



What's happening in...

# DEEP COVE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Spring 2005

## Catching up with Deep Cove residents Arthur & Vivienne Coverdale



The Coverdale's on what was Arthur's 1952 AJS motorcycle in 2002. Photo by John Hutchinson

Arthur and Vivienne Coverdale will celebrate fifty years of marriage in October, 2005. For forty-nine of those years, The Coverdale's have lived in Deep Cove, but each of their stories began far away from here.

Vivienne's father was an officer in the British Army, posted in Bombay, India, where she was born. Her mother

endured life as an army wife while her two daughters were sent to Kimmins Boarding School in the cool mountain region of Panchgani.

The family was one of the last to leave India after the war, in 1948. They came to Deep Cove, deemed by Jack Villiers, a friend of her father's, as "the only place worth living in

Canada."

Art was born in Yorkshire, England where, at sixteen he apprenticed in the steel work industry. In 1952, with Britain still reeling from the War, Art set off to find a better life working for the CNR in London, Ontario. A short while later he and his first love (a British Motorcycle) rode out west to Vancouver, where Art took a job with Dominion Bridge just as they began building the Granville Street Bridge. Art became a Senior Template Maker and would lay out the steel work with all the holes in place, from blueprints. By this time, Vivienne had long left her family home and was working at Robert Simpson's in Vancouver on Water Street. Her boss' husband happened to be a British Motorcycle enthusiast and through them, Vivienne took an interest in biking. Her interest grew into a life of its own when she met Art at the British Motorcycle shop on Fraser Street. The rest, as they say, is their history.

They were married, in 1955 in the chapel of Christ Church Cathedral and lived in Vancouver for a year.

Vivienne's father, who had stayed in The Cove on what is now Badger Road, was ailing. The Coverdale's moved in to the house next door to be on hand to help.

In 1957, they took three

...cont'd page 2

## Calendar

Throughout the summer the archives are open and you are encouraged to drop in and browse on Thursdays, Fridays or Sundays from 1pm to 5pm or on Saturdays from 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

- Aug 28 Deep Cove Daze
- Sept 12 Regular Heritage Meeting 7pm
- Sept 16-18\* NS Heritage Weekend
- Oct 11\* Heritage Community get-together
- Nov 14 Regular Heritage Meeting 7pm
- Dec 3\* Christmas in the Cove 11am-3pm
- Dec 17\* Carol Ship Night in the Cove

\* Dates not confirmed

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## Contact us

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- We are open Thursdays, Fridays & Sundays  
1pm~5pm & Saturdays 12:30-3:30
- We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City of North Vancouver and District of North Vancouver and the assistance of the Arts and Culture Commission of North Vancouver
- Registered charity #89734 3513 RR0001

## Your memories are our heritage

The recent Memory Book writing workshop overseen by local writer, and our esteemed Co-ordinator, Shelley Harrison Rae was a tremendous success. Like many new events we went from thinking no one was going to attend to trying to find enough chairs on the day of the workshop.

Folks came in not knowing where to start and as the afternoon proceeded, stories were exchanged and old memories dusted off. There was much laughter and we decided we had to have more get-togethers like that in the future.

It is particularly important to record memories now as the Society prepares to start work on their new book which will carry on from where *Echoes Across the Inlet* left off, the 1950s.

So it has been decided that we will try to have several of our

meetings throughout the year as “no business — just fun and memories.”

The first will be our October meeting which is scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving, Tuesday, October 11th at 7:00pm. We would very much like your input.

We can have an informal gathering where we just chat having Shelley as our leader; or we can have a theme to the meeting and arrange to have a guest speaker.

Please give us a call at 604-929-5744 or e-mail and let us know if the idea of these meetings is of interest to you. Also would you drive to the Cove on a weeknight in October? Would you prefer to come during the day on a weekend? We really want you to attend these new informal chats — what would it take to get you there? **Please let us know what you think!**

## A fond farewell to our librarian

In 1963, Ron Andrews was Mayor of the District of North Vancouver, PTA Reps to Council were John Robertson, Ruth Young, Joyce Melton — and there was no library in Deep Cove. Enter Mary Dafoe along with her volunteers Audrey Williams, Barbara James, Betty Crane, Joyce Melton, Ruth Young and Mrs. Tilt. With start-up help from Mrs. Mitchell of the Lynn Valley Branch, Mary learned how to catalogue materials.

The first library was in the old community hall where the Lions Manor is now. Later it moved to a store front on Gallant and eventually into Seycove Secondary School.

Mary passed away peacefully on April 23, 2005 at Totem Lodge in Sechelt with family at her side. She created many fond memories for our residents, as is illustrated in the following letter we

received from Barb Ralph:

“As residents of Deep Cove since 1969, one of our fondest memories is of our weekly Saturday morning trips (in the late 70s, early 80s) to the Public Library at the bottom of Gallant Avenue. While not having water accesses ourselves, our kind neighbours below had a dock and made room for our little aluminum boat to tie up there during the spring and summer months.

