

Newsletter

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



Photo credit: Mervin R. Volen Collection, 2003

President's Message



Yes, a new look! We hope you like it.

Since our last newsletter, the Sea Island Heritage Society has been busy. We now have our space at Sea

Island School and have moved a lot of our Collection there.

We celebrated our 2nd Sea Island Invitational Reunion on May 27th, which included for some, a tour of the school. It was a lovely time to renew old friendships. We took part in Richmond's Doors Open event on June 4th, and proudly showed our space to visitors. And finally, we took part at Burkeville Daze on June 25th with a steady stream of visitors to our display. The weather was great, and we had a steady stream of visitors to our display.

We start our online Thursday morning Coffee Chats September 21, 2023. Part of the September Chat will include sharing photos of the reunion, school tour and our space. We also look forward to holding a few in-person and informal gatherings on Sea Island. More information to come.

We continue to collect Sea Island stories, memorabilia and memories, as well as making contact with past and present Sea Islanders. If you'd like to get involved, we welcome your assistance.

Eunice Robinson



President
Sea Island Heritage Society

Upcoming Events

Important info about our Coffee Chats, upcoming AGM and membership renewal.

Coffee Chats: At the end of August, you received a Coffee Chat invitation with dates, time, scheduled topics and a Zoom link for September, October and November. Not sure how to use Zoom? Let us know and we'd be glad to help you get started. There will not be a Coffee Chat in December, as it is a busy time for many. Early in January 2024, annual and lifetime members will receive a new Zoom link for the Coffee Chats listed on the schedule for 2024. Not a member but would like to participate? Send an email requesting an invitation to one of the online coffee chats to Eunice at eunice@genbug.ca.

Annual General Meeting: Calling on all members to join us at the AGM, September 30, 2023, from 10.a.m. to noon on Zoom when we offer year-end reviews, present our financial statement, look to the future and hold elections. Current members can vote on SIHS matters.

Membership Renewal: December is the time to join or renew your membership with the Sea Island Heritage Society. If you are a lifetime member, no action is necessary. For those wanting to join or renew, we offer annual and lifetime memberships. Please watch for the reminder notices prior to and during the month of December.



Coffee Chat schedule - 2023-2024

Remember, there are no Coffee Chats in July, August and December.

Date	Coffee Chat Topics
Sept. 21, 2023	Photo journey of 2023 events, highlighting new location at Sea Island School.
Oct. 19, 2023	Cannery discussion. Presentation of new signage. Invited speaker. Discuss Japanese heritage and link to Sea Island's military past (November's presentation on Remembrance Day.)
Nov. 16, 2023	Remembrance Day topics: military activity on Sea Island; veterans. Invited speaker.
Jan. 18, 2024	Grauer / Eburne discussion. Bridges and businesses that existed at that time. Invited speaker.
Feb. 21, 2024	Heritage sites on Sea Island. Use the heritage inventory list prepared by the City of Richmond for discussion. What is not on the list that should be?
March 21, 2024	Schools and Teachers of all Sea Island Schools.
April 18, 2024	A photo tour of Sea Island today e.g., South Terminal, Coast Guard, beaches, Iona, Burkeville, McDonald's, BCIT, McArthur Glen, YVR, hotels, Pacific Autism Family Network.
May 16, 2024	Canadian Coast Guard and their involvement on Sea Island. Invited speaker. Reunion readiness.
June 20, 2024	Year in Review: discussion of achievements this year and sharing ideas (what) and actions (how) of what we want to achieve next year.
Sept. 19, 2024	Reunion Review. What other events should we do? Walking tour, bus tour, speaker?
Oct. 17, 2024	Signage Update
Nov. 21, 2024	Remembrance Day Topics

Reunion Fun

Volunteers helped set up the hall for the reunion the night before.



