

# Newsletter

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



Iona Spit on Sea Island, 2019

## President's Message



A belated Happy 2025 to all of you! We are excited about the possibilities this new year brings to our volunteer work at the Society.

The year began with appreciated donations and gifts of candid family and class photographs (print and scanned) that are now part of the Society's growing Collection.

Our research and documentation continue to expand, thanks to so many of you. In this newsletter, you'll learn that some of the ideas for stories came from conversations brought up at Coffee Chats or inquiries through our website about 'someone' with a Sea Island connection. We hope our website, newsletters, Coffee Chats and in-person conversations trigger more

questions that continue to inspire, explore and dig deeper into what Sea Island means to each of us.

The Request Center in this issue asks what you remember about Chinese families that lived on Sea Island. This request comes from a new project we are undertaking. You might think at first you don't have information that would be helpful, but we are finding that a comment here, a memory there does make a difference and often leads to information we wouldn't have located otherwise. Do you remember any of the Chinese families that lived on Sea Island?

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 24, 2025 - the day we invite past and present residents to join us in celebrating Sea Island. The 4th Sea Island Invitational Celebration & Reunion has a change of venue. It will be held at Sea Island School. More information and details will be forthcoming. If you are interested in helping

with the Celebration & Reunion event, do let us know.

We'd like to thank those of you who have become Lifetime and Annual members of the Sea Island Heritage Society. Your support is important to us, as it enables us to continue collecting, documenting and preserving Sea Island's legacy. The Lifetime membership is a one-time payment of \$100.00, while Annual membership is \$15.00 per year.

Remember, members are invited to join the monthly Coffee Chats where we learn and laugh together. Not an Annual or Lifetime Member? Perhaps consider joining us now.

Look forward to 'seeing' you at those monthly Coffee Chats. Check out the Coffee Chat schedule for the year at the end of this newsletter. A great time to share memories- recent or awhile ago - and learn from each other about this wonderful Island that we call Home.

*Eunice Robinson*



President

Sea Island Heritage Society

## Upcoming Events

### COFFEE CHATS - 2025



Our SIHS Coffee Chats are monthly online events that provide an opportunity for members and invited non-members to connect, discuss, learn and inform everyone about Sea Island, its history and heritage....and at times may even delve into its future!

Coffee Chats occur via Zoom every third Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon. They run from January to June, and again from September to November. We take a break during the summer and in December

Be sure to save or print a copy of the Coffee Chat schedule for 2025 (see the [last page](#) of this newsletter for your copy). Keep it close and mark your calendars. It's a fun two-hour chat you won't want to miss.

Please note that the Zoom link for 2025 is the same as the one used in 2024. If you have lost the link or need help with Zoom, contact David England at [davidwengland911@gmail.com](mailto:davidwengland911@gmail.com) and we'll find a way to assist you.

## Request Centre

### CHINESE FAMILIES OF SEA ISLAND

We often ask for ideas for new stories. Be careful what you wish for! At the end of 2024, it was suggested we tell the stories of the Chinese families who made Sea Island their home. It quickly became evident that we could not do the stories justice without learning how to navigate the naming conventions of Chinese names, the *Chinese Immigration Act, 1895* and the *Chinese Exclusion Act, 1923* and its impact on the early Chinese immigrants to Canada. As a result, we opted to write their names in the traditional way, SURNAME first, followed by given names.

We believe we have five main families, and a list of Chinese labourers and other individuals who resided on Sea Island at some time or other.

**MAH Bing family.** MAH Bing first came to Sea Island in 1900 to work on the Grauer Road farm. MAH Bing and his wife WONG Chuen HO (aka WONG Shee) had their first three children on Sea Island. In 1918, MAH Bing bought 160 acres on Lulu Island where he moved his family.

**MAH Fong family.** MAH Fong came to Sea Island in 1907. His brothers and father had come to Sea Island before him (we have yet to identify the brothers and father). He had three girls and one adopted son with his first wife in China. He was never able to bring his first wife to Canada. Some of the children are believed to have immigrated. His second wife, ENG Ling came to Canada in 1955. Together they had one son - YUK Yin Tom or Yuk Yin TOM believed to be living in the Lower Mainland.

**MAH Look family.** MAH Look arrived in Canada in 1895. His wife, GIN Shee arrived in 1909. They had nine children, all born on Sea Island between 1903 and 1923. MAH Look had one son born outside Canada who went to Edmonton. They farmed close to the Acme Cannery.

**MAH Wing Toi (Toy) family.** We do not have much on this person or his family (if any in Canada). He has been referred to by different Sea Islanders as MAH Wing Toi, MAH Wing Toy and Wing Toy.

**WONG Fee and his brother WONG Fang.** WONG Fee was married to MAH Shee. WONG Fang was married to MA Heung. We know a bit about them from some Sea Islanders and Barb KINAHAN who worked for them as kids during the WWII farm labour shortage. And based on who signed WONG Fang' death certificate, he had at least one child.

We are looking for any tidbit of information about the families or any Chinese individuals you remember who were living on Sea Island, including any photos you can share. We are hoping to publish our first Chinese family story in the April/May 2025 newsletter.

If you have any information or photos to share with us, please contact Karen TOURANGEAU at [info@seaislandhome.org](mailto:info@seaislandhome.org).

## Mystery solved - a love story!

*written by the Sea Island Heritage Society*

Near the end of the Iona Spit trail - the long jetty that pokes out of the water in Iona Beach Regional Park on Iona Island - sits the following plaque honouring J.T. Wesley Smith.



Figure 1.[J.T. Wesley Smith plaque on Iona Spit trail on Sea Island]. (1992). (Source: Sharon Bordeleau).

The inscription reads:

In loving memory of my fiancé

J.T. WESLEY SMITH

1930-1972

Plane crash at sea

Our love is forever

A loving son & father

### The memory marker

Chantel Nassey and her father, Ken Nassey were talking about their family history, leading Chantel to ask questions about Wes (J.T.

Wesley Smith) and what happened to him. On September 7, 2024, Chantel decided to go online to see what she could find. It led her to a blog article written by Jen Eggleston dated May 21, 2021. Chantel also noted that Tamara Heinrich, Wes' daughter, had commented on the article the day before.

The same blog article mentioned that the Sea Island Heritage Society was looking for more information about the origins of the plaque. Chantel contacted the Society and provided information that led to this story. Shortly after, Terry Smith, Wes's son, also contacted the Society and a short while later, so did his daughter, Tamara.

We have now solved the mystery of the small memory marker on the Iona Spit Trail. Although sad, it is also a beautiful love story.

Chantel said that her grandmother, Jenny Louise Henriette Nassey (née Swenson) was madly in love with Wes and was absolutely devastated when he was killed in the plane "crash" on October 20, 1972. Chantel said her grandmother never truly loved anyone after Wes.

Jenny was born on April 9, 1924, in Rogaland, Norway. She grew up in Saskatchewan (Canada) on a farm near Glenside with her parents and siblings. Jenny and her sisters moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. She lived in Vancouver until 1989, then moved to Burnaby until she passed away.

In 1951, Jenny married Robert Douglas Nassey, also a pilot. They divorced in 1953, around the time Chantel's father (Ken) was born.

Jenny and her sister Ellen went to the Abbotsford Airshow where Jenny met Wes and Jerry, the owner of the plane. Ellen was the lady dating Jerry.

Family members told Chantel that her grandmother and Wes had a bustling romance, and that Jenny was the happiest they had ever seen her. Wes and Jenny got engaged pretty quickly - on September 30, 1972.



Figure 2. [Jenny NASSEY and Wes SMITH]. (unknown date). (Source: Chantel NASSEY).

Chantel remembers her grandma would tell her stories about Wes all the time, including the story of the plane crash. She even took Chantel to see the plaque when Chantel was a little girl.

When Wes was killed, Jenny and the Coast Guard took a hovercraft out to sea where they assumed the crash had occurred, and Jenny spread flowers for Wes and Jerry.

Jenny had love poems to Wes published in the Vancouver Sun on every anniversary of the plane crash. The following poem was published

on the first anniversary of the plane crash in on October 20, 1973.

You will always be remembered

As I stand here by the sea,

With thoughts of you and happy days

That I wish could forever be.

And though we're parted for a while

I long and yearn to see your smile.

Without you is a test sublime,

I need you dear, just all the time.

And now my love for you I pray,

That God will keep you every day,

Until the time that we unite

My love is yours forever,

Guided in faith by God's light.

- Forever loved and sadly missed, Jennie.

### J.T. Wesley Smith & Julius H. "Jerry" Wildman

John Thomas Wesley Smith was born in Salem, Oregon, on June 20, 1930, to Benjamin Wesley Smith and Laura Sophyna Dillinger. By 1950, Wesley was married to Vera Nell Wilmot. The couple had three children before divorcing: a daughter, Debbie (71 years old) who lives in Vancouver, Washington; a son, Terry (67 years old) who lives in Idaho; and another daughter, Tamara (63 years old) who lives in Florida.

The passenger and owner of the plane was Julius H. "Jerry" Wildman, an experienced pilot himself who had only stopped flying due to his

age. Jerry was also born in Portland, Oregon on February 27, 1891.

On the day of the crash (October 20, 1972), Wes and Jerry were flying from Aurora, Oregon to YVR on Sea Island. As they were approaching the airport, their plane disappeared from radar. The Coast Guard hovercraft later recovered some debris believed to be from the Beechcraft Bonanza plane and a cane (Jerry used a cane to walk).

At the end of 2024, Terry and Tamara (two of Wes' children) shared the following:

- On the day of the plane crash, Wes told Jerry that the weather was too bad to fly and he was cancelling the trip. Jerry had just met Ellen Nassey and wanted to see her again that weekend. Wes tried to cancel the trip but Jerry told Wes if they were not flying to Canada that night, Wes would never fly Jerry's plane again. Flying was Wes' passion - he caved in even though he did not want to do it. Terry was supposed to be with his father and Jerry, the owner of the plane.
- For years, after the death of her father, Tamara would spend every summer in Vancouver with Jenny. Their yearly tradition was to put flowers out on the water by the plaque while Tamara was visiting. Tamara said that Jenny and her mother, Vera, were friendly.
- In 2024, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) contacted Terry and Tamara letting them know they have reopened the missing person cold case of their father's disappearance. Wes has been listed as "missing, presumed dead" since the plane crash in 1972. Both Terry and Tamara

provided DNA samples and anxiously await the results. Tamara said that the uncertainty has been hard on all three siblings for over 50 years. Wes is their hero to this day!

- The only photos Debbie, Terry and Tamara had with their father were on slides held by their grandparents. Unfortunately, the slides molded and all photos were lost. Tamara has the photo below - out of focus - photo of earlier years of herself with her two siblings and their father.



Figure 3. [Left to right: Debbie, Tamara, Wes, and Terry Smith]. (date unknown). (Source: Tamara Heinrich).

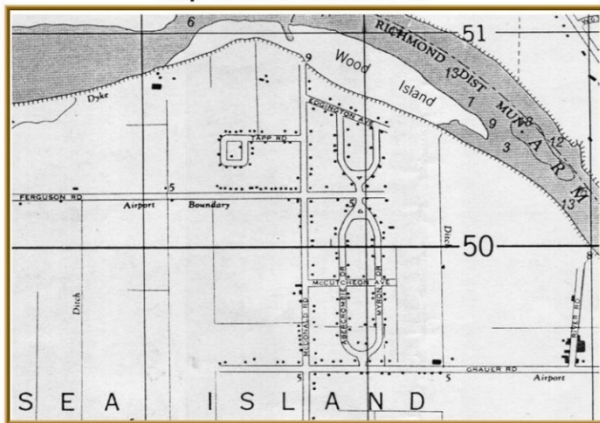
Terry and Tamara have connected with Chantel and they have been in communication since.

## Take the Quiz

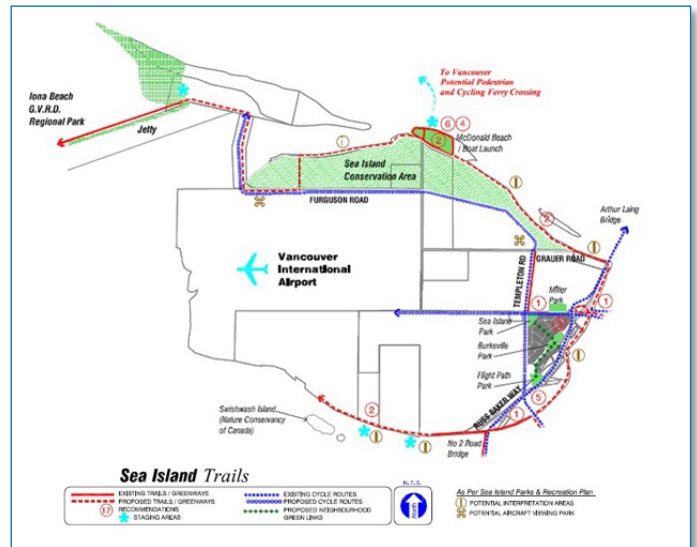
Walk with us down memory lane. For each photo, select the most accurate response from those given. Find the answers on pages 11 and 12 with a few fun facts added.

1. What was the reason the City of Richmond purchased Wood Island from Veteran Affairs in 1956?

Map of Cora Brown Area



- a. Housing
  - b. Park
  - c. Garbage dump
  - d. Barge berth
2. What is the main reason the north dikes and drainage systems bordering on Sea Island Conservation Area (in green) are being upgraded, starting 2025?



- a. Improve the Sea Island Trail
  - b. Enhance aquatic habitats
  - c. Restore disturbed habitats
  - d. Increase climate resilience
3. Why did Vancouver Airport Authority crews cut down a stand of cottonwood trees (red arrow) home to wildlife near Miller Road and Russ Baker Way in 1999?



- a. Move overcrowded wildlife to another area
- b. Improve the bridge tender's view
- c. Upgrade the dike
- d. Expand the roadway.

## McCleery Family Story

*The following is an excerpt of the McCleery Family story. If you wish to learn more, please contact the Sea Island Heritage Society for the complete story.*

On May 21, 2024, Kathryn Patricia "Kathy" Shave (née Logan), the great granddaughter of Fitzgerald and Mary McCleery (née Wood) contacted the Sea Island Heritage Society to provide information and photos of her family to the Society.

### The McCleery brothers - nephews to Hugh McRoberts



Figure 2. [Fitzgerald McCleery]. (1910). (Source: City of Vancouver Archives VA-P1193.7).

Fitzgerald and his brother, Samuel McCleery left Killyleagh, Ireland on February 26, 1862, to sail to a new life in Canada. The brothers originally landed in Esquimalt on Vancouver Island on April 27, 1862, then travelled to New

Westminster before walking 643 kilometers in pursuit of the gold rush in the Cariboo.

After striking out in the Cariboo gold fields, Fitzgerald and Samuel walked back to the Lower Mainland to work on a farm owned by their uncle, Hugh McRoberts, on present-day Sea Island (Richmond, British Columbia), then known as McRoberts Island. Hugh McRoberts was the brother of Margaret (McRoberts) McCleery, Fitzgerald and Samuel's mother.

In March 1862, Hugh McRoberts applied and was given the contract to build the North Arm Road on the North Arm of the Fraser River. Hugh McRoberts estimated that another six miles would be required to bring the road "opposite to Sea Island". Hugh McRoberts hired his nephews, Fitzgerald and Samuel McCleery and Hugh Boyd, to help him. The nephews were paid thirty dollars per month and in land scrip. The North Arm Road went from New Westminster to approximately the southern end of modern-day Dunbar Street - the Musqueam Reserve. The trail roughly followed present-day Marine Drive in Vancouver.

In 1862, Fitzgerald and Samuel each pre-empted 160 acres of land on the north shore of the Fraser River (Vancouver), across the river from Hugh McRoberts' property on Sea Island. The area later became known as Southlands.

On April 1, 1863, Fitzgerald and Samuel started building a small house on the Vancouver property. Known as "St. Patrick's Cathedral", the McCleery home hosted Vancouver's first church service, before the North Arm Methodist Church was built in 1876, in Eburne. In 1872, they built a large farmhouse which replaced the original cabin, and the cabin became a schoolhouse. The North Arm school established



in 1877, under the North Arm School District for children from Lulu and Sea Island. Fitzgerald was among the first trustees for the North Arm School District.

The Sea Island children had to cross the Fraser River by boat to attend school until the first Sea Island School opened on Sea Island in 1890 (1890-1914).

In 1890, the North Arm School temporarily moved to the Town Hall at Cambie and River Road on Lulu Island in Richmond. It later opened on the corner of Grauer and McDonald Road on Sea Island as the first Sea Island School (1890-1914), where the McCleery children continued to attend school.

Fitzgerald and Samuel mortgaged their Vancouver lots for 500 dollars to acquire money to buy stock. Fitzgerald then went to Oregon and purchased a horse and 15 head of cattle. With an increasing demand for milk and butter, Fitzgerald started a dairy, carrying his products to the market at New Westminster by canoe.

In 1867, in partnership with his brother Samuel, the McCleery brothers bought 600 acres of land on Sea Island (land obtained from the government through Crown Grants) with the profits from the dairy. The McCleery brothers retained the land until 1880 when they divided their Sea Island land and Fitzgerald sold his Sea Island tract for twenty dollars per acre.

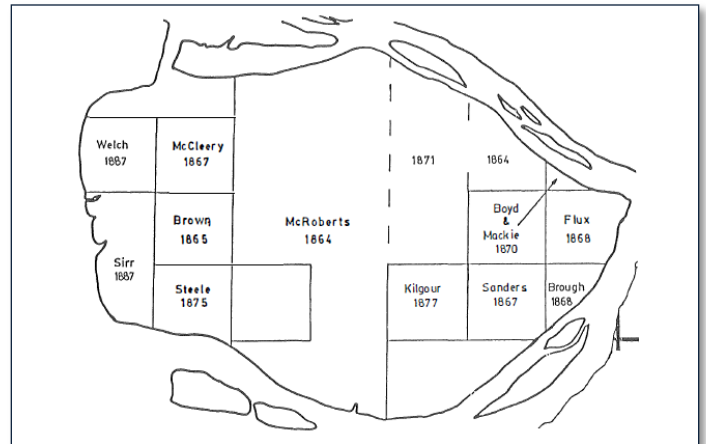


Figure 2. [Distribution of Crown Grants land on Sea Island]. (unknown date). (Source: City of Richmond Archives).

In 1881, Angus Carmichael Fraser, the great-grandfather of Barbara Nielsen - one of the directors of the Sea Island Heritage Society - bought a 313-acre farm on Sea Island from Samuel and Fitzgerald McCleery. They named the farm "Roseberry."

### Fitzgerald and Mary McCleery



Figure 3. [Mary and Fitzgerald McCleery]. (unknown date). (Source: Kathryn Shave).

On October 15, 1873, Fitzgerald married Mary Wood, daughter of Reverend William Wood (1812-1896) of Derbyshire, England and Rachael Wood née Pugsley (1818-1904) of Somerset, England. Mary was

the sister of Robert Wood (1841-1921) who bought land from Hugh McRoberts on Sea Island in 1871.

Mary and Fitzgerald had four children, two sons, Edward Fitzgerald (1874) and Ernest McCleery

(1876) who died in infancy, and two daughters, Theodora Marion "Dora" McCleery (1878-1959) and Margaret Elizabeth "Greta" McCleery (1880-1955). Theodora was born on May 7, 1878, and Margaret on May 17, 1880.



Figure 4. [First Sea Island School - Back row (left to right): [unknown], L. Horner, [unknown], Eva McCleery, Dora McCleery, [unknown], Greta McCleery, Dolly McRae[?], teacher Miss E.E. Robinson, Fred Magee, Pete Carscallen, Leo Carscallen. Front row: [unknown], Hugh McMillan, John McMillan, Tom Williamson, Jim Williamson. Duncan McRae, [unknown]]. (1891). (Source: City of Richmond Archives photo no. 1990 1 1).

Mary died in Vancouver on March 20, 1903. After her mother passed away, Margaret, kept her father company in the home built in 1872 until he passed away on April 18, 1921. The McCleery families had built another large house on the property in 1891.

After Fitzgerald McCleery passed away, Margaret moved into the other large house built on the property in 1891 with her cousin Elizabeth Margaret McCleery where they lived from 1921 to 1945. When Elizabeth passed away in 1945, Margaret married Thomas Mackie and lived with him thereafter.

Elizabeth was the daughter of John Bailie McCleery, the oldest son of Samuel (1793-1864) and Margaret (McRoberts) McCleery (deceased 1871). John McCleery immigrated to Canada

with his four children after his wife Margaret (née Henderson) and his parents passed away at home in Ireland.



Figure 4. [McCleery daughters and cousins having a picnic on the Fraser River. Left to right: Emma Wood (niece of Robert Wood of Sea Island), Agnes Mary McCleery, Theodora (eldest daughter of Fitzgerald McCleery), Elizabeth Margaret McCleery (John McCleery's daughter), men unknown]. (circa 1898). (Source: City of Vancouver Archives ref: AM1533-S2-4-: 2009-005.650).

### Samuel and Jane McCleery

Samuel McCleery was also born in County Down in Ireland in 1839. He travelled to British Columbia with his brother Fitzgerald McCleery in 1862.

In 1880, Samuel McCleery married Jane Ann Evans, daughter of Richard Henry Evans (1825-1896) and Elizabeth Evans née Pike (1823-1898). Samuel died soon after their marriage due to poor health (1882), leaving behind their infant daughter, Evaline Elizabeth McCleery, born on April 2, 1881. Jane then married William Francis Stewart (1857-1926), and

together they had one son, William Arnold Roy Stewart (1890-1948), half-sibling to Evaline.

## Answers to The Quiz and A Little Bit More

### Question 1 - Wood Island purchase

Answer: B

**Park.** In 1956, Richmond Council had made application to the department of lands for permission to use Wood Island for a sanitary fill garbage dump after purchasing it from the Department of Veterans' Affairs earlier that year. The Department of Veterans' Affairs notified Council that Wood Island had been sold to Richmond to be made into a park, and that Council would be violating the terms of the contract if they used it for a dump. Wood Island is the present-day home of McDonald Beach Park.

(Source: Vancouver Province, June 5, 1956, page 8)

(Image: Sea Island map 1956 with Cora Brown subdivision. Photos from the Friends of Richmond Archives).

### Question 2 - North dike and drainage systems upgrade

Answer: D

**Increase climate resilience.** The Sea Island Climate Resilience Project is a proactive solution to address climate-related challenges, including implications of rising sea levels and increased risk of flooding. The project will see YVR upgrade the dike and drainage system on Sea Island by raising the existing perimeter dikes by approximately one metre to a total height of 4.7 metres and improving overall drainage and geotechnical stability.

Beginning in fall 2025, YVR will be conducting works to upgrade the dike and drainage system along the eastern part of the Sea Island Conservation Area, known as SICA East. A portion of the SICA East area, including a walking trail, will be temporarily closed as this work takes place to ensure the safety of the community and workers. The trail will reopen once construction is completed.

SICA is located on the northern edge of Sea Island and is managed by Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Source: <https://news.yvr.ca/sea-island-climate-resilience-project/>

Map: page 3 [https://www.richmond.ca/shared/assets/sea\\_island\\_area12732.pdf](https://www.richmond.ca/shared/assets/sea_island_area12732.pdf)

Question 3 – Stand of cottonwoods cut

Answer: C

**Upgrade the dike.** The view from Roger Howie's office window will never be quite the same again after crews cut down a stand of trees on Sea Island in 1999 that were home to a variety of wildlife. According to Vancouver International Airport Authority officials, the action was necessary to make way for an upgrade to the dike area adjacent to the Moray Channel Bridge, where Howie was caretaker. "It's a great little area," he said watching crews lop off the upper branches of the cottonwood trees in the stand. "People go there for picnics in the summertime. There are also blackberry bushes that I practically live off for a few weeks each season. And there's quite a lot of wildlife that live in there." Howie, operator of the swing bridge for the past 11 years, said he has seen snow geese, barn owls and even a family of beavers using the area.

"We had to upgrade the dike level, especially in this area next to the bridge, because if it was left at its present height there could be a problem with flooding at the intersection (Miller Road and Russ Baker Way) and further on to Burkeville," said Simon Robinson, an environmental biologist with the airport authority. The area is a section of the dike between Moray and the Arthur Laing bridge being upgraded.

(Source: Richmond Review, June 1999).

(Image: Moray-Channel-Bridge.Vancouver-Archives.AM1376-F12-CVA-290-16.12).

## In Loving Memory

Sadly, we have heard of two Sea Islanders that have passed away since our last newsletter.

**Alexander (Al) Hourie** (1946-2024) passed December 21<sup>st</sup> in Kelowna, B.C.



He lived in Burkeville in his early years and is fondly remembered by Sea Island Heritage Society friends and former classmates from Sea Island School. Al was in grade 5 (1957-58) in this class picture.

Al's passions were many, including his love for trucking, country music, and cowboy culture, as well as a deep appreciation for the open countryside and the freedom he found while driving across Canada and the US.



Throughout his life, Al was always ready to lend a helping hand to family and friends alike, and his devotion to his loved ones was boundless and unwavering.

We offer our sympathies to his family and friends.

In early December 2024, we learned of the passing of **George Francis**. George and his partner, Claire Gomerich, were long-time residents of Burkeville. George often tended a small memorial garden just outside his property. He had started his residency on Sea Island when he was the 'bread man' in the late 1960's. He would drive his bread van around Cora Brown one day, and then he had his route in Burkeville on another day. Initially he found a home to rent in Cora Brown, and later when the subdivision was demolished, he moved over to his home on Wellington Crescent. Sadly, this home burned down about four years ago, but he and Claire were able to still reside in Burkeville. We were very appreciative of George's recollections. Our sympathies go out to Claire and to George's daughter Debbie.



George, age 88, in the memorial garden. Source: Richmond News. August 25, 2021.

## 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](mailto: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 88501, Lansdowne Mall

Richmond, British Columbia

Canada V6X 3T6

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

To join, renew your membership or donate by e-Transfer: [treasurersihs@seaislandhome.org](mailto: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."*

## Coffee Chats - 2025

Our SIHS Coffee Chats are monthly Zoom events held every third Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon from January to June, and September to November, where members and invited non-members have an opportunity to connect, discuss, learn and inform about Sea Island. Note that the Zoom link for 2025 is the same as the one used in 2024.

Members receive an email every month reminding them of these events. If you are not a member and would like to receive an invitation to a Zoom Coffee Chat, please contact the SIHS at: [eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca) or [info@seaislandhome.org](mailto:info@seaislandhome.org).

Date	Coffee Chat Topics
January 16, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Sea Island Celebration (Reunion) Conversation</b></p> <p align="center">Discussion on it occurring in Sea Island School in 2025!</p>
February 20, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Walking Path Conversation</b></p> <p align="center">Participate in Walk Richmond's McDonald Beach Walk on February 1, 2025. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, we will share photos of that day.</p>
March 20, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Homes of Sea Island</b></p> <p align="center">A conversation of all the different types of housing on Sea Island from all eras and cultures.</p>
April 17, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Iona Island Conversation with Invited Speaker</b></p> <p align="center">(We will arrange a guest speaker to attend).</p>
May 15, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Bill McNulty Book Introduction</b></p> <p align="center">Introduction of "Sea Island - The Beginning of Richmond"</p>
June 19, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Family Stories</b></p> <p align="center">This is an opportunity for our members to come prepared to tell us an entertaining family story from their time on Sea Island.</p>
July and August 2025	<p align="center"><b>Summer Break - No Coffee Chat</b></p>
September 18, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Musqueam History with Invited Speaker</b></p> <p align="center">(We will arrange a guest speaker to attend).</p>
October 16, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Remembrance Day Topics</b></p> <p align="center">PMQs and Military Involvement</p>
November 20, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Teacher Stories</b></p> <p align="center">(Another opportunity for our members to come prepared with an entertaining story of a teacher on Sea Island).</p>
December 18, 2025	<p align="center"><b>Christmas Break - No Coffee Chat</b></p>