

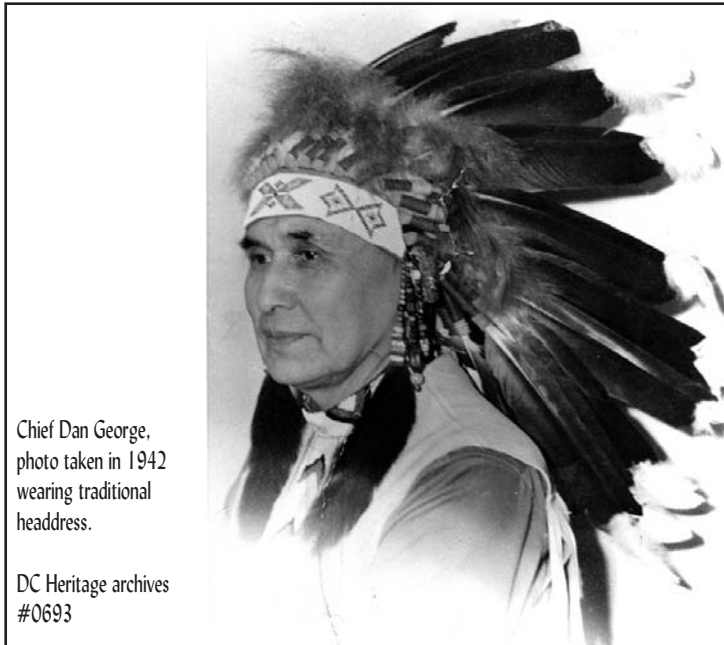


What's happening in...

# DEEP COVE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Autumn 2007

## Chief Dan George



Chief Dan George, photo taken in 1942 wearing traditional headdress.

DC Heritage archives #0693

The bleak and rainy days of the area East of the Seymour River during the early 1960s and 70s were given a jolt when a spotlight lit up our special shining star. As far as the movie industry was concerned, not much came our way in those days, except perhaps a couple of episodes of the television series *The Littlest Hobo*.

But now we had a real, Hollywood star in our midst. Everyone in the area was bursting with the pride of living in the same neighbourhood as Chief Dan George.

A full-blooded T'sleil-waunt, which is a part of the Coast Salish tribes, he entered into the world on July 24, 1899...on what was known back then as the Burrard Inlet Indian Reservation #3, now known as the Tsleil-Waututh Nation."

At age five he attended a mission boarding school at which time his last name was changed to George. At the school he was not only taught English, but was

denied to speak his native language. When his schooling was finished he became a longshoreman for 28 years but was sidelined from this when a load of lumber shattered his leg and hip. After recovering he became a construction worker and a bus driver. He was elected Chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (previously known as the Burrard Indian Band) for five two-year terms, from 1953 to 1963. Chief Dan was also made an Honorary Chief of the Squamish Nation, and Chase First Nation, both in BC, along with a list of other First Nations bands.

He formed a dance band called *Dan George and His Indian Entertainers*, they travelled around playing clubs and dances. It was at age 61 in 1960 that he auditioned for and won the role of Old Antoine in the Canadian television series *Caribou Country*. In 1965 a segment of this series titled *How to Break a Quarter-horse*, won a Canadian Film Award

for the best entertainment film. Disney re-wrote the segment making it into the film *Smith* starring Glen Ford and Chief Dan George resumed his role for it. It was after viewing *Smith* that he was asked to play the Cheyenne Chief, Old Lodge Skins in Arthur Penn's western *Little Big Man* starring a very young Dustin Hoffman. For his role in that movie, Chief Dan George received both Oscar and Golden Globe nominations for Best Supporting Actor, and won a Golden Laurel, a National Society of Film Critics Award and a New York Film Critics Circle Award.

He went on to do many other movies, most notably in 1976 *The Outlaw Josey Wales* where he played Clint Eastwood's very funny, bumbling travelling cohort.

Chief Dan George also appeared in live theatre, taking on the role of Rita Joe's father in George Ryga's play *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. The show was performed in Vancouver, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and in Washington, DC. On June 25, 1971 he was awarded the Order of Canada.

He wrote several books, including *My Heart Soars* in 1974, and two published post-humously *My Spirit Soars* (1982), *The Best of Chief Dan George* (2003).

Chief Dan George insisted on presenting his characters as true depictions of first nations people, good people with heartwarming spirits. We thank him for forever changing how First Nations People are seen in movies and on television. He gave numerous speeches encouraging understanding of their traditional rituals and way of life. In 1967 his poignant

...cont'd page 2

## Calendar

The archives are open and you are encouraged to drop in and browse on Mon, Wed & Fri from 9-11am and Sundays from 11am to 4pm. When volunteers are available we open Saturdays from 1-4pm. Call for info.

