

Newsletter

"A life not documented is a life that within a generation or two will largely be lost to memory."



City of Richmond Archives photographs: 1. Grauer's Store. 1940. Photo 2008-34-87; 2. Grauer's Delivery Truck. 1931. Photo 2008-34-85; 3. Building at 222 Airport Rd. 1965. Photo 1996-13-6.

President's Message



The Sea Island Heritage Society lost one of its staunchest supporters just before Christmas. Grant Thompson was a marvelous storyteller of those bygone days of Sea Island when

Burkeville was brand new. He had a wonderful memory and was an amazing source of all sorts of details about the Island's history. We were fortunate to sit down with Grant last summer and tap into his recollections and record his and his family's Sea Island story. While we mourn his passing, we are grateful we had that opportunity, and thank him for sharing.

But Grant's story wasn't the only one out there waiting to be written. Carol Gordon and I met with Butch Glusman and Liz (Hourie) Anderson to start to work on their stories. This issue includes a story by Kit Grauer and another by Jean McDonald and daughter, Sharon (McDonald) Bordeleau. Over the next months, we would like to add a few more completed family stories to our archives, and record, for posterity, If you'd like to share your family's story with us, we'd be happy to help you get started.

And don't forget those photos - school photos, birthday parties, team/group gatherings, and yes, pictures of your pets. Anything Sea Island is welcome!

We are also looking for a few more volunteers. We need to recruit a Society Secretary, someone to record the minutes of our meetings and help to keep the Society organized. If this

sounds like something you'd be interested in, please contact me at eunice@genbug.ca.

We are planning our next Sea Island Heritage Society reunion on May 25, 2024. Interested in helping? Please let me know.

Enjoy this issue of our newsletter,

Eunice Robinson



President

Sea Island Heritage Society

What's Up?

SEA ISLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE!



Drumroll please ... the Sea Island Heritage Society just released its new redesigned website. We are live! We added new pages and content, updated some material, added new photos and gave our website a new look. We added two new webpages:

- History of Sea Island - where you will learn how the island was formed in the Fraser River, its history from how the indigenous peoples used the island as a fishing and hunting preserve, to the European settlement and the creation of Richmond, all the way to present-day Burkeville and YVR.
- YVR - YVR was an RCAF military base during WWII, and after the war, expansions of the airport lead to the expropriation of all residential neighbourhoods except for Burkeville.

See for yourself - click <https://seaislandhome.org> and take a tour. Consider becoming a member and supporting our society, and don't hesitate to provide us with feedback!

COFFEE CHAT - FEBRUARY 15, 2024



SIHS member Coffee Chats are the third Thursday of each month - January through June, then September through November. There will not be Coffee Chats in July, August, and December of 2024.

Please join us Thursday, February 15, 2024, from 10 a.m. to noon to connect with Sea Island friends and for a discussion about heritage sites on Sea Island. If you have misplaced the 2024 Coffee Chat Zoom link sent to members in January, or you are not a member but would like to join this Coffee Chat, please contact Eunice at eunice@genbug.ca.

Request Centre

We have many projects on the go and would appreciate your help with any of the following:

Request 1: Do you have any pictures of clotheslines in use on Sea Island 1920 - 1960s?

Request 2: Do you have any pictures of a parent or grandparent (or other adult) wearing an apron on Sea Island 1920 - 1960s.

Request 3: Who were some of the renters that lived in the apartments above Grauer's Store? See the story, *Grauer's Ghetto*, this issue to learn about some of the renters. Who are others that rented there?

Thank you in advance for information (name, date, contact) and/or an original or scanned picture regarding the above requests. Contact us at info@seaislandhome.org.

Save the Date!

The Sea Island Heritage Society Reunion is on **May 25, 2024**. Contact us with your ideas and suggestions for a fun-filled day. More information to come as the planning gets underway.

Coming soon! Sea island: The beginning of Richmond

City of Richmond Councillor Bill McNulty is in the final stages of publishing yet another vital resource about Richmond's past, this time about Sea Island. At Bill's request, SIHS has shared family trees of pioneering families, rare photographs, and research notes that frequently document little-known facts about Sea Island. SIHS volunteers are also assisting with research, photography, and the editing of the manuscript. David England and Bill McNulty are pictured to the right at the Richmond Archives collecting pictures for the book. We are hoping it will be available at our Reunion in May. Stay tuned!