Saturday mornings with our two children in tow we would trek down to their dock and putt-putt over to the public wharf and secure the boat. After carefully selecting our library books we would all get ice cream cones, board our boat, take a spin around The Cove, then tie up and climb back up the hill with our treasures in anticipation of next Saturday’s outing.”

Barb and Bryan Ralph

## The Coverdale’s...*continued from front page*

months off and went to England. Growing up in Bombay, Vivienne had never known her British relatives and this was her chance to look them up and to learn more about Art’s family roots. Eventually Vivienne’s father passed away and they moved in to what had been her first Canadian home. In 1968 they adopted a son Stuart, followed by a daughter, Lisa, just a year and half later.

Art stayed with Dominion Bridge until it closed. Its last big job was the Peace River Power Station. He later started his own home renovation business. In 1980 Art flew to a job in Inuvik. He recalls it was bright all night and it was “so cold they needed fur lining on the seat of the outdoor plumbing.”

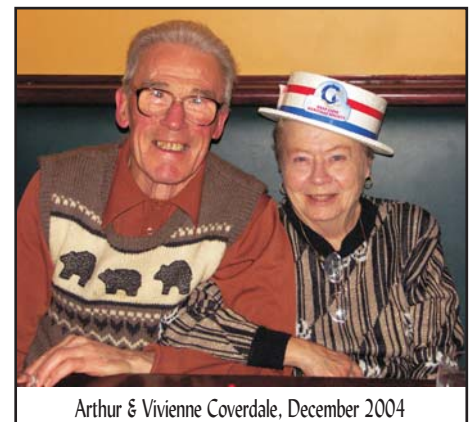
Vivienne made home her career after the children joined the family. She and a friend organized a weekly get together for mums at the Community Centre. They did exercise, swapped recipes (Vivienne taught how to cook with curry), did crafts and compared notes while the children were baby sat at the Yacht Club for fifty cents and hour.

The Coverdale’s remember the community life that revolved around the original Yacht Club and the Fire Hall/Community Centre (first home of Deep Cove Stage) with summer events and parades sponsored by the Kiwanis and the Kinsmen. They are original members of the Yacht Club, Art was Commodore in 1968. Always an avid fisherman, he recalls fishing for pink salmon

right off the dock and digging for clams on the beach.

They remember having lots of fun but little money (a skilled man would earn \$1.50 per hour) but those were the days when you could go into town for a movie and a White Spot hamburger for a dollar, and draft beer was a dime.

Art remembers so little traffic along Dollarton Highway, the only road in or out. He says “If you were driving home along Dollarton and your car broke down, you had to be prepared to stay there for a while because there would be no one coming along behind you any time soon.” It was so quiet you could “hear the frogs croaking.”



Arthur & Vivienne Coverdale, December 2004

The Coverdale’s and The Cove have seen many changes over the years but both have retained their sense of community. Art and Vivienne are active, resourceful members of the Deep Cove Heritage Society who believe in preserving the past for the future.

—written by  
Shelley Harrison Rae

## 2005 Boot and Plant Sale



The third annual Boot and Plant Sale was held in the parking lot and meeting room of the Deep Cove Cultural Centre on April 30th. The weather did not co-operate; but visitors were welcomed by the friendly folk from Heritage.

Plenty of plants were purchased as well as treasures from vendors who opened the trunks of their cars (or as they say in England “boots”).

Thanks to all who put in weeks of work, especially Pat Morrice, Mary Johnson and Eileen Curtis and to everyone who took part in and came out to support this event.

Some of those who were on hand to help at the sale are pictured at left, from top to bottom; left to right: Eric Morter and Hazel Best; Eileen Curtis and Betty Edge; Marilyn Myers, Misha Wilson; Janet Pavlik and Mary Johnson.



## Heritage Garden



Make a point of coming by to see the Heritage Garden in full bloom throughout the summer. Pat Morrice and Mary Johnson spend countless hours keeping the garden beautiful and we often see visitors to the area taking pictures of it. The floor of the garden patio is made up of engraved bricks purchased

by families who live in the Cove or have a history here. These donors are not only reminding us of their family names, they are helping fund the continued success of the garden. There are still some bricks available, call the office and make sure your family name goes down in Deep Cove's history.

## Letter from Jock Worthing

The following excerpt is from a letter from Mr. Jock Worthing dated October 5, 1989.

Mr. Worthing is commenting on *Echoes Across the Inlet* and shares a wonderful memory of his Aunt “Flossie”...

“The effects of life around Indian Arm would account for a major part of our family's history in this century. Mrs. F.C. Worthing, my grandmother, bought property in Woodlands in 1924. She, some of her children and some her grandchildren lived in the area until 1957. We spread her ashes off the dock in Woodlands in 1987. Our migrations have take us away, but the “Cove” has never left us. Margaret, as you call her on page 53, was her youngest daughter. This error is probably forgivable as I can think of few who would have the intimacy to call her

“Flossie”—from Flora, her real first name.