- Oct 28 Writing Workshop 1-3pm
- Nov 1 Heritage Meeting 10am-noon in Meeting Room
- Nov 14 Nonsense - Theatre Fund-Raiser
- Nov 21 Ladies Mingle & Gifts (pg 4)
- Dec 11 Members Christmas Party 6pm
- Dec 15 Carol Ship Night, Deep Cove

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A Warm Welcome

## Contact us

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- Website: [www.DeepCoveHeritage.com](http://www.DeepCoveHeritage.com)
- We are open Mon, Wed & Fri 9am-11am
- We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of: City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, First Impressions Theatre, the Province of British Columbia, North Shore Community Foundation, Van Tel / Safeway Credit Union Foundation and the Arts and Culture Commission of North Vancouver
- Registered charity #89734 3513 RR0001

## Message from our president

As usual at this time of year we have a chance to reflect on how we are doing, where are we going, and how has the year been.

How are we doing — we are now a pretty disciplined group of volunteers — from doing the gardens (thanks Pat and Mary), communicating to the world (thanks Eileen S — with help from Shelley), running up another book project (thanks Janet, Marilyn, Eileen C.), Saturday volunteers (thanks Jytte, Vivienne, Marilyn & others), and keeping track of the money in and out (thanks Eric and John). Our team is strong in effort though thin in numbers.

Where are we going — DCHS will continue to be the catalyst for gathering, disseminating, storing, and publishing heritage

information relevant to the Seymour area. We will continue to be the provider of this information to the public at large. We are also committed to working with the North Vancouver Museum and Archives to ensure we are known as the providers/ keepers of much heritage information for the Seymour area. We will continue to work with Seymour Mountain's Alex Douglas to help with their heritage project.

How has the year been — mostly positive — fund-raising and grants continue to be the way we fund our activities. Thanks to Shelley for grant writing assistance, and to First Impressions Theatre for their very generous donation of a theatre night, and finally thanks to Seymour Art Gallery for their

generous support in the sale of *Echoes Across the Inlet*. We lost a wonderful co-coordinator in Misha but have been very fortunate in securing the services of Vickie. With your day to day push, Vickie, we are on time, and up to date, thanks. A special thanks to Pat and Mary again — the DCC garden was recognized in the commercial category by the North Shore Home and Garden competition!

The one troublesome thing I want to mention has been our inability to attract more worker volunteers. It is not doom and gloom but it would be nice to have a few more “worker bees.” We have made some progress, thanks to Rosemary Kenning.

Overall we certainly are on track.

Cheers,  
Tom

## Don't put coal in that stocking!

Buy a brick instead!! The brick floor of the beautiful heritage garden still has a few spaces available. Don't miss out on a chance to put your family's name down in history. Your family name and dates are

engraved into the brick and set in the garden. Makes a wonderful lasting gift and is waaaay better than finding coal in your stocking! After all, you have been good, haven't you?

## Chief Dan George...*continued from front page*

soliloquy *Lament for Confederation* was performed in Vancouver to celebrate Canada's Centennial. The text follows:

### Lament for Confederation

*by Chief Dan George*

How long have I known you, Oh Canada? A hundred years? Yes, a hundred years. And many, many seelanus more. And today, when you celebrate your hundred years, Oh Canada, I am sad for all the Indian people throughout the land.

For I have known you when your forests were mine; when they gave me my meat and my clothing. I have known you in your streams and rivers where your fish flashed and danced in the sun, where the waters said “come, come and eat of my abundance.” I have known you in the freedom of the winds. And my spirit, like the winds, once roamed your good lands.

But in the long hundred years since the white man came, I have seen my freedom disappear like the salmon going mysteriously out to sea. The white man's strange

customs, which I could not understand, pressed down upon me until I could no longer breathe.

When I fought to protect my land and my home, I was called a savage. When I neither understood nor welcomed his way of life, I was called lazy. When I tried to rule my people, I was stripped of my authority.

My nation was ignored in your history textbooks — they were little more important in the history of Canada than the buffalo that ranged the plains. I was ridiculed in your plays and motion pictures, and when I drank your fire-water, I got drunk — very, very drunk. And I forgot.

Oh Canada, how can I celebrate with you this Centenary, this hundred years? Shall I thank you for the reserves that are left to me of my beautiful forests? For the canned fish of my rivers? For the loss of my pride and authority, even among my own people? For the lack of my will to fight back? No! I must forget what's past and gone.

Oh God in heaven! Give me back the courage of the olden chiefs. Let me wrestle with my surroundings. Let me again, as in the days of old, dominate my environment. Let me humbly accept this new culture and through it rise up and go on.

Oh God! Like the thunderbird of old I shall rise again out of the sea; I shall grab the instruments of the white man's success — his education, his skills — and with these new tools I shall build my race into the proudest segment of your society.