Photo by Maria Rantanen, RN Reporter.

Eburne

At the January 2024 Coffee Chat, a lively discussion ensued about the history of Eburne.

Initially Eburne was an area consisting of the northeast end of Sea Island (where the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet is now located), the slopes of South Vancouver (renamed Marpole in 1916) and the area across the Fraser River around the Town Hall (moved to the Brighthouse area in 1919).

Our discussion focused on the community of Eburne located at the northeastern tip of Sea Island where the Fraser River divides to become the North and Middle Arms.

The opening of two bridges in December 1889, one connecting the City of Vancouver to Sea Island (North Arm, Eburne #4, or Marpole Bridge) and the other connecting Sea Island to Lulu Island (Middle Arm, Eburne #5, or Lulu Island Bridge), made access easier to neighbouring communities. Located close to both bridges, Eburne soon developed into a valued commerce center.



*Marpole and Eburne bridges 1954,
City of Richmond Archives, photo 1977 1 108.*

Eburne was named after W.H. "Harry" Eburne (1855-1924) who initially opened a store on the North Arm of the Fraser River, opposite the northeast corner of Sea Island. This store became known as the North Arm Post Office, after the Post Office location was moved from the house of J.W. Sexsmith on Lulu Island. In 1891, Harry moved his store to the central location of Sea Island between the Marpole and Lulu Island bridges. In 1894, the post office in the Eburne store was officially known as the Eburne Post Office. In 1898, Harry sold his store to Churchill and McKay and became a successful chicken farmer in the area.



*William Henry Harry
Eburne ca 1920
Vancouver Archives -
AM54-54-2 CVA 371-*

In 1895, Jacob Grauer opened one of his butcher shops in Eburne. He also purchased 300 acres of land on Sea Island.

In 1912, Rudy Grauer, one of Jacob's sons, took over the butcher shop. It soon became a full



*Grauer's Store 1950, City of Richmond
Archives, photo 2008-34-94.*

grocery and general store. You could run a monthly account ordering over the phone or by buying in person, and the Grauers delivered to all parts of Richmond.

Above the store were several apartments the Grauers rented to others. Read our next story to learn about the artists who lived there.

Construction of the Arthur Laing Bridge eventually took traffic away from the Eburne area. The last remaining store, owned by the Grauer family since 1912, was closed May 31, 1976.

Learn more on our new Eburne page at <https://www.seaislandhome.org/eburne.html>

Grauer's Ghetto

Written by Kit Grauer

Many of you might remember the apartments above Grauer's store. Before the store was torn down, my father L.R. Grauer rented the apartments above the store and the apartments in our grandparent's house next door to an eclectic group of artists and musicians.

Grauer's storefront, apartments above and Grauer's house.



*Grauer's Store and the Grauer home circa 1970.
City of Richmond Archives, photo 984-0004-00015.*

Don and Lili Francks (actors) and their daughter Cree Summer; my cousin Michael Smith (film editor) and his wife Sandy Cooper Smith (makeup artist); Michael Brodie (painter) and an assortment of writers all enjoyed the cheap rent, river views and ease of grocery shopping. They formed a delightful community they referred to as *Grauer's Ghetto*.



The back of Grauer's store circa 1965. City of Richmond Archives, photo 2008-34-84.

My father really appreciated the whole group and after the Richmond Museum and Archives declined the stuff from the store, he allowed the renters to take what they wanted and have a garage sale with the rest. I was recently gifted Dad's embroidered Grauer Store smock by Former Councillor Harold Steves who bought it at the sale. Luckily, Cousin John and I got a few items such as parts of the marble butcher counter, the store counter, and the cash register. Lots of items also went to the Burnaby Museum who were much more excited to get heritage materials.

There are many great stories from that period, but my favorite was of Dad's relationship with

Doug Cranmer. Doug also known as 'Pal'nakwala Wakas and Kesu', was a Kwakwaka'wakw carver and artist as well as a Namgis chief. Cranmer was a significant figure in the Northwest Coast art movement, both in its traditional form and in a modern contemporary form that he created and developed (<https://moa.ubc.ca/exhibition/kesu-the-art-and-life-of-doug-cranmer>).



The Grauer's home. 1959. City of Richmond Archives, photo 1978 0037 00005.

At one point, knowing the house was being torn down, Doug asked Dad if he could have the eight-foot mahogany panels that lined the dining room in the apartment Doug was renting. Dad really encouraged him. I still regret he didn't accept any of Doug's artwork.

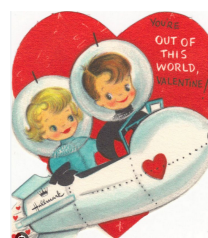
Imagine my surprise when meeting Beau Dick, one of Doug's students and a renowned artist himself, that upon hearing my name, asked if the story of the mahogany paneling was true. He had just assumed it was a story that Doug liked to tell. Not only was it true but I got to see the panels at a retrospective of Doug's work at the Museum of Anthropology where the providence of the panels was in the catalogue

(see <https://atom.moa.ubc.ca/index.php/ya-q-wees-sea-monster-carving-frontal-view>). Even in the Wikipedia write up on Doug, his creative use of mahogany was listed (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doug_Cranmer).

L.R. would be so pleased.



Lester Grauer at Grauer's Store circa 1950. City of Richmond Archives, photo 2008 34 93.




A card from the past with a special wish for us all.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Eunice Robinson's Valentine card (circa 1950s).

Remembering a friend of the Sea Island Heritage Society

In loving memory of
John (Jack) Nellist



John (Jack) Nellist passed away Tuesday, Dec 12th, 2023, after living 96 fulfilling years. He is survived by his wife, Frances Nellist, his three sons David (Shirley) Richard (Lucie), and Gary (Renie), and his six grandchildren (Clinton, Grayson, Karlie, Derek, Kaitlyn, and Emilié).

Jack worked for BC Tel (Telus) for 37 years in engineering. As an author he wrote and published several books on telecommunication, aviation, and World War Two. Jack loved riding his mountain bike, flying model aircraft, and giving presentations. He truly was an impactful orator and historian.

His stories will be missed, but always remembered.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) would be appreciated.



Jack Nellist was a friend of Sea Island Heritage Society Director Doug Eastman of Nanaimo for over 20 years. They were introduced by Jerry Vernon, one of Jack's B.C. Tel colleagues. All three are well known for their WWII aviation expertise. Jack passed on December 12, 2023.

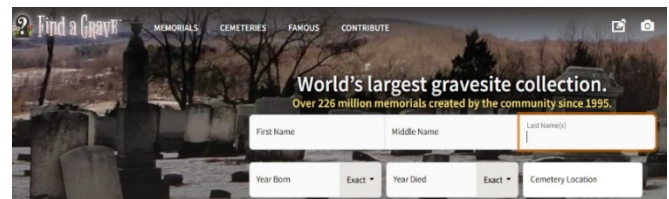
Jack had just graduated from Kitsilano High School in 1944 when he took a job at Sea Island's wartime Boeing Plant 3 in Production

Illustration. Jack maintained his incredible memory of the Boeing aircraft until his passing. He shared images and his knowledge of the inner workings of the Boeing Aircraft of Canada Ltd plants in the Vancouver area with SIHS and many other groups. His love of aviation and history-thirst led him to research and continuously disseminate information on the Boeing aircraft and the manufacturing plant. This was always appreciated by the Sea Island Heritage Society. Our Collection is richer for the knowledge he shared. He will be missed.

Part of Jack's legacy lives on in his drawings from the 1945 B-29 project, donated to the Richmond Archives and can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/3OqdGUe>.

Family Heritage Research

In this issue, Eunice Robinson offers tips and tools about using Find-A-Grave (www.findagrave.com).



WHAT IS FIND-A-GRAVE?

Find-a-Grave is a rather neat website that family historians have been using to discover where their family members have been buried. It originally started by people who would go to cemeteries and record the memorials, then they would add this information, including a photo of the gravesite to this ever-growing collection. It wasn't necessarily meant to be a family history

aid, but it has grown to be. The website includes burials from almost anywhere in the world. But there are still many more to be added.

As SIHS volunteers research, we look to see if a particular individual is buried in a cemetery. In looking for a Sea Island Pioneer, **Angus Carmichael Fraser**, we discover that there is a memorial already entered on him. However, the 'owner' didn't have all the pertinent information, so using the 'edit' function, we added some of the missing details. Each entry has a unique identifier - **Memorial ID**.

Angus Carmichael Fraser

BIRTH	1845 Quebec, Canada
DEATH	20 Nov 1906 (aged 60–61) Vancouver, Greater Vancouver Regional District, British Columbia, Canada
BURIAL	Mountain View Cemetery Vancouver, Greater Vancouver Regional District, British Columbia, Canada
PLOT	HORNE1-4-01-024-0008
MEMORIAL ID	26281495 · View Source

You can also 'Leave a Flower'. SIHS uses a forget-me-not:



Remembered by the
Sea Island Heritage
Society

Left by [Sea Island
Heritage Society](#) on 23
Nov 2018

WHY USE FIND-A-GRAVE?

When we decided to place our 'flower' and society name, we felt it was a nice way to remember and honour those Sea Islanders who had passed. But what about those who were

not buried in a cemetery? Fairly recently Find-a-Grave has enabled researchers to add those who were not buried in cemeteries but cremated or lost at sea. Since my parents were cremated, I was very happy to be able to create memorials for them.



James William "Jim" Hamalock

BIRTH 20 Jan 1917
Shoal Lake, Eastern Manitoba Census Division, Manitoba, Canada

DEATH 2 May 2011 (aged 94)
Richmond, Greater Vancouver Regional District, British Columbia, Canada

BURIAL Cremated [Add to Map](#)


MEMORIAL ID 248998973 · [View Source](#)

SHARE SAVE TO EDIT

MEMORIAL
PHOTOS 2
FLOWERS 3


Photo added by Eunice Robinson

This is my father's memorial. I originally had a more recent photo, but close to Remembrance Day, I added this one. There is also a way to indicate that someone served in the military - note the teeny, little 'v' after his name. I don't add any details as to where his cremains are, but just state cremated. I added our forget-me-not, but then thought what about indicating he was a veteran, as so many of our Sea Islanders were. So, we now add a poppy and another message.



Remembered by the
Sea Island Heritage
Society

Left by [Sea Island
Heritage Society](#) on 14
Nov 2023



A veteran of World War
II - Remembered by
the Sea Island Heritage
Society - thank you for
your service

Left by [Sea Island
Heritage Society](#) on 11
Nov 2023

Find-a-Grave allows you to 'connect' your family members. For example, my father is connected to my mother. He is also connected to his mother buried in Winnipeg, his brother Adam who is buried in France, a sister buried in Seattle, a sister buried in Maple Ridge, 3 young brothers buried in Manitoba, and two other

'closet' relatives - those whose family have the cremains but haven't placed them anywhere.

As we are doing our research, and discover a Find-a-Grave entry, we will add our flowers, and if we don't find a memorial, we will create one, and place our flowers. If you would like to have a memorial created for your family members, let us know.

Two Tales of a Barn

The first story begins with Jean McDonald (née Forsyth) (1921- 2017) sharing farming life when she and her husband, Lorne McDonald, with their 2 ½ year old daughter, Sharon, and newly born son, Reg, moved to the property belonging to Lorne's father, Hughie McDonald, on Ferguson Road. It had a barn that Jean called a gathering place.

The second story is told by Jean's daughter, Sharon Bordeleau (née McDonald). In 1980, Sharon and her husband, Charlie Bordeleau, moved the same property with Sharon's brother, Reg, and his family. She tells tales of the barn as the Sea Island Equestrian Centre.

A Gathering Place

*Written by Jean McDonald (née Forsyth)
(1921- 2017)*

Lorne's father, Hughie McDonald, wanted him on the family farm as this was war time and farm help was unavailable. We went to Ferguson Road and built a small house which we had lived in for many years. Our home was supposed to be the garage, but we never built anything bigger. We had electricity, which was wonderful.

The farm consisted of milking cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens, and Clydesdale horses which were used for many years to plow fields and pull hay wagons. Times changed and tractors took over the work of the horses. The horses were sold. It was a sad day for the family to see them go.

