercial enterprises in the area, save for

### Calendar

Quarry Rock History Hike — July 10

Wild Bird Trust open house — July 26&27

Indian Arm Boat Cruise — August 21

### Summer Hours

Tues	10:00am – 4:00pm
Wed *	10:00am – 1:00pm
Thur	10:00am – 4:00pm
Fri *	If volunteer available
Sat *	10:30pm – 1:30pm
Sun *	11:00am – 4:00pm

\* when volunteers are available

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### Website News

We are pleased to report that our website is now updated more regularly.

We will be adding documents we have acquired, check under News online

The archived newsletters are under the Resources tab at the top of the page.

Email your photos and stories to us to: [info@deepcoveheritage.com](mailto:info@deepcoveheritage.com)

Please check for office hours before dropping by. We depend on the generosity of our volunteers who can not always offer structured hours.

### Contact us

- 4360 Gallant Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7G 1L2
- Telephone 604-929-5744
- Or send us an e-mail to: [DeepCoveHeritage@shawcable.com](mailto:DeepCoveHeritage@shawcable.com)
- Website: [www.DeepCoveHeritage.com](http://www.DeepCoveHeritage.com)

## President's Message



The Deep Cove Heritage Society is looking forward to a busy summer. In the plans are a hike to Quarry Rock in Deep Cove, a visit to Wild Bird Trust's Corrigan

Nature House in the Maplewood Flats and a boat cruise up Indian Arm. We are also expanding our website with interesting documents that have been acquired over the years. We appreciate your interest and support.

Sincerely, Tom Kirk,  
President

## Blueridge neighbours cont'd from page 1

— in the early years — Butterfield's chicken farm, a turkey farm, and Savaglia's orchard (at Berkley Road and Swinburne). For the most part, the residents were not interested in having any more of a retail/commercial element other than these basic facilities. At a later time, when a grocery store venture was proposed, some neighbours put together a petition to prevent it. The residents were not eager to have places where teenagers would hang out. The Community Hall held community dances, offered dance lessons and ran a parent participation preschool. For large grocery shops, Isobel Peters remembers heading to the Woodward's Food Floor in Park Royal with the whole family on a Friday night.

In 1958, as development began, the roads were yet unpaved. Many areas in Blueridge had to be drained as the land was wet and swampy in parts. The original lots cost anywhere from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00.

The clearing of the land was often done by the owners, hand clearing the lots, digging out stumps and then, with permits, burning brush and stumps. Mr.

Thorpe hired Squamish Nation men to help him do his land clearing. Some owners built or oversaw the building of their own houses. Removing stumps and clearing land was sometimes done using horses to haul out the trees and stumps. Alf Cockle obtained a burning permit and had a large fire that brought out the neighbour next door to investigate.

The Crosbys, who lived up on Berkley Road past Sechelt, in the early days kept a horse in their back yard which backed up to green space. Alf Cockle also recalls that early on the roads developed huge potholes, some "that were big enough to hold a VW bug." In later expansion of Blueridge going north, old vehicles that had been caught in mud and buried were later excavated with the new construction.



DCHS #4904 Birthday party, courtesy Maureen Morrison

Growing up in Blueridge in those early years was a classic 1960s childhood. Before Blueridge School was built, there were ponds with frogs and tadpoles to catch. Kids played in the woods and went home only when they heard their mothers calling them from the front porch, letting them know that lunch was ready. If not roaming in the woods, kids might pass by a trailer on a property located in the vicinity of Carnation and Berkley where a woman lived alone. For the kids, it was like a dare, to knock on her door and collect the caramels that she would hand out.

Buses came to the community in 1972 and prior to that one would have to walk down to Mount Seymour Parkway where there was a bus to Vancouver in the morning, with a return run in the evening.

And what did the parents busy themselves with besides raising families? Some of them were busy being entrepreneurs; Sandra Wilson created Robeez Shoes. There were well-known personalities, Don Williams and Mike McCardle amongst them. During the daytime, the women of the area would gather for political meetings over coffee and local politicians would attend. The living room was filled with neighbours at Hazel Simpson's house, one neighbour recalls. Politicians in the area included Jack Davis, Gordon Gibson,

Robina Jaffer, Brian Gardiner, Naomi Yamamoto and others.

Blueridge was a place where neighbours were neighbours in a traditional sense. Marnie Armstrong remembers when she was about six years old, the

Wadells, on Bronte

Street, had their elderly parents visit. Grandpa Wadell got sick and vomited in the toilet, unfortunately losing his dentures to the plumbing. The whole neighbourhood got together to help, pulling the manhole cover off the street septic system, climbing down and somehow managing to retrieve the expensive dentures.

Gretchen Mostardi recalls the time the Andersons had a big party and woke up to find a strange teenage girl sleeping on their sofa — she had mistaken the house for her own whilst wandering home in the wee hours of the morning.

Blueridge is all about community. To

## Blueridge cont'd from page 2

this day, it celebrates an annual Community Days event. Blueridge continues to maintain its family feel, much as it always has and follows the original District plan goal, "Harmony with Nature"; the access to biking and hiking trails continues to draw in outdoor enthusiasts to explore the foot of Mount Seymour. New families moving into the area are tending to renovate homes, not tearing them down to rebuild. As a result, the character of the community remains the same. Eric Anderson refers to Blueridge as "a cul-de-sac community." "It makes it safer when you know your neighbours." It makes for a cozy place to live and to be.

## Heritage happenings Quarry Rock & Wild Birds!

**July 10 at 9am** — Over the past couple of years, Brian Wilson has been keeping the office open on Sundays. Over the summer he will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am to 1pm. Come by and say hello and don't miss joining him for an historic hike to Quarry Rock. On July 10, Brian along with members of the Elders Council for Parks, and hopefully, you will meet in the Panorama Parking lot at 9am and begin the trek. Afterwards take part in a picnic in the park (bring your own picnic lunch.) We hope to see you there!

**July 26–27 10:30am to 4:30pm**— Wild Bird Trust of BC presents Return of the Osprey Festival at the new Corrigan Nature House at the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats. This is a jam packed two days with artists, puppets, gardening, a guided walk linked to Presentation House exhibition of Dollarton Pleasure Faire photos, wildlife photographer, under the tent Osprey and Purple Martin watch and yes, Deep Cove Heritage members will be there as well. We will be on hand with our books and display Sunday, July 27 from 11am to 2pm.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR STORIES AND MEMORIES TO  
info@DEEPCOVEHERITAGE.com**

## Webpage additions:

We will be adding an index that was been compiled for our first book *Echoes Across the Inlet*. This document will be in pdf format so can be downloaded to tuck into your copy or read online. If you don't have a copy of this book, look over the index and see what you are missing! Available from the office.

As well we will be adding documents from the area such as the Vancouver Powerboat Association's program of a Regatta held in Deep Cove in 1948.

Check the News tab where we will announce new additions to the site.

## Indian Arm Boat Cruise



DCHS 0275 Wqgwam Inn, Arthur George collection

**Just announced! Mark your calendar now ~  
Thursday, August 21, 2014**

Here is your chance to learn some of the history of Indian Arm  
from long-time local tour operator Mitch Bloomfield

**Tickets \$25; this annual event always sells out fast!**

DCHS Members can reserve after August 1 ~ call 604-929-5744  
unsold seats will be available to the public after August 10.



### DEEP COVE HERITAGE SOCIETY

4360 Gallant Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7G 1L2 Canada • 604-929-5744 or 604-929-9456  
Email: info@deepcoveheritage.com • Website: www.deepcoveheritage.com • Registered charity #101042613-RR0001

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of: The Province of British Columbia, The District of North Vancouver, The City of North Vancouver, The Arts Office, Canada Summer Jobs Program, New Horizons for Seniors Program, First Impressions Theatre, Deep Cove Crier, Cedar Springs Retirement Residence, North Shore Community Foundation

Times to be confirmed. Note: in case of stormy weather trip would be re-scheduled

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## Do you remember the Cove Cliff Country Club?

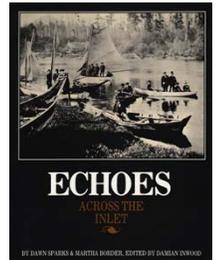
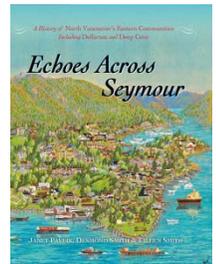


Above top left DCHS 1728/4841 sign on Cove Cliff hill; top right DCHS 4874 five kids on a horse; bottom left DCHS Eileen McLellan, July 1, 1946 (note sign behind reads: "Cove Cliff Riding Academy - Riders, horses are not to be trotted or galloped on Burns Ave. or 1st or 2nd Streets in Deep Cove or on hard surfaced roads or hills. Riders are responsible for his or her horse and equipment. Horses returned in overheated condition, extra charges will be made. Riders ride at own risk. Riders, please take horses to the side, or off the road, when autos are approaching. Rates \$1.00 per hr." Middle photo DCHS 4850 Quote "My horses and my helpers That's escorts and stable boys, 1946. Bottom middle DCHS 4881 Cove Cliff Country Club Executive 1952, left to right Betty Dowling, Reid Flanders (owner), Bert Steel, Maureen Kendall, Mel Soper. Photos courtesy Paula Peterson.



## Echoes books

*Echoes Across the Inlet and Echoes Across Seymour*, make wonderful gifts for summer visitors or your own summer reading. Stretch out, relax and read about the history of the Seymour area. These books available from our office and the Seymour Art Gallery gift shop.



## Be involved in your community

We are looking for more volunteers to mingle with visitors to our office. We would appreciate it if you could volunteer occasionally. Also, do you have expertise or interest in one or more of the following:

- Working with the local schools on Heritage Projects
  - Talking with local Seniors to obtain stories/photos
  - Giving 2-4 hours a month assisting in the office
  - Using computer skills to send messages, work on the Newsletter and correspondence
  - Working on Archival projects
  - Creating displays
  - Assisting in obtaining grants and/or fund-raising projects
  - Publicity experience
  - Giving presentations to Brownies, Guides, Scouts and Seniors Groups
  - Phoning committee
- Call and volunteer!  
Our number is 604-929-5744, or email us at:  
[deepcoveheritage@shawcable.com](mailto:deepcoveheritage@shawcable.com)

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES



3708 - Kids in a rowboat at Dollarton watching speedboat, circa 1947-52. Courtesy Enid Howick (Below is detail of speedboat).