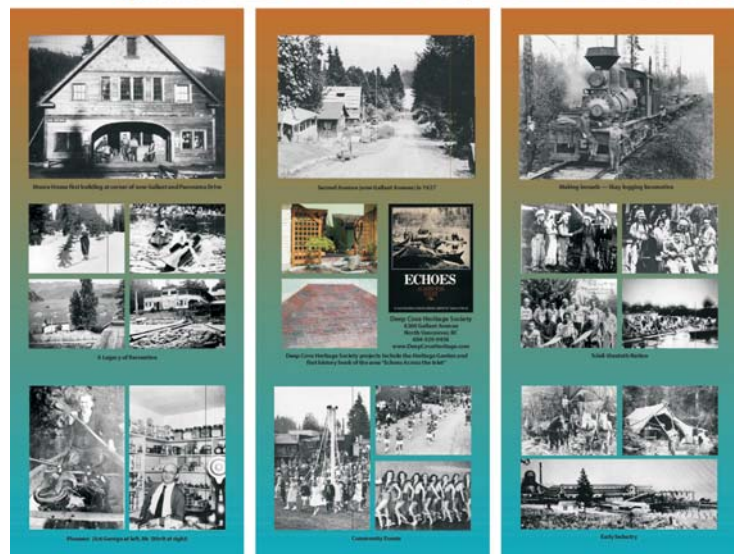
She did not “take a boat” but rather rowed one into the Cove and people living along Burns Avenue would watch for her rounding the point at the Quarry and check their clocks! In the evenings, if winds and tides allowed, she would strap a large black umbrella in the bow and, sitting in the stern would use another to sail her way home.

(She is the figure you can see standing in the picture on page 118 during the dog to come any closer).”

### Didja know?

Our original telephone exchange in the Cove was Woodside 6 (or 966) it was changed to WAverley 9 (or 929) in the 1960s. Give us a call at 604 WAverley 9-5744!

## Watch for our new display



Our new display is over seven feet tall and ten feet wide. It will be at the Cultural Centre on Deep Cove Daze and at the

Parkgate Seniors' Centre in September. If you have a venue or event where we can set up our display, please contact us.

## Listen for new Echoes Across the Inlet

The Deep Cove Heritage Society first published *Echoes Across the Inlet* in 1989. Written by members Dawn Sparks and Martha Border and edited by Damian Inwood, it has remained a popular book, purchased by longtime residents for the memories, new residents for the history and as gifts to introduce folks to our area. The book mainly covers the very early years in the area just touching on the

1950s. Due to the popularity of that book, the group was pleased to announce that they are now planning a book that will cover the years from the 1950s to present.

We encourage you to donate or lend any photos, home movies or your memories of the Cove from that time. If you can, please give Shelley a call Thursdays, Fridays or Sundays between 1–5pm. We look forward to hearing from you.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Photo #379  
The Amble In Cafe, photo taken during filming of television series "The Littlest Hobo." The cafe is now the hugely popular Raven Neighbourhood Pub on Deep Cove Road.

## Following the Heritage Bricks led to a wonderful afternoon of memories

The Deep Cove Heritage Society was most grateful to receive a grant in 2004 from the North Shore Community Foundation. The grant enabled us to proceed with the next stage of our Heritage Garden and Memory Book Project.

On May 30, 2004 we celebrated the grand opening of the garden honouring the pioneer families of Deep Cove and the surrounding areas. Bricks inscribed with family names shape the patio floor of the garden. We knew there were many stories to share from the ninety names on the

bricks. The engraved plaques on the garden wall honour our sponsors who made this Commemorative Garden and Book of Memories possible.

Our next project of a Memory Book became a reality. We purchased a special book with acid free paper to record stories, memories and insights of growing up and living in this picturesque and historical community. We began by requesting several private interviews with pioneers and seniors residing in Lions Manor. We also gave a slide presentation to the Seniors



Centre at Parkgate Community Centre which led to more stories from the more active seniors.

Many of these interesting narratives are now being edited and recorded in our Book of Memories.

After some discussion, we decided to extend an invitation to the community to assist people to begin the memory writing process. A writing workshop was held at the Deep Cove Cultural Centre.

Registration filled quickly. On March 19, 2005, Shelley Harrison Rae, a local professional writer, eased a

group of twenty into sharing memories and recording them.

Three short assignments assisted each participant to become more confident in their writing ability. We are now receiving and recording some of these tales of historic interest into our Memory Book.

We invite visitors and the community to visit our Deep Cove Heritage Garden. enjoy the flowers and the sculpture *Free Wheeling* by local artist Sharon Perkins.

(Note: Photos are from the Memory Workshop. Shelley is at far left in lower picture.)



Check out our website for photos, stories and archival newsletters

[www.DeepCoveHeritage.com](http://www.DeepCoveHeritage.com)