The night before reunion 2023. (Photo: David England)

On May 27, 2023, we held our 2nd Sea Island Reunion. Once again, this very successful event was held at the South Arm United Church. We displayed our house histories, classroom photos, story boards of the Canneries on Sea Island and of the Pioneer Families that built our historic island. We also showcased several artifacts we have collected over the years -most notably is the street sign from the corner of Grauer Road and Myron Drive.

We were pleased to have Richmond Councillor Bill McNulty join us to talk about his book, *Sea Island: The Beginning of Richmond*, and other books he has written about Richmond. Helen Healey, a former Canadian Pacific Airlines flight attendant, also displayed her amazing collection of airline memorabilia. Sea Island Community Association (SICA) members also attended and manned an information table. Joan Anderson's paintings and Joan and Brian Legge's items of personalized Burkeville and Sea Island engravings were on display.

This event provided an excellent opportunity for old friends to reconnect. It also provided a venue where families separated by cities and provinces could come together and spend an afternoon socializing.



Sea Island reunion 2023. (Photo: David England)



Sea Island reunion 2023. (Photo: David England)

On the morning of May 27, 2023, prior to the reunion, we held a very special event at Sea Island School on Sea Island. We were very privileged to have the Richmond School District provide us with access to the entire School for that morning and have two tour groups wander through the classrooms and hallways.

The tours were led by Dick McClellan and Vernon Clark.



School Tour Team 2023. (Photo: David England)

This was a delightful event attended by over 25 people that was filled with an enormous amount of laughter and memories.

What made this day extraordinary was that Bernice Leversage (Douglas), who taught at SIS from 1953-55, was able to attend this event! Bernice was Eunice Robinson's Grade one teacher. Having her attend a tour of the school on this day was very special.



Miss Leversage (Mrs. Douglas). (Photo: David England)

Join September's Coffee Chat for more photos!

Richmond Doors Open - June 3, 2023

Doors Open Richmond is a free annual event. It allows the residents of Richmond to explore, discover and learn about a wide variety of local businesses, services, charities and other organizations. If you'd like to learn more about this event you can read about it here:

<https://www.richmond.ca/culture/calendar/special-events/doorsopen.htm>.

We were excited about participating, as it provided us with an opportunity to showcase our new location at Sea Island School. However, we were also a little worried as we didn't know how much interest would be generated by our attendance.

On the day of the event, we opened our doors at Sea Island School to the World. We also displayed several photographs outside, in front of the school under a canopy.

We soon learned that we had no reason to be worried about a lack of interest. We had over 40 people drop in to see our location, talk with us and explore all the information we have! We were so busy that day that we did not have time to take any photographs of the event. Luckily, the Richmond Museum photographer, Kai Jacobson dropped by to see our location.



David England & Eunice Robinson, Doors Open 2023. (Photo: Kai Jacobson, Richmond Museum)

Burkeville Daze

We had the pleasure of once again being invited to participate in Burkeville Daze on Sea Island on June 25, 2023. Since 2006, this has been an annual family friendly summer event in Burkeville hosted by the Sea Island Community Association (SICA). They consider this to be their Flagship event.



(Photo: Karen E. Tourangeau)

This year, Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Councillor Bill McNulty attended and participated in the parade that signaled the start of the event by winding its way through the community.

Our display consisted of two tables where we showcased our ever-popular class photos from Sea Island School and our books of "Burkeville House Photos". Visitors were invited to add names to the classroom photos to help us complete the identification of all the classmates. They could also add information to the house photos such as previous and current ownership information.



(Photo: Karen E. Tourangeau)

We also displayed several of our heritage photos of Burkeville and Sea Island.

Sea Island Heritage Society Members that participated in this event this year were: Eunice Robinson, Grant Thompson, Barb Neilsen, Carol Gordon, Karen Tourangeau, David England, Niki Bergen and Bill Alexander.



(Photo: Karen E. Tourangeau)

The day was filled with conversations with people interested in learning about Burkeville's past. Carol Gordon had an interesting conversation with a small group of boys around nine years of age. In her words here's how her talk with them went:

"These young boys were finding it hard to believe that there was water at the edge of the land they knew as Burkeville. They told me it (the water) wasn't there any longer.