Before I follow the great chiefs who have gone before us, Oh Canada, I shall see these things come to pass. I shall see our young braves and our chiefs sitting in the houses of law and government, ruling and being ruled by the knowledge and freedoms of our great land.

So shall we shatter the barriers of our isolation. So shall the next hundred years be the greatest in the proud history of our tribes and nations.

Chief Dan George, a gentle man of unsurpassed dignity, he passed on September 23, 1981 away after all of his organs failed on him, the last being “a strong heart” is how his doctor described it. As a respected man, people from all walks of life paid their last respect to him, as the long line of cars and media made their way to his final resting place, the Tsleil-Waututh's cemetery.

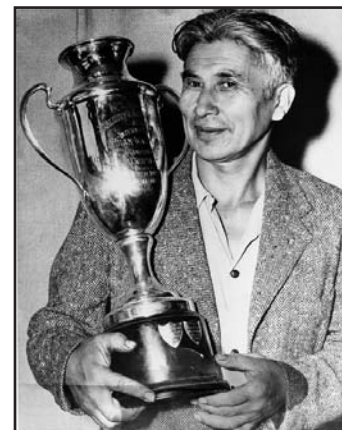


Photo #0696 ~ Chief Dan George with War Canoe Trophy, 1946.

## A sequel to “Echoes Across the Inlet” planned for the new year!

by Janet Pavlik

Exciting news from the Heritage group is that we have applied for grant money to the “New Horizons Programs” for seniors in order to go ahead with a second book on the history of our area covering the last 50 years. Heading up the project Janet Pavlik advises that it will cover the whole Seymour area East of Seymour River.

Presently we are looking for more photos from the Maplewood, Seymour Heights, Windsor, Windridge and Northland areas. If you are a long time resident and have photos before and after it was developed get in touch with us at 604-929-5744 and leave a message. Are you willing to be part of this project? Call us!

Do you have photos of early days east of the Seymour River? We'd love to see them.

## Mt. Seymour History Project



Doris Hirschberg traversing Mt Seymour c1938

For the past two years we have partnered with the Mount Seymour History Project's historian Alex Douglas to present displays of both groups archives on Mount Seymour as part of the North Shore History Weekend. We are grateful to people who have donated photographs of the early days on Mount Seymour for our archives — and we want more!

Special thanks to Donna Leighton who brought in a terrific collection of photos including the one pictured above.

If you have any photos of Mount Seymour or any of the areas east of the Seymour River please let us know. We can scan them for our archives and return the originals to you.

**Deep Cove Heritage Society Executive ~**  
President Tom Kirk; Vice President Eileen Curtis;  
Treasurer Eric Morter; Secretary Eileen Smith;  
Fund-Raising Pat Morrice; Grants Shelley Harrison Rae;  
Members at Large Janet Pavlik and Mary Johnson

## Fundraiser time again Another great play!

Our biggest annual fund-raiser is coming up again and we invite you to join us for a fun evening at the theatre in our Cultural Centre. This year First Impressions Theatre have kindly donated ticket sales to the Deep Cove Heritage Society.

This year we have the wildly popular, Nonsense, a musical comedy by Dan Goggin, directed by Judi Price. The storyline is about a fund-raiser put on by the Little Sisters of Hoboken to raise money to bury sisters accidentally poisoned by the convent cook, Sister Julia (Child of God).

Starring lots of familiar faces in the theatre here, Judi Leech (Cemetery Club, Radio TBS), Chris McBeath, Cheryl Hebb

(Body & Soul, Dear Santa and countless others), Keri Smith (Blood Brothers), Lisa Pope and Kelly Avery.

“Guaranteed to lift your spirits ...Very, very funny.” National Catholic News.

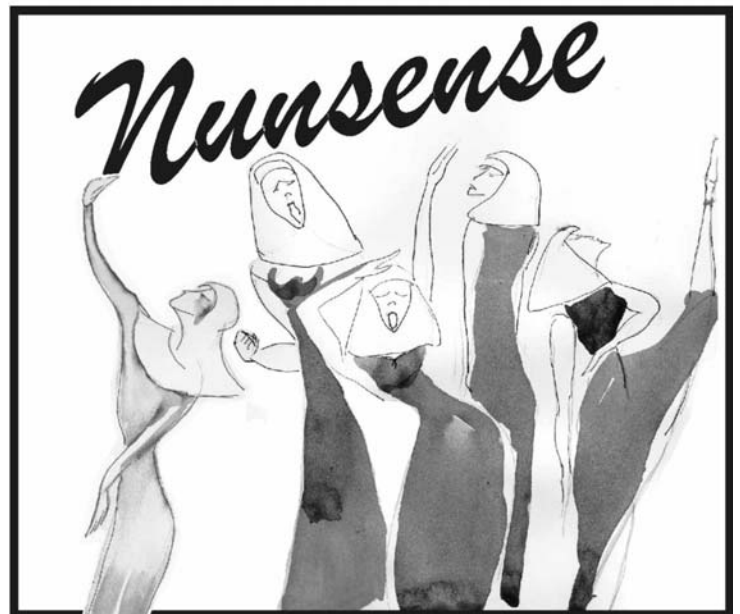
“You don't have to be Catholic to love Nonsense!” Entertainment Tonight.

Included in the ticket price of \$20 is our usual lively wine and cheese party at 7:00pm followed by the show.

Buy your tickets from any Heritage member or pick them up at the Seymour Art Gallery's “Treasure Cove” shop in the Centre. Or our Heritage office.

Plan to come on 14th Nov it is usually a sell-out.

**Deep Cove Heritage Society  
Fund-raiser Evening  
BOOK NOW! ~ Musical Comedy  
Wed, Nov 14  
Wine & Cheese 7pm • Curtain 8pm**



book, music & lyrics by

**Dan Goggin**

directed by Judi Price

Starring Judith Leech • Chris McBeath  
Cheryl Hebb • Keri Smith • Lisa Pope • Kelly Avery

## Free Writing Workshops

**“Writing has nothing at all to do with ability, but everything to do with giving yourself the permission to write”.**

Shelley Harrison Rae [www.wordlink.ca](http://www.wordlink.ca) started writing as an outlet during her angst-ridden teens. Since then, she has published poetry, short stories, personal essays, magazine and newspaper articles, and works as an editor and manuscript coach. She is a regular contributor to *The Deep Cove Crier*, *The Arts Alive Magazine* and *Sunstream*. Her experience with writing and workshops, and the study of counselling skills, has taught her how to stimulate creative energy with writers of all levels. She believes that every life tells a story and her passion is people



Our resident professional writer, Shelley Harrison Rae. Photo by Mike Wakefield, North Shore News

and their stories.

In her supportive, inspirational Wordlink Workshops, Shelley Harrison Rae will walk you where you need to go to banish the critic and find your creative confidence, with simple, thought provoking, image-releasing exercises.

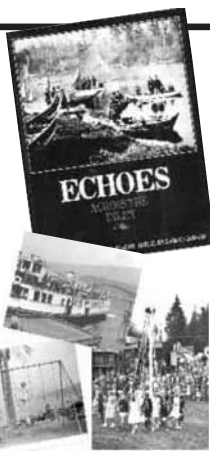
She has presented workshops across the Lower Mainland, Whistler and annually at Rancho la Puerta spa in Tecate, Mexico famous for healthy mind, body and spirit.

Call now to sign up for Deep Cove Heritage Society's **FREE WRITING WORKSHOP** with Shelley. The workshop will be held in the Deep Cove Cultural Centre meeting room on Sunday, October 28 from 1pm – 3pm.

This is a really wonderful opportunity for everyone to feel confident about putting down on paper memories of life in this area. Keep in mind that we are looking for stories photos and amusing tales from the whole area of Seymour. We hope to see you there. Call 604-929-5744 or 604-929-9456 to reserve your seat. See you there!

## For gift giving

Pick up a copy of our history book, *Echoes Across the Inlet*, for \$25. Now in its third printing it can be purchased from our office or Treasure Cove (the Seymour Art Gallery gift shop). We have packages of notelets for \$5 with historical pictures of the area, or you can browse our archives and order a photo reprint.



## FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Photo #0189 - Men working on road to Woodlands c1910

## Attention Ladies...Christmas Gifts

Now is your chance! With Christmas right around the corner, why not get an early start on your shopping and attend the heritage society's arts and crafts get-together. Decorated glassware, home items, jewellery and Avon Products will be featured **Wednesday, November 21.**

**Place:** Home of Janet & John Pavlik  
**Address:** #301-2221 Panorama Drive, Deep Cove.  
**Time:** 7:30pm–9:30pm.  
A pre-Christmas get-together for the ladies.  
A percentage of all sales will go to the Deep Cove Heritage Society.

## Warm Welcomes and a Thank You

We are very pleased to announce that Lisa Kennedy with be opening our office Sundays from 11am to 4pm. She will be on hand to show visitors our archives and help our hard-working co-ordinator Vickie Boughen organize membership information.

Lisa no stranger to the Deep Cove Cultural Centre, has been volunteering for some time at the Seymour Art Gallery. Please drop by to see her.

We also welcome our newest volunteer, Rosemary Kenning who has been on hand several Saturdays opening the office. Our goal is to have volunteers open the office on all Saturdays from 1pm to 4pm. If you can spare an occasional Saturday and like to chat about the Cove and area, please let us know!  
**THANK YOU** to Don Gordon for the loan of his Grandfather's log book pages of his trip to Wigwam Inn, May, 1914!

Check out our website for photos, stories and archival newsletters

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