



Celebrating 25 Years!



We invite you to be a part of our Anniversary Celebration, a day filled with joy, gratitude and nostalgia as we look back on 25 years of growth, achievements and cherished partnerships.

May 23, 2026



Event Details

Date: **May 23, 2026**

Time: **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Location: **Sea Island School (gym)
1891 Wellington Cres., Richmond**

To ensure your spot at this special celebration, please RSVP to treasurersihs@seaislandhome.org by **May 13, 2026**.

VISIT OUR
WEBSITE

Join Us for Our Anniversary Event!



President's Message



Dear friends,

Welcome to a special edition of the Sea Island Heritage Society (SIHS) newsletter in celebration of our 25th anniversary. Yes, we proudly acknowledge our

ongoing commitment and curiosity to learn more about our little island at the mouth of the Fraser River!

Volunteer members have worked tirelessly, dedicated and determined to document the complex history and heritage of Sea Island, British Columbia. And we want you to be part of the celebration. After all, without your interest, support and contributions, the SIHS would not have been able to accomplish what we have. The May 23rd event at the Sea Island School is a time to celebrate all of us!

Our members and friends each have a special connection to Sea Island, be it home, work or leisure activities now or in the past. It is their stories we continue to document over the years.

After many successful Cora Brown reunions, Wendy Bechdholt (née Taylor) and I came up with the idea of writing about the past of Cora Brown and Tapp Road subdivisions. At a chance meeting with Patricia Marlowe (née McDonald), I heard Doug Eastman was considering a similar idea. Doug, now living in Nanaimo, grew up in Burkeville. Wendy was also living in Nanaimo, so she and I connected with Doug, and the three of us decided to work together.

From this 1995 meeting, the SIHS was formed with the goal of preserving the unique history and heritage of Sea Island. It began with Doug Eastman, Wendy Bechdholt, Eunice Robinson (née Hamalock), then

others joined - Sharon Bordeleau (née McDonald), Don Phillips, and Colleen Brooks (née Cruikshank) at the helm.

On February 20, 2001, we decided to organize more formally. The SIHS was registered under the British Columbia Society Act on September 5, 2001. It became a registered society with the Federal Government on September 13, 2002. We have not strayed from our mission statement nor from the commitment we made to create a contact list, now 2,500 names.

At the celebration we will have many displays of our work, reflecting our learning in a variety of project areas from Chinese farmers to some of our early settlers to leisure activities such as Brownies and Cubs. By viewing these displays, we hope you will see an opportunity to contribute your story to our Collection.

In this issue, we include a story that connects the era of Eburne's commerce in the northeast corner of the island, especially its values of customer service, to today's outlet mall. It is our way of showing how heritage is passed on through the generations that live, work or enjoy this place we call Sea Island.

And now we celebrate at home on Sea Island at the school many of us attended.

Come join us!

Eunice Robinson



President

Sea Island Heritage Society

The ongoing work we do!

Here are highlights of what we've been up to since the beginning of the year:

In January 2026, Yulia Radchenko, a Burkeville resident, reached out to the Society to become a volunteer. Following a pleasant in-person meeting, Yulia participated in the January Coffee Chat & is jumping on board to help with some of the Society's projects and events.

In January 2026, Stuart MAH, the grandson of MAH Look, a descendant of one of the Chinese pioneer farmers of Sea Island, contacted the Society. Stuart learned of the Chinese Pioneers webpage, new content on the Society's website, and was pleasantly surprised to see his paternal grandfather featured. One of the Society's directors met with Stuart who provided a wealth of new information and photographs on MAH Look and his family. The director was also able to put Stuart in touch with other MAH descendants. Stuart made a generous donation to the SIHS in honour of his father, James Chong MAH.

In January 2026, SIHS volunteers started preparing for their **25th celebration**. A few meetings lead to a decision on mementos to hand out at the celebration, old displays to be updated and new ones to be created, guests to be invited, food to be ordered and all good things to make May 23, 2026, a fun event. The elves are at work. Hope to see you there!

In February 2026, the Society lent some of its displays on the Chinese pioneer farmers of Sea Island to the Friends of Richmond Archives (FOTRA) who were participating in the Richmond's Children's Arts Festival held on Family Day (February 16, 2026). The theme of the festival was "Stir the Pot" focusing on local food production and foods of different cultures. One of the displays is of a map showing where the vegetable farms of the Chinese pioneers were located on Sea Island.



Figure 2. [Eunice Robinson presenting a certificate to Stuart MAH for his generous donation to the Society]. (March 21, 2026). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

In February 2026, a few of the SIHS volunteers started to plan for a photo booth to be held at Burkeville Daze on June 28, 2026, in honour of the Society's 25th anniversary.

Also in February 2026, Burkeville SIHS member, Catherine Lee, helped coordinate the inclusion of a poster of the May celebration in the Sea Island Community Association (SICA)'s February 2026 *Sea Island Times* newsletter. Many thanks to Catherine and SICA for making this happen. We hope to see many of our Burkeville friends at the event.

On March 21, 2026, SIHS held a Coffee Chat in Langley, BC at 'The Barn' thanks to Doreen and Peter King. Eunice gave Stuart Mah a certificate for his generous

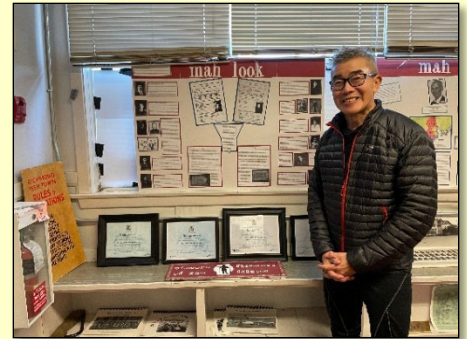


Figure 1. [A. Stuart MAH, grandson of Sea Island Chinese pioneer farmer MAH Look]. (January 24, 2026). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

donation to SIHS, honoring his father. Attendees shared memories of Stuart’s grandfather, Mah Look, recalling his farm, vegetable crops, candy traded for ducks, and a lighthearted story about Mah Look and duck feet tendons that brought laughter to a little girl on a bus.

Upcoming Events

Coffee Chat (via Zoom) - April 16, 2026



Join our online Coffee Chat on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 10 am to noon. Members will receive the link a week prior; it's the same one used for previous Zoom Coffee Chats. Connect and share memories while learning about Sea Island’s history and heritage, the people and stories from the March in-person Coffee Chat held in Langley, the upcoming May Celebration marking 25 years of heritage service, and a Vancouver Island Coffee Chat planned for the fall. Message us at info@seaisland.org for the link if you are not a member.

Celebrating the Society’s 25th anniversary - May 23, 2026

See information on the front page of this newsletter. Don’t forget to let us know you are coming by emailing Doreen King at treasurersihs@seaislandhome.org. See you there!

Doors Open Richmond 2026 - Sunday, June 7, 2026



This year, the Society has been selected as one of the stops on the **Doors Open Bus Tours** on Sunday, June 7, 2026. Each bus will have up to 20 visitors and will be travelling with a tour guide. The buses will start and end at the Richmond Cultural Centre on Lulu Island.

You can also drop in on your own and come and see our displays out front of the LINK, the Society’s office at the Sea Island School on Sunday, June 7, 2026, from 10 am to 4 pm. The school offers a lot of free parking and can be accessed via Templeton Street, or you can walk in from Wellington Crescent/Boeing Avenue from the Burkeville area.

Burkeville Daze 2026

Drop by our booth at Burkeville Daze 2026, to be held on June 28, 2026, at Burkeville Park on Sea Island from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

In honour of our 25th anniversary, we will host a photo booth. Our volunteers will take your photo and provide you with a digital photo within a few weeks.

Make it a family photo or a photo with friends, and then again, just you if you want. We will have a few fun props for the occasion.



Coffee Chat (in-person) on Vancouver Island - September 2026



SIHS members Doug Eastman and Dick McClellan will be hosting an in-person Coffee Chat in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, on Thursday September 17, 2026. "School Days" is the theme of the event as Dick and Doug both attended Sea Island School and have fun memories and photos to share about their time there. What memories will you bring to the September Coffee Chat to share about your Sea Island school days? Contact us at info@seaisland.org to let us know you're coming. More details to come.

First Board Members

Twenty-five years ago (on September 5, 2001), the Sea Island Heritage Society was incorporated and became a non-profit organization. Its first board members were Don Phillips (President), Doug Eastman (Vice-President), Eunice Robinson (Secretary), Sharon Bordeleau (Treasurer) and Colleen Brooks, Carole Lefler, and Grant Thompson as directors.

From the beginning, SIHS has collected photos and artifacts and stories from Sea Islanders. For years they were kept safe in basements and storage areas in our homes until a few years ago when we were given space at Sea Island School. Most, but not all artifacts are kept there. Our contact list of Sea Islanders started in 2001 has 2,500 names and continues to be added to and revised. Our newsletters reach each of them. Early on we developed a system to archive our work - now with over 10,000 entries. Early research work grew into key projects our

volunteers continue to work on today (see our project page at <https://www.seaislandhome.org/sea-island-projects.html>). Over the last 25 years, we've done much to proudly promote the legacy of Sea Island thanks to the foresight of our founding Board members.

In the next few pages, you will learn a bit about each founding member and find a list of all who held positions with the Board.

Don Phillips



Don Phillips spent his childhood on Douglas Crescent in Burkeville. Living near both the Boeing Aircraft Canada Ltd plant and the Royal Canadian Air Force Station Sea Island, Don

developed a lifelong interest in wartime aircraft and Sea Island's WWII history. Agreeing with others to form a society in pursuit of documenting these interests and more, he went to Victoria with Doug Eastman to complete the group's incorporation papers in 2001. Don served as the group's first president and webmaster (with technical support from his son Craig) and was instrumental in preserving Sea Island's military and marine industry history.

Doug Eastman



Doug Eastman, formerly of Burkeville, has long been passionate about aircraft, especially those of the RCAF—a fascination

fostered by his father, a WWII RCAF veteran. After moving from Burkeville, Doug continued to deepen his knowledge of military planes. In the 1990s, while living in Nanaimo, Eunice Robinson contacted him to discuss forming a Sea Island Heritage Society. Doug's military aircraft expertise, initially developed with his father and later expanded, supports the Society's military webpage (<https://www.seaislandhome.org/sea-island-military.html>). Doug also took on the role of indexing items for the Society. Since 2001, he has provided regular monthly updates to the board on new acquisitions.

Eunice Robinson



Eunice Robinson (née Hamalock) grew up in Cora Brown, cherishing lasting childhood memories. Although the community was expropriated in the 1970s, Eunice was determined its heritage would endure. She helped launch the annual Cora Brown Reunion, which successfully brought former residents together for many years. In the late 1990s, Eunice began collaborating with Doug Eastman from Burkeville to establish a society devoted to honouring the legacy of Sea Island - an

island that was rapidly transforming into an international airport hub. Since 2001, Eunice has taken on multiple roles within the Society and now serves as its dedicated president, steadfastly preserving its mission.

Sharon Bordeleau



Sharon Bordeleau (née McDonald), a third-generation descendant of Sea Island pioneers Hugh and Harriet McDonald, has long called the island home.

After growing up on Ferguson Road, she returned with her husband and three sons. Later, the youngest son and family also returned to the family farm making Sharon's granddaughter the sixth-generation descendant since 1876. They left Sea Island in 2022. Sharon's active involvement in the Society since 2001 is evident through her long service as director and her sharing of an extensive knowledge and connections with past Sea Island residents, especially her stories about early pioneer life from her grandparents.

Colleen Brooks, Carole Lefler and Grant Thompson

Carole, Grant and Colleen, founding directors-at-large, contributed much to the Society over the years.



Carole Lefler (née Alexander) grew up in Burkeville on Boeing Avenue across the street from Doug Eastman. They attended Sea Island School together, remembering that the boys and girls had separate play areas. Her father delivered milk for Frasea Farms and her mother

worked as a Boeing riveter during WWII. With fond memories of her time on Sea Island, Carole was keen to help the Society create and maintain its Contact List, sending out SIHS newsletters and other mailings to Sea Island contacts. The list continues to be expanded and used today.



Colleen Brooks (née Cruikshank) (1942-2021) spent much of her childhood and married life in Burkeville. As a founding director of the Society, she contributed to the Society's calendar, receiving recognition from

the Society for her work on the 2003 edition. In her role at Rogers Community Richmond, Colleen produced the 1994 TV presentation, "Sea Island Then and Now." The video includes exclusive interviews with Sea Islanders that tell personal stories of those who lived on the island and witnessed the changes firsthand.



