



What's happening in...

DEEP COVE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Winter 2016



Santa visits the Deep Cove Community Hall

By Eileen Smith — reprinted with permission of Deep Cove Crier Dec 2015

Back in 1935 a small wooden shed was built to house a fire hose and reel in the area of what is now the Lions Manor in Deep Cove. Six years later, a building went up, constructed by local volunteers, to house a fire truck. As well, it included a large room suitable for community events; a kitchen/bar area, washrooms and a small bachelor style apartment for a caretaker. The Deep Cove Community Hall was born.

In the mid to late 1940s, before Burrard View School was built, it became a schoolhouse for grades five and six classes and it was the meeting place of the several church groups. After Cowan's (previously Corfield's) Dance Hall at the foot of Gallant wound down operations in the mid-1940s, the Community Hall became the main meeting place for residents of the area.

By the 1950s it was the venue used for baby clinics, kindergarten, dance classes (with Royal Academy teacher Anne Gordon) and majorette

Cont'd page 2...

Calendar

- Carol Ship Night, Sat, Dec 17
- Penguin Plunge, Sun, Jan 1 at 2pm
- Our AGM, Thurs, Feb 2 at 10am in the meeting room

Full calendar listings on our website.

Winter Hours

We are in transition! Open Thurs & Sat, 10am to 3pm, but please call the office to check for current opening hours.

Deep Cove Heritage Society is looking for volunteers to help keep our office open for visitors to the area. If you are interested in helping, please call 604-929-5744.

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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.

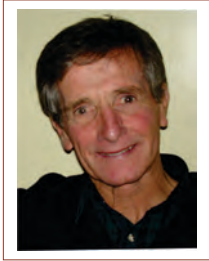
Email your photos and stories to us: info@deepcoveheritage.com

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
- Website: www.DeepCoveHeritage.com

President's Message



We have had a busy year! We got a good start to posting our archives online. This will be an ongoing process, thanks to the hard

work of Hope Morris and Vickie Boughen. We worked with the Seymour Art Gallery early in the year and presented an exhibition of photos of buildings in Deep Cove as they appeared in the 1960s. The show featured a display of artwork created for the event by Wendy Bullen Stephenson. As well we offered two boat cruises up Indian Arm with

commentators Mayor Ralph Drew and tour guide Mitch Bloomfield and a bus cruise of the Seymour area with guide Janet Pavlik. These events were great successes. We also attended several community events including Blueridge Days, Parkgate Days, Lions Gate Hospital's Grand Farewell, Deep Cove Daze and Parkgate Winter Lights.

We said farewell to our co-ordinator Gail Hanlon and welcomed Mechtild Morin as our new co-ordinator.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Tom Kirk

Executive 2016

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| President | Tom Kirk |
| Vice President | Eileen Smith |
| Treasurer/Secretary | Louise Hart |
| Director | Marilyn Myers |
| Director | Lynda Noel |
| Director | Alex Douglas |

Projects Team

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Co-Ordinator | Mechtild Morin |
| Schools Programs | Lynda Noel |
| Archival Project | Hope Morris |
| Archival Project | Vickie Boughen |
| Displays | Wendy Bullen Stephenson |

Trying to get it right!

We try to verify all our information, but if you think we have something wrong, please e-mail or call the office at 604-929-5744. Thank you.

Community Hall *Cont'd from page 1...*

practices. It was the library for a while, housed occasional community theatre productions, as well as parties and dances. Moving into the 1960s and 70s, it was used by exercise groups, martial arts and YWCA programs.

From the mid-1970s, a brand new theatre company, Deep Cove Stage, made arrangements to lease it from the District of North Vancouver. They turned the space into a theatre with raised seating, a stage, with tiny dressing room/props/costume space off one side and a miniscule lighting booth up in back that featured an archaic rheostat very manual lighting board (which, I understand, was later donated to the Burnaby Village Museum). The group put on a regular season of plays and in 1981 produced *Cinderella*, its first pantomime, which would soon be a Christmas tradition in Deep Cove. Another local group, Theatre West, also put on several shows there before that group folded.



The Deep Cove Community Hall, c1970s was located on south Panorama Drive where Lions Manor now resides. DCHS #1148. Photo courtesy Ray Eagle.

During part of the time Deep Cove Stage was occupying the Deep Cove Community Hall, an award winning local film, television and theatre actor, Jonathan Pallone, resided in the suite as building caretaker. For anyone who remembers Expo 86, Jonathon was the Red King in the acclaimed movie, *Rainbow Wars*. Other movie roles included *Stay*

Tuned and Dreamspeaker. He also made appearances on *The Beachcombers*, *Airwolf*, *21 Jump Street*, *MacGyver*, *Police Academy* and *The New Addams Family*. He was known to tread the boards in Deep Cove Stage's productions as well!

Born right before Christmas, on December 22nd, it was quite some years ago that he discovered his



Top far left: Quarries Lodge wharf with snow, looking across Cove to Deep Cove Park. Photo may be from 1930s-1940s. DCHS #0303, courtesy Arthur George.