Lorne McDonald on a horse at the farm with his father, Hughie

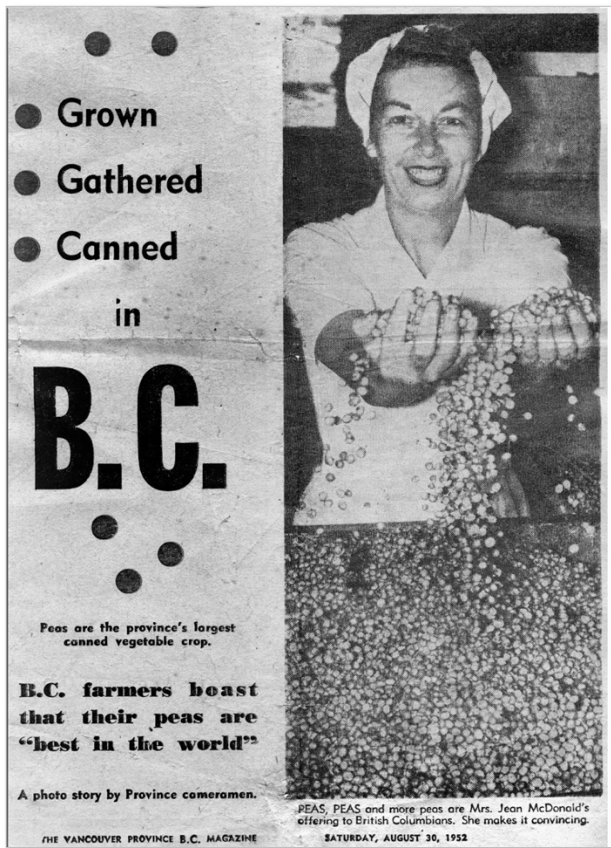


McDonald standing beside him. McDonald Family Collection.

In the Spring, when it was time to do the field work, my husband Lorne suggested that I learn to drive a tractor to help with putting in the crops. The tractors were old and difficult to manage. He would start me out on a very straight line, but when I finished the line was very wide at one end and narrow at the other end, so he would straighten it out, and always say I had done a good job. When the discing started, often I had our son Reg in my arms fast asleep. After a couple of years things changed.

The war was over. Our family was growing up. Sharon started grade one at Sea Island School and Reg started school at the RCAF Base on Miller Road.

Lorne and I started mink ranching. We did that for several years. My job was grinding and feeding the mink. I also would have to drive to New Westminster to get feed for them. To get the mink ranch off the ground, I went to work for Aylmers Canneries for three years in the summertime. It was located on River Road and #3 Road, on Lulu Island.



Jean McDonald. Vancouver Province B.C. Magazine.
Saturday, August 24, 1952

Those were very busy years, getting up at 5 a.m. and grinding the mink feed before I went to work and then feeding the mink often late into the evenings. As this was the busy time on the farm, Lorne was also busy, and he had two little helpers tagging along with him all day long. We stopped mink ranching after a few years, and life was much easier. During this time Lorne's

dad, Hughie McDonald, was killed by a bull on the farm.

Things were again changing on all farms, not just ours. There were new regulations put out by the Milk Marketing Board. Our old barns had to be replaced with concrete floors, as the old wooden floors were condemned. As the barn was so old and it was going to cost too much to replace, the cow herd was dispersed. Farming changed again for us, and we went into beef cattle. We also quit pig farming. During this time Lorne had started building a new barn on Ferguson Road. It was built mostly from lumber salvaged from Pacific Meat in Marpole.

The acreage on the south side of Ferguson Road where we were living was expropriated by the Federal Government for airport expansion. This was a continuation of the government expropriating the farmers, starting in the 1930's on the south side of the island, disrupting their way of life. We rented back the land from the government for many years, and as our house was still there, we also rented it out. The Murphy family, who lived on Miller Road, had a lovely heritage home and as they had also been expropriated, we bought it and skidded it across the fields to the north side of Ferguson Road. We lived in this beautiful house until after 1973, when Lorne died.

When Lorne finished building the barn on Ferguson Road, we started boarding horses. We also raised some sheep. By this time both Sharon and Reg were married.

The years we spent boarding horses were the best years of our lives on the farm. We had our own horses to ride, and a Shetland pony called Peanuts for the grandchildren. Quite often in the spring, one of the teachers from the Duncan

McDonald School would bring a class to the farm. Lorne would spend hours having each child have a ride on Peanuts and then would take the tractor with the wagon hooked up and take them for a ride around the farm. Afterwards they enjoyed cookies, etc. One year their teacher brought small jars of cream for each child. When they went on their hayride, they shook their cream until butter formed. At the end of their ride, they had graham wafers with the butter they had made. This was a wonderful experience and one that a lot of Cora Brown children will remember.

Our barn was a gathering place not only for friends, but the Richmond Hospital Auxiliary decorated many floats here for the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade. The auxiliary ladies, their husbands and families did a wonderful job and we won four First prizes and one Second over the years.



Photo: David England

Expropriation for all residents was underway, Cora Brown, Tapp Road subdivision and the remaining farmers. It was the unhappiest days for all moms and dads and children who had spent all their young years on Sea Island. It was

devastating to us all. Our children and grandchildren had enjoyed so many wonderful years on the farm.

I stayed on the farm for 3 years after Lorne died as expropriation hadn't yet been finalized. I was the only person living out here at that time. There were still beef cattle and horses and much to do. Later, I moved off Sea Island to a five-acre property on No. 6 Road. After I left, because our house was still standing, several young University students and their friends moved in. They had an agreement with the government, that they would demolish the house, but they managed to drag months into a few years. These young people also had a very hard time leaving the island as they had spent their lives here. They were Paul Jackson from Tapp Road Subdivision and Brian Novak from Cora Brown. One of their friends was Meg MacNeill the granddaughter of Roy MacNeill who was a Richmond teacher/principal and head of the school district.

The government finally got tough, and the students were forced to leave the farm. Our beautiful heritage home was burnt to the ground. They did leave the barn though and that was to be a good thing.

My son Reg and his wife Irene moved into the original small house while I was still living there - the original 'garage' that we first lived in. Their children Lisa, Robert and Douglas were born there, making them the 5th generation on the McDonald land. Reg's great grandfather, Hugh McDonald came to Sea Island in 1876. Reg and his family moved from the farm to a home on Lulu Island.

Several years later the government decided to lease out the vacant farmland that had been

expropriated over the years. In 1980, my son Reg, Irene and their family and my daughter Sharon, Charlie and their family were successful in obtaining a lease on these lands and sold their homes in Richmond to move back onto the property.

The Sea Island Equestrian Centre

Written by Sharon Bordeleau (née McDonald)

My father, Hugh Lawrence (Lorne) McDonald, the grandson of Sea Island pioneers Hugh and Harriet McDonald, moved to the McDonald farm at 4191 Ferguson Road. In the mid 1950s, Lorne built a new barn mostly from salvaged wood from Pacific Meat in Marpole. In 1980, the families of Charlie and Sharon Bordeleau and Reg McDonald took over the farm through a lease with YVR. We ran the Sea Island Equestrian Centre, and boarded horses, raised beef, and grew crops over the years until the lease ended in 2023 and we had to leave the island.

There were several managers of the Centre. The number of horses boarded at the Centre varied from half a dozen to 25. It was never intended to be an 'equestrian center,' it just evolved as many of the boarders were English riders and competed in many events throughout Richmond and Vancouver.

I characterize the farm as a 'mixed' farming business. When we first arrived in 1980, we had beef cattle for quite a few years. We also planted crops, oats, barley. Our main crop was hay, which we delivered all over Richmond, South Vancouver and to the Vancouver Game Farm. The Centre closed in Spring 2023. This is the last barn on the island where barn owls

made their home. In the 70's, bird relocation was a hot issue for YVR. It may still be.

Prior to our taking over the farm, my parents hosted children from the Duncan McDonald School for wagon rides, pony rides, etc. When we took possession, we hosted the Fraser Valley Hunt Club several times and the Provincial Buggy Competitions as well. Were these 'dune' buggies? Do you remember those days?

Note: In 2023, after the Bordeleau property was vacated, vandals stole the barn sign. The family would like the sign returned as it has sentimental and historical value.

If you have any information about the sign, please reach out to us at: info@seaislandhome.org.



Photo: David England

Also, see related article in Richmond News at <https://bit.ly/3vJZrTu>.

Cold Food Storage Lockers

Back in the 1940's, 1950's and into the 1960's, families on Sea Island did not have large refrigerators & freezers. Families went grocery shopping once every two weeks after the Friday payday, bought in large quantity, and had large gardens. Some families butchered their animals for the meat.

Cold food storage lockers were very important, especially for the Fall harvest of fruit and vegetables.



Ridley Ice Ltd. at 8866 Hudson Street - known in the neighbourhood as Ridley's Cold Storage. City of Vancouver Archives, 1095-02659.

Housewives would pack up items in special cardboard containers and store them for the winter in rented cold food storage lockers like the ones at Ridley Ice Ltd. Families who butchered their own animals for meat also stored the meat in the same lockers.

Sharon Bordeleau (née McDonald) shared a 1954 receipt she had kept that is now part of the Sea Island Heritage Society's Collection. Sharon said she remembers having to "bundle up" when she went to pick up frozen food with her mom, Jean McDonald, even in the summer. It was very cold in the lockers.

Ridley's Cold Storage	RIDLEY ICE LTD.	Marpole Frozen Food Lockers
\$ 15.00	Vancouver, B.C.	200 57 4 195
RECEIVED from	H. L. McDonald - 400 Ferguson	
the sum of	Fifteen dollars	
Locker No.	263	From June 12/54 To June 12/55
<small>CONDITIONS—Ridley Ice Ltd. is not an insurer of the contents of the above locker and is not answerable or liable for theft or for injury to the same caused by fire, the elements, heat, cold, riot, war, insurrection, collapse of building, leakage, evaporation, natural wastage or decay, rats, mice or other animals, moths or other insects, leakage of water from fire protection, or leakage from or injury caused by contents of other lockers. LOCKER RENTS ARE PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.</small>		
Ridley's Cold Storage - Marpole Frozen Food Lockers		
<i>Sharon</i>		

1954 receipt from Ridley Ice Ltd. McDonald Family Collection.

As refrigerators got bigger and had a freezer compartment, or families purchased chest freezers, frozen food lockers were no longer needed.

Do you have a story about life on Sea Island just waiting to be told? We'd love to hear from you.

Send us an email at: info@seaislandhome.org.

In Loving Memory

Sadly, we have heard of several Sea Islanders that have passed away. Our sympathies to their families and friends.

- John HATTIE (1943 - 2023). Married to Cheryl (née Smith), John was a live-in farm hand throughout his youth at Ralph McDonald's farm on Sea Island. While John was out on the tractor working the fields, he would uncover many Indigenous items such as arrowheads and pottery and bring them to school the next day. They were placed in a glass storage case for all the school children to see.
- Les INGLIS (1935 - 2023). Les was one of the first paper carriers on Sea Island; he was married to Arlene (née Cooney) for 66 years. His company, Boyd Construction, built many banks, schools and the first McDonald's in Canada!
- William Victor "Bill" MARLES (1949 - 2023). Bill was a Cora Brown kid who loved comedy. He acted in more than 40 commercials, and student and independent productions. He loved playing Santa Claus.
- Barry MILLER (1946 - 2023) A Cora Brown kid, Barry passed while living in Thailand. He lived at 133 Abercrombie Drive in the Cora Brown subdivision.
- Jack NELLIST passed December 12, 2023. Jack was an aviation expert and friend of SIHS. He worked at Boeing Plant 3 on Sea Island during WWII (see page 4).
- Liz SCARDINA (née Fulde) (1939 - 2023). Liz was married to Sea Island resident, Richard Scardina.
- Sandi Jean STEELE (1953 - 2023). Sandi Jean passed in Kelowna where she lived. The STEELE family lived at 136 Myron Drive in the Cora Brown subdivision.
- Ted STEELE (1943 - 2023). Ted was Sandi Jean's oldest brother. He was known for his involvement in the scouting movement on Sea Island.
- Grant THOMPSON (1936 - 2023). He was a Burkeville kid and one of the best storytellers Sea Island ever had.
- Noreen TIMMS (1937 - 2023). Noreen was born in Shanghai, where her father was a policeman. The family eventually settled on Sea Island at 172 Abercrombie Drive in the Cora Brown subdivision.
- Ethel WRIGHT passed October 17, 2022. She did not live on Sea Island, she married Sea Island resident, Bud Wright. Many of us remember her as our grade 9 French teacher at Cambie Junior High.

Should we have inadvertently missed someone, please let us know at info@seaislandhome.org.

Sea Island Artifacts and Memorabilia

Over the past few months, we have had some lovely donations of photographs of sports teams, birthday parties, and school class photos. These 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

Canada 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."