Grant Thompson (1936 - 2023) a founding Director of the SIHS, worked energetically to support the Society, proudly sharing memories of life on Sea Island. Grant grew up in Burkeville and is

remembered as a vibrant, animated storyteller,



telling stories about his childhood whenever members got together. At home, he had boxes of pictures from his time on Sea Island, and with each picture shared, Grant had yet another story to tell. His donated photos and stories have greatly enriched the SIHS Collection.

Board of Directors - Sea Island Heritage Society (2001 - 2026)

Here is a list of all SIHS volunteers who held and continue to hold positions with the Society's Board for the past 25 years.

Presidents

- Don Phillips (2001-2004)
- Doug Eastman (2005-2007)
- Eunice Robinson (2008 – present)

Vice-Presidents

- Doug Eastman (2001-2004)
- Colleen Brooks (2005-2007)
- Don Phillips (2008-2017)
- Barbara Nielsen (2018-2022)
- David England (2024 – present)

Secretary-Treasurer

At times, a person held the dual roles of secretary and treasurer while the roles were split at other times.

- Sharon Bordeleau (2007-2019)
- Marylin Low (2020-2023)

Secretary

- Eunice Robinson (2001-2006)
- Sharon Bordeleau (2024-2025)

Treasurer

- Sharon Bordeleau (2001-2006)
- Doreen King (2024 – present)

Directors

- Colleen Brooks (2001-2011)
- Grant Thompson (2001-2023)
- Carole Lefler (2016 – present)
- Don Phillips (2001-2022)
- Eunice Robinson (2001 – present)
- Doug Eastman (2001 – present)
- Barbara Nielsen (2011 – present)
- Maureen Ross (2015-2024)
- Elizabeth Pardey (2018-2020)
- Sharon Bordeleau (2001-2025)
- Karen Tourangeau (2024 – present)
- Carol Gordon (2024 – present)
- Doreen King (2024 – present)
- David England (2023 – present)

Awards

Through the years, the Sea Island Heritage Society and its volunteers were recognized by the City of Richmond on numerous occasions for their countless hours spent researching, preserving and promoting the heritage of Sea Island.

Volunteer of the Year Awards

In 2016, the City of Richmond Archives named Eunice Robinson and Barbara Nielsen, the President and Vice-President of the Sea Island Heritage Society, as Volunteers of the Year to honour the countless hours each spent at the Archives researching Sea Island's history.



Eunice Robinson (R), seen here receiving her award from Jennifer Yuhasz, Archivist (L), December 9, 2016. Missing from photo: Barbara Nielsen.



Barbara Nielsen (L) and Eunice Robinson (R) at the membership table, Archives Tea 2016, October 14, 2016.

Figure 2. [Left: Eunice Robinson & her award, and right: Barbara Nielsen & Eunice Robinson at the Archives Tea]. (2016). (Source: Friends of Richmond Archives Newsletter, Spring 2017).

Richmond Heritage Awards

In 2011, the SIHS received its first City of Richmond Heritage Award. Since then, the SIHS has been the recipient of this award a further three times, in 2017, 2019 and 2024. These awards are the culmination of the continued hard work by our volunteers. The Society received the following:

- In May 2011, the SIHS received the City of Richmond Heritage Award for preserving and promoting the history of Sea Island.
- In May 2017, the SIHS received the City of Richmond Heritage Award for their work on the history of Sea Island and current projects.
- On May 11, 2019, the Society was one of the recipients of the 2019 Richmond Heritage Award for its dedication to raising public awareness of the history of Sea Island.
- In May 2024, Marylin Low, Barbara Nielsen, David England and Eunice Robinson of the SIHS attended the awards ceremony where the SIHS received the City of Richmond Heritage Award for their great work.



Figure 5. [Maureen Ross (SIHS), Ron Hyde (Commissioner, Richmond Heritage Commission, Barbara Nielsen (SIHS) and Gent Ng (Chairman of the Richmond Heritage Commission). Maureen & Barb accepting the Richmond Heritage Award on behalf of the Society]. (2019). (Source: Richmond Heritage Commission).



Figure 6. [Marylin Low, Barbara Nielsen, David England and Eunice Robinson of SIHS accepting the Richmond Heritage Award]. (2024). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

Childhood Memories of Sea Island

In honour of 25 years of collecting stories of life on Sea Island, we share childhood memories from two former residents. Hope they trigger happy memories for you. Enjoy!

CAROL'S COMIC BOOKS

Submitted by Carol Gordon

I loved to read. Prior to school on Sea Island, I went to a school in Vancouver that had a school library where you could check a book out over the weekend. I was an avid reader and especially loved comic books.

Moving to Sea Island at age seven, there was not much available for a young eager reader. There was no public library on the island and Sea Island School did not have a library where you could check a book out to take home to read. One simple solution was to trade our comic books with each other.

My best comic book trading friend was Joy Hall. I would ride my bike up to Ferguson Road and she would meet me at the corner of McDonald and Ferguson with her bike. She did this as she knew I was terrified of the loose dogs on her road. She would walk me to her house, with the bikes on the outside, and us in the middle, so I would feel safe.

Mrs. Hall (Joy's mom) would then buy any comic books that I had left as 'traders' for Joy to use as her traders. New comics were 10 cents back then and Mrs. Hall gave me 5 cents for any of my remaining traders. She told me that this was so Joy had a 'trading' inventory of comics. I know now Mrs. Hall was encouraging my thirst for reading by buying all of my leftover trading comic books at 5 cents each so I could buy more comics to read. This was an act of kindness which I have NEVER forgotten.

DAVID BRUCE and RICHARD STARK—An Adventure

Submitted by Richard Stark

Back in the day when you took woodworking class in Grades 7, 8 and 9 at Cambie Junior High School, you needed to pick a project to build each year. Most made key racks—4 x12 with five hooks. These would hang around in the house all summer. Dave Bruce decided he wanted to build a 10 to 12-foot boat over three years. He was all set to have an inboard motor installed - the motor off his dad's rototiller. Most took home a key rack but not Dave—he took home a boat. Quite an accomplishment actually! After three years of construction, the motor was installed and now the test--into the river.

OK, it works!! Planned out very carefully with fishing rods, food, pop and enough goodies to keep us in shape, we took off. Took a load of firecrackers, too. Off we went down the river to the mouth of the North Arm where all the big Salmon Derby boats were moored — too rough for them to go out. They'll have to wait a few hours. But not us—with a little boat we just rode the 10-foot waves all the way over to Bowen Island—when you're down in the trough, you think you will never get out. Then you're on the top you can see everything. The firecrackers were entertainment on the side. Made it to the shoreline, had a bite to eat and got ready to start out again. As the weather calmed down, the big boats started out. They would look at us and wonder...where did those little guys come from? After trolling around and fishing we must have decided it was time to head back before the folks knew what we did. You can't really talk about what you're doing because of course you can't go fishing out in the ocean in a small boat. Coming home we managed to get to the mouth of the river but, going past Iona Island, we ran out of gas and started to paddle, paddle, paddle into a cove and through the reeds out past the old McDonald farm area. We must have walked the rest of the way to Dave's house. Somehow, I also think it was Dan MacIvor and dad (Joe Stark) who came out in a boat, hauled in our boat and brought us home--safe and sound.

Send us your special memories of Sea Island at info@seaislandhome.org.



Fun Fact Sheet

To celebrate our 25th anniversary,
we decided to include a “Fun Fact Sheet”
of what was going on in 2001
when the Society was incorporated.

This insert will take you back in time.

Have fun with the next page!

SIHS Newsletter Special Edition

Sea Island, British Columbia ● April 2026

Volume 20

LORDY, LORDY, THE SEA ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY IS TURNING TWENTY-FIVE! READ ALL ABOUT THE YEAR IT STARTED!

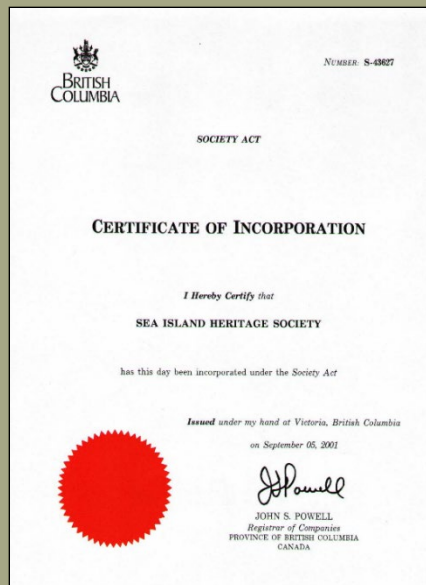
The Sea Island Heritage Society was registered under the *British Columbia Society Act* on September 5, 2001, and is turning 25!

PREMIER of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Gordon Campbell



BC Population – 3.9 million (2001)



[Sea Island Heritage Society Certificate of Incorporation]. (September 5, 2001). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

What happened in 2001

In early 2001, the 15-member public safety dive team based at the **Sea Island Coast Guard** was disbanded & reinstated with new policies after a man died when his car crashed into the Fraser River.

On May 16, 2001, the BC Liberal party led by Gordon Campbell won a historic landslide victory, taking all but 2 seats at the Legislative Assembly.

On September 1, 2001, the local station BCTV became **Global BC**.

On September 11, 2001, who can forget the 911 terrorist attacks in the US that led to the War in Afghanistan.

On October 23, 2001, Apple released the first version of its iPod.

Top movie and song of 2001

Movie

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

Song

Survivor by Destiny's Child – top song of 2001



[Eunice Robinson & Sharon Bordeleau looking at an aerial photograph of Sea Island with Friends of Richmond Archives Joan Smythe]. (2001). (Source: Richmond Archives newsletter, Spring 2001).

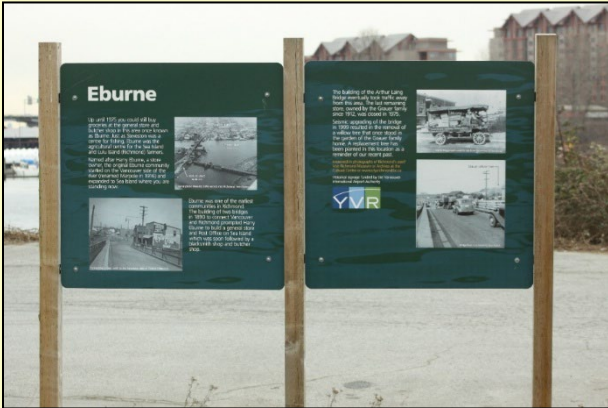


Figure 9. [Eburne sign on Sea Island]. (2019). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

McArthurGlen

McArthurGlen UK Limited is a British shopping mall operator founded in 1993. The group operates over 20 shopping malls across the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe, and has a single location in Canada, the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet



Figure 10. [McArthurGlen Designer Outlet sign, Sea Island, BC]. (January 12, 2026). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

Vancouver located on Sea Island. In 1986, Cheryl McArthur and Alan Glen founded McArthur/Glen Realty Corp in the United States, a real estate investment trust, which later was folded into Horizon Shopping Malls in the 1990s. In April 1993, McArthur and Glen, alongside Kaempfer Partners, founded McArthurGlen UK Limited as a separate company and opened its first mall, the Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, England.

The McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Vancouver, or McArthurGlen as the locals call it, is located on Sea Island, in Richmond, British Columbia. The quaint outdoor shopping village inspired by classic European architecture opened on July 9, 2015 (Phase 1) to record-breaking crowds. Over 45,000 guests attended the weekday opening, making it the largest opening for any of the McArthurGlen’s designer outlet centres worldwide.



Figure 11. [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony McArthurGlen on Sea Island]. (2015). (Source: Modern Mix Vancouver).

Phase 2 opened on August 29, 2019, and Phase 3 is in progress.

McArthurGlen offers more than 90 stores and stunning indigenous sculptures and art, free parking and is located right across from the Canada Line’s Templeton Station Skytrain on Sea Island, just 20 minutes from downtown Vancouver and 10 minutes from Richmond town centre.



Figure 12. [SEI, a silver and copper sculpture of a whale by artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, project design by Barry Gilson, in the centre of McArthurGlen on Sea Island]. (January 24, 2026). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

Controversy

McArthurGlen is considered an outdoor mega destination shopping mall, and the approval and building of it was not without controversy.

The mall, 50% of which is owned by the Vancouver Airport Authority (Airport/YVR) as a joint venture with the McArthurGlen Group, is on unceded $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{a} y \acute{a} m$, Musqueam land / federal land and was approved by the Vancouver Airport Authority. While planning the development of the outlet mall, the Airport came to the Musqueam Band offering artistic and education signage opportunities but was not willing to discuss economic partnerships with the Band. On June 21, 2017, at the Musqueam's annual Indigenous People's Day celebration, Musqueam and YVR signed the Musqueam Indian Band-YVR Airport Sustainability and Friendship Agreement, after years of negotiations. As part of this 30-year agreement, YVR committed to sharing 1% of annual gross revenue with the Musqueam Band, funded through its non-aeronautical revenue.

Metro Vancouver politicians, especially Richmond politicians, were concerned about the traffic to Sea Island. The construction of the Templeton Station on the rapid transit Canada Line helped alleviate traffic, except during the Christmas holidays and Boxing Day (December 26) sales when shoppers clog the bridges and roads leading onto Sea Island. Since its onset, every year, YVR and the local media warn travellers to give themselves lots of time if driving to catch their flights.

Conclusion

Just like Eburne was to the Sea Island communities, McArthurGlen is dedicated to engaging the community of Sea Island and Richmond.

In its first year, they hosted Vancouver's largest outdoor yoga exercise fundraiser benefitting the Red Cross during Canada Day. Just a year after opening (2016), McArthurGlen was awarded the Business Excellence Award by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. From year to year, they continue to hold community events and fundraisers, while offering over 90 stores for shopping.

In honour of the $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{a} y \acute{a} m$, Musqueam people, the original custodians of this land, McArthurGlen dedicated a space to acknowledge the Musqueam peoples' enduring presence and contributions. Within the Musqueam Recognition Area, you will discover a captivating narrative and artwork generously shared by the Musqueam community, celebrating their culture, heritage, and the land in which McArthurGlen is situated. You can explore the Musqueam Recognition art installation, situated adjacent to the children's adventure area.



Figure 13. [Musqueam Recognition Area, McArthurGlen outlet on Sea Island]. (January 24, 2026). (Source: Sea Island Heritage Society).

As the history of the Eburne area continues to change and evolve, its legacy is enriched with new heritage as created through McArthurGlen and new generations that visit and work there.

In Loving Memory

Sadly we have heard of two Sea Islanders who passed away since our last newsletter:

MICHAEL “MIKE” EDMUND GARIEPY (1946 - 2026)



On February 28, 2026, Michael “Mike” Edmund Gariepy passed away peacefully surrounded by love and family. Mike was the brother of William “Bill” Gariepy who passed away last October.

Mike was born in Victoria, British Columbia. His mum was a war bride. His older brother Bob was born in the UK and his younger brother Bill was born in Calgary where their father rejoined the Air Force. The family was first posted to Germany, then Rivers, Manitoba and finally to Sea Island. Mike finished school in Richmond and followed Bob in joining the Air Force. During his CAF career, Mike was posted across Canada and to Germany.

Mike was predeceased by his parents, his brother Bob and his wife Marsha and his brother Bill. He is survived by Marge, Kelly (James) and Michael, his sister-in-law Marilynne, his nieces and nephews Darryl (Dawna), Kimberley (Kory), Gord (Laura), Jennifer (Randy) and grand nieces and nephews and many friends. For many years he was part of the Tuesday Morning Timmys retired CAF consisting of work pals Harlin Price, Tom Fisher, Chris Little, Trevor Hallam, and George McKenzie.

DAVID OSBORN UPPER (CAPTAIN) (1941 - 2026)



On January 8, 2026, David “Dave” Osborn Upper passed away peacefully at home at the age of 85 years old. He was predeceased by his wife, Diane Margaret (née Beaton) of 58 years in 2018.

Dave was a tugboat captain, commercial fisherman, trap shooter, fly fisherman (locally & to exotic places), hunter of big game (his last trip being in May 2025 to Africa, a lifelong dream). He had a wicked sense of humour and lived life well.

He is survived by his children, Darleen and Danna (Gary), grandsons Chris & Lucas and great granddaughter Freya, and Laurel Willman, his companion of recent years.

Sea Island Artifacts and Memorabilia

Over the past few months, we have had some lovely donations. Donations are welcomed and appreciated. If you are downsizing or just cleaning out those boxes from the basement or attic, anything “Sea Island” would be most appreciated. Contact Eunice at eunice@genbug.ca.

CONTACT US

If you have questions, comments, or want to share your memories and photos, we would love to hear from you.

To submit a letter, documents, photos, or a cheque for your membership or donation via snail mail:

Sea Island Heritage Society
Box 88051, Lansdowne Mall
Richmond, British Columbia
V6X 3T6

To be added to our e-Newsletter, or send us an email: info@seaislandhome.org

To join, renew your membership or donate by e-Transfer: treasurersihs@seaislandhome.org

Website: <https://seaislandhome.org>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/seaislandheritagesociety>

“Sea Island is located within the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-waututh Peoples.”