Lower far left: Second Street, DC, snow. late c1940s. DCHS #2363, courtesy Wayne Nemeth



At left: Group of skiers on Mount Seymour, April 1939, DCHS #1881, courtesy Donna Leighton

Below: Kids and dog playing in snow 1950s. DCHS #1997, courtesy Lynn Elliott Niseley

doppelganger. This near twin, he discovered resides at the North Pole most of the year, and especially throughout December. Right from their first meeting, Jonathon and Santa Clause became virtually inseparable. Jonathon drove Santa to all kinds of gigs throughout Vancouver in the weeks leading up to Christmas, spending a great deal of time at The Bay. He also arranged for Santa to make many surprise visits to events in the Deep Cove area and as a result, Santa actually lived in the Deep Cove Community Hall when Jonathon did for a period of time! Jonathan moved out of the suite in the early 1980s, but continued his performing career.

Deep Cove Stage vacated the building and it was torn down and replaced by the Lions Manor. The group now, of course, resides in its new home in the Deep Cove Cultural Centre which opened in March 1992. Deep Cove Stage's wildly successful pantomimes have become a tradition in Deep Cove;

(note: when this article was written they were about to tackle The Dragon of Wantley.) At that time I had added: For those keeping score, "yes," Ben Maifredi still holds the world title for appearing in the most consecutive Deep Cove Stage pantos. He is so far ahead of anyone, I can't imagine anyone overtaking him. For him, it all began in 1995, making this his 21st year. Now that's a record!

(Note - the photos of Santa were taken by Eileen Smith on the set of Deep Cove Stage's 1980 production of *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*.)



Deep Cove Crier

Thanks to the Deep Cove Crier for allowing us to reprint the stories in this newsletter. If you are not in the area, you can now access recent Deep Cove Crier articles through the North Shore News website: <http://www.nsnews.com/deep-cove-crier>

This “Wild Thing” makes all our hearts sing

by Eileen Smith — Reprinted with permission of Deep Cove Crier Dec 2014

Chatting with Ben Maifredi at the Deep Cove Cultural Centre recently, he told me he had just turned 40. When I asked if he would be in the panto this year, he said of course, that he did it every year and this year would mark his 20th consecutive performance in Deep Cove Stage’s annual pantomime. Wow, Ben, that’s half your life!

Ben was born in Australia but grew up in Deep Cove; he has one brother, David who lives in Australia, his mother, Marian lives here. He had his theatre training at Sutherland’s Drama Department and has a lengthy resume that includes much more than pantos. Theatre Terrific, First Impressions Theatre, Half-Stratford Players (of which he is also a founding member) and, of course, Deep Cove Stage, have all cast Ben in their productions. He was featured in all of Half Stratford Players productions — *Rescuing Robyn*, *Festival Fever*, *Master & Mistress*, *QUAD*, *Master of Fence* and *Seasons*.

Ben is a Service Clerk at Safeway at Parkgate. He has been there for many, many years. In fact, I can’t remember a time he didn’t work there. He is a dedicated and hard worker.

Ben has a lot of friends. I spoke to a few of them, but it was Darien Edgeler who filled me on some really great “Ben Trivia” — his nicknames are Wild Thing, B.J., Panto Iron Man, Theatre Junkie and Big Bad. When he’s not treading the boards, Ben likes to watch wrestling, hockey and baseball. He also plays video games, completes jigsaw puzzles, lavishes attention on his cat Pasta, eats more jujubes than he should and sorts his thousands of sports trading cards.



Photo from *Captain Hook’s Revenge*. Pictured left to right are Braedon Duperron, Ruby McCarthy, Chris Coulter, Ben Maifredi, Ayla Starkey, Ashley Pistilli. Photo by Harjog McElmoyle

Ben listens to Christmas carols year-round. If you’re going to play a word game like Scrabble with Ben, don’t wager any money. He will beat you.

In contacting some of his past directors, I heard nothing but praise for Ben. Half-Stratford Players thespian Darien Edgeler, a Deep Cove award winning playwright, director and actor had this to say — “Whenever I set out to create a show, I make sure there’s a part for Ben. Some people think I write roles for Ben because he’s a buddy of mine. It’s true that he’s one of my best friends, but that’s not why I include him in all my productions. I include him because he’s a great actor. Because he’s talented and reliable and fun. Because he’s always fully present on stage. Because audiences adore him. Because he never fails to find a way to give me what I want. And I’ve asked him to do some tough things; on one occasion I needed him to lie motionless in front of a hot footlight after a stage fight. A dilettante would have balked. Ben, of course, rose to

the challenge and endured the heat.”

Jim Hebb, a master at the craft of theatre, including directing, performing, set design and more, directed Ben in many shows beginning with the *Panto Menace* in 1999. His comment about working with Ben is “He has managed to maintain the same enthusiasm and excitement as when he first stepped onstage years ago. Who of us can claim that? I’m jealous.”

Neil Freeman, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Theatre Film and Creative Writing at UBC, cast Ben in Shakespeare’s *As You Like It* in 2009. Neil commented that Ben “is a wonderful gentleman, a joy to have in any company on — and off-stage, and audiences (and the very stage itself) love him: long may you prosper Ben, and way you go!”

Writer, director, actor and often panto dame, Damian Inwood added “It’s great to see Ben is hitting a double milestone this year. Of his 19 previous consecutive Deep Cove Stage Pantos, I’ve acted in or directed

at least 15, so I know that Ben's theatrical career is one of the most important parts of his life.

Ben is totally dedicated when it comes to acting.

"He learns his lines meticulously and comes to every rehearsal even when his character isn't going to be needed. He just loves being part of it all. And he's worked very hard on his speech, so that in last year's production, *Red Riding Hood*, he held down the major role of The Wolf with great style and we could understand every word. He even had his own song. Ben says he can't dance but he can certainly move well enough to carry it off."

Damian added "I was delighted when he won Deep Cove Stage Society's "Spirit of the Cove Award" at our recent AGM. He's been a fixture in our community, both with his work at Safeway and in the theatre, and thoroughly deserves the recognition for all his hard work."

Ben is now rehearsing for Deep Cove Stage's panto, *Rumpelstilskin*, written and directed by John McGie. When asked, John had this to say "Ben is a gem amongst men (and women for that matter). His spirit is infectious, his soul charitable and his eye has a twinkle that you only find in angels that are about to do something naughty. I hope to be just like him

when I grow up — if I grow up."

No other actor can claim to have performed in Deep Cove Stage's pantos for twenty consecutive years. It is a world record. Here's to the next twenty, Ben.

Note: This article appeared in the December 2014 issue of the Deep Cove Crier. Ben is appearing in his 22nd consecutive panto this year in *Captain Hook's Revenge*, it runs December 14 to 31, in the Deep Cove Shaw Theatre, for tickets go to

www.deepcovestage.com or call 604-929-3200.



Cultural Christmas Goings On

Come by the Deep Cove Cultural Centre to pick up a copy of one of our books, *Echoes Across Seymour* or *Echoes Across the Inlet*, they make great Christmas presents. While you are there check out the **Seymour Art Gallery's Winter Gift Gallery** with its unique selection of gifts by local artists which runs until December 24. The gallery is open 10am to 5pm daily. **Deep Cove Stage's panto** is *Captain Hook's Revenge*, it runs Dec 14 to 31 and First Impressions Theatre is selling tickets in the gift shop to its **Jim Byrnes concerts** with special guests Mainstreet Muze featuring Babe Gurr, Thursday and Friday, January 19 & 20.

www.deepcoveheritage.com — 604-929-5744
www.seymourartgallery.com — 604-924-1378
www.deepcovestage.com — 604-929-3200
www.firstimpressionstheatre.com — 604-929-9456

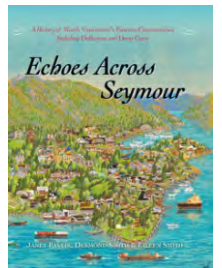
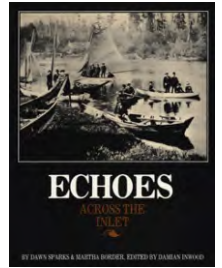
At left: Portion of Mount Seymour Park in Winter, eight-panel brochure. Circa 1950s. Courtesy Frederick R. Jelfs. DCHS #4232

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



Local books

Echoes Across the Inlet and Echoes Across Seymour, and Ralph Drew's books *Forest & Fjord: The History of Belcarra* and *Ferries & Fjord the History of Indian Arm*, all are loaded with pictures. make wonderful gifts for visitors or your own reading. These books are available from our office.



Be involved in your community

We are looking for more volunteers to mingle with visitors to our office or help with our events. If you can help out with any of the following, even occasionally, please get in touch with us.

- Welcome visitors to our office (three-hour shift, morning or afternoon)
 - Accompany other volunteers when they attend community events by handing out brochures or selling our books. This would include events like Blueridge Good Neighbour Day, Deep Cove Daze or Parkgate Community Days, etc. Any one of them or all of them would be very helpful.
 - Help set up and take down chairs for our Guest Speaker Events when needed, usually 9am to noon four times per year.
 - Accompany other volunteers visiting Grade Two classes for history talks twice a year for one or two hours.
 - Help out at fund-raisers to either sell tickets or help set up event and silent auction (twice per year).
 - Grades 10, 11 and 12 students are welcome to volunteer.
- If you can help, call our office administrator, at 604-929-5744 Thursdays and Saturdays from 10am to 3pm or email her at: deepcoveheritage@shawcable.com

FROM OUR ARCHIVES



DCHS 5064 - Vivian with ski poles, Mount Seymour c1936 — courtesy Hazel Best

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.DEEPCOVEHERITAGE.COM

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of: The Province of British Columbia, The District of North Vancouver, The City of North Vancouver, North Vancouver Recreation & Culture, Canada Summer Jobs Program, New Horizons for Seniors Program, First Impressions Theatre, Deep Cove Crier, Cedar Springs PARC Retirement Residence, North Shore Community Foundation. We appreciate the ongoing support of our Deep Cove Cultural Centre partner groups: Deep Cove Stage, First Impressions Theatre and Seymour Art Gallery.