I then explained that Sea Island was an island in the middle of the Fraser River. They had no idea what an Island was! They never connected the bridges as a roadway OVER a river when they travelled into Richmond shopping with adults.

I told them when we were kids we walked to the beaches/riverfront after school and on weekends for fun and playing at the water's edge as there used to be beaches there, before they eroded away. I told them about the fishing for bullheads and catching ooligans (eulachons) in small buckets and having wiener roasts and roasting potatoes black in our small campfires on the sand at the beach.

They were amazed that we were allowed to travel to the edge of the Island on our own. I told them we were allowed to go out during the summer days and locate our friends and go to the parks or beach on our own if we did our daily chores, told our parents where we were going, and with what group of kids. We all knew what time to be home.

They don't experience this fun and freedom now. It is all 'play dates' even for the older children. Golly, we lived in the best of times!

Thank you everyone for making this a great success!

A visit with the Thompsons

On July 22, 2023, a group of us gathered at Grant and Marg's place in Richmond to document Grant's shoebox collection of over 50 Sea Island photos he was donating to SIHS.

With every picture he pulled out of the box Grant had stories to tell that kept us laughing. Marg helped to clarify as we madly recorded (electronically and by hand) what we heard. Grant, a founding member of SIHS, continues to support SIHS through generous donations and stories from his deep memory of life on the island.



*L-R Carol Gordon, Grant Thompson (middle), Doug Eastman.
Insets: Marg Thompson (left), Marilyn Low (right).*

If you've got pictures of your Sea Island days and are willing to donate or share for scanning, please let us know.

Encouraging the Learning of Sea Island's Heritage: Signage Project Updates

A Sign - Cannery Communities on Sea Island

In collaboration with the City of Richmond, a physical sign about Sea Island canneries was installed this summer in Terra Nova. SIHS volunteers provided images and text through contact with others knowledgeable on the history of the canneries. Together with city staff, a final version of text and placement of images was established. Now, reading the sign and

looking across the Middle Arm of the Fraser River, one can visualize where four of the six canneries once stood and only a few pilings remain today.



(Photo: Karen E. Tourangeau)

For those wanting further information, there is a QR code on the sign that will take you to a story map, where more images, details of the six canneries, the cork mill and some of the families that lived there are easily accessed. Stop by Terra Nova next time you are nearby.

Mural with a Message

Settling in to our new 'home' at Sea Island School in 2022, generously offered to us by Richmond School District's Frank Geyer, Executive Director, Facilities Services & Richmond Project Team, we began to imagine ways of encouraging learning about Sea Island's past. We shared our thoughts with Frank, suggesting a mural illustrating Sea Island's history and heritage be painted on the west and north walls of Sea Island School.

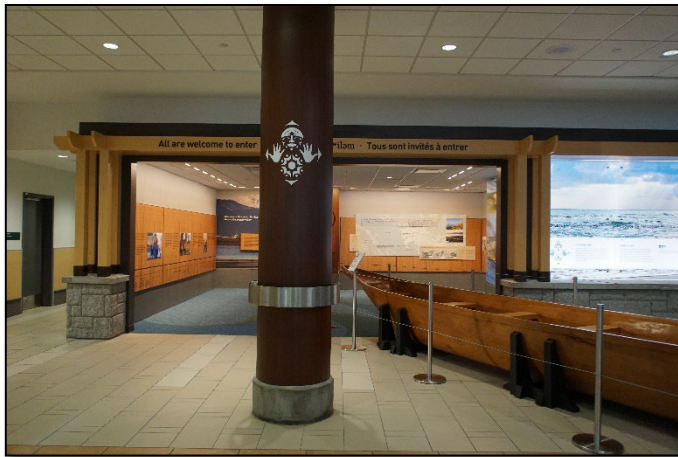
Frank was very supportive, appreciating the value a mural - a visual "heritage and historical" learning experience - would bring to Sea Island

School, current and former residents of Sea Island, the City of Richmond and, on a larger scale, the Greater Vancouver Region. However, it was up to us to find the funding for it. He helpfully directed us towards the City of Richmond's Community Mural Program: <https://www.richmond.ca/culture/publicart/whatsnew/communitymural.htm>. We excitedly, and quickly applied that year. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful as the deadlines for submissions had come and gone. This summer we reapplied with a stronger application.

Through conversations with Richmond Councillor Bill McNulty, we discussed our mutual interest in a mural on Sea Island School. The west wall of the school faces the new Musqueam park, x^wq^axintəl' ct [walking together]. This physical connection presents an opportunity for us to explore working together with the Musqueam people.

Bill arranged for us to meet with Mary Point, Director, Indigenous Relations at YVR on August 11, 2023. After hearing about our vision of a mural, she offered her support to our application submission. She further commented they have many experienced Musqueam mural artists that would be interested in working with the City of Richmond on such a project.

Mary spoke of the importance of working collaboratively and collectively to accomplish goals that are positive and mutually beneficial to all involved. She recently led a project with YVR staff and members of the Musqueam Indian Band that involved selecting and carving a 600-year-old red cedar log into a canoe that was water tested. This accomplishment was just celebrated and is on display at the new Musqueam Gathering Place in the domestic arrival area of YVR: <https://bit.ly/3L3llzg>.



Musqueam Gathering Place at YVR. (Photo: David England)

Mary left us with a thought-full consideration: "determine the story the mural will tell." If our submission is successful, we hope Mary will lend her expertise in guiding those involved in the project through a collaborative and collective approach towards visualizing that story and helping bring it to life.

We also reached out to Tamara Vrooman, President and CEO, Vancouver Airport Authority. She has heartily endorsed our submission for a mural about Sea Island's history and heritage, offering her assistance where she can to a collective effort led by SIHS and produced by Musqueam artists.

We learned recently that Frank Geyer is retiring. When providing him with an update, he connected us with Kris Wilkins who will be taking over from Frank. Kris and other School Board staff are also very supportive of a mural on Sea Island School as they have provided us with signed documentation allowing us to move forward with this initiative!

Stay tuned for further updates.

School Days

We thank Maureen Ross (Stark) SIHS Director for her unending efforts to document the biographies of Sea Island teachers.

HUXTABLE, Jessie Ogilvie (Mrs. Clark) (1903-1993)

Jessie Ogilvie Huxtable was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1903, second child of John Huxtable (England) and Jessie Ogilvie McLaren (Ontario). Her older brother Glenn Roy Gray was born in 1900 in Edmonton, Alberta. John Huxtable had emigrated to Canada in 1882 and after having resided in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, he took his new family to Vancouver where they remained for the rest of their lives.

When Miss Huxtable decided to become a teacher, she most likely attended Provincial Normal School at 12th and Cambie in Vancouver, the closest teacher-training school at the time. She was probably all of 19 when she taught her first year at the Sea Island Japanese School in 1922, replacing Miss Esther Floyd, and one year later she left for Mitchell Elementary. Although relatively close to Sea Island, it would be interesting to know how she travelled from the family's residence at 71st and Granville in Vancouver to Sea (and later Lulu) Island every school day and the time it took her. Remember this was the 1920s!

Her family appeared to love travelling. In September 1913, the entire family travelled to San Diego, California. In August 1926, she, her mother and brother Glenn travelled from Vancouver via Prince Rupert to Ketchikan, Alaska on the SS Prince George. And in 1939, she, Glenn and possibly another teacher friend, embarked in Marseilles for New York on the

Exeter after six weeks of "cruising other Mediterranean ports."

Unfortunately, there is not enough information available yet on Miss Huxtable's years in the classroom in the 1920s and 1930s. According to British Columbia Teachers Federation publications, Miss Huxtable left Richmond and taught in the 1930s in Vancouver. She appeared to be close to her parents and always resided with them or close to them, but with their deaths in the early thirties, she took up residence in an apartment at 1906 Haro Street. Residing at the same time at this address was a retired South African (Boer) War and WW I veteran, Captain Frederick Clark, born in West Flamboro, Ontario. After his war experiences he had moved to Vancouver to become a partner in the firm of More and Clark, dry goods merchants. It's likely the two made their acquaintance at this address and in 1943 exchanged marriage vows at St. John's United Church—she was 40 and he, 71--an age differential of 31 years.

She now had companionship that she possibly cherished and decided to hold on to it as long as possible. It was not easy in those days for a single woman in her 40s to be recognized as a viable contributing member of society. In fact, in the very stilted 1950s and earlier years, once a woman married, she was no longer allowed to teach. With Captain Clark's passing in 1951, "the Clarks" had only had a total of eight years together.

There are no photos of Jessie Ogilvie Huxtable Clark with or without her pupils or her family. One can always hope some will surface in the future. The Sea Island Heritage Society has left a remembrance of her at <https://www.findagrave.com> (ID: 219439936).

This Memorial ID will hook up with the entire Huxtable clan.

It is sad to think that Mrs. Jessie Ogilvie Huxtable Clark lived another 42 years after losing her entire family (her brother died very young in his 49th year) and that there was no one left to write an obituary or fashion and place a gravestone in her name. At age 89, she was living in the Arbutus and West King Edward area in Vancouver and died naturally in St. Paul's Hospital. We hope she enjoyed and cherished approximately 20 years (that we know of) in the classroom, one of those years being at the Sea Island Japanese School.

32. Signature of Groom: *Frederick Clark*
 of Bride: *Jessie Ogilvie Huxtable*
 Name: *Jessie Ogilvie Huxtable*
 Address: *801 West 4th St. Vancouver, B.C.*
 33. Signatures of Witnesses: Name: *Green Young Bradley*
 Address: *3424 Oak St. W. Vancouver, B.C.*
 I certify the above stated particulars are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 Officiating Clergyman: Signature: *W. C. Boddy*
 Address: *1401 Court St. Vancouver, B.C.*
 Religious Denomination: *United*
 Filed at: **VANCOUVER** on the *7* day of *Sept* 19 *43*
 District Registration No.: *3208*
J. H. Johnson District Registrar
 (SEE OTHER SIDE)

Marriage signatures of Jessie Ogilvie Huxtable and Captain Frederick Clark, September 1943.

REID, Margaret Anne (née McGuffie) (1920-2011)

Margaret Anne Reid (née McGuffie) taught at Sea Island Elementary in its opening year from 1947 to 1955, grades two, three and four, and in 1949-50 shared a class with Miss Edna Lorraine Johnson (Mrs. Scott). She was born in Osoyoos, British Columbia in 1920 to Herbert C. McGuffie, clerk and later orchardist, and Annie M. Easton of Keremeos, British Columbia, teacher. From early on she adopted an active athletic lifestyle—basketball, volleyball, skiing,

tennis, golf and horseback riding. It appears she was quite possibly an only child as the 1931 Canadian Census, 10 years after her birth, does not show any siblings.

Prior to beginning her teaching career, she served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps in WW II. It is quite probable this is where she met her husband, Clarence Arthur Reid, who served in the First Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment, RCCS, from 1939-1945. They married in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1941 and settled in the Okanagan area (British Columbia). She followed her dream and became an elementary teacher, and he, a secondary teacher and librarian.

After a stint in Olalla, the couple moved to West Vancouver and Mrs. Reid assumed a position in the opening year of Sea Island Elementary. Every morning for a year and a half she would pick up Miss Bernice Leversage who was living in North Vancouver at the time, for the drive to Sea Island.

She was known as a matter-of-fact kind of person and an achiever - "Let's get this thing done!" She wrote with a backhand slant. Her class pictures show her as a woman with a purpose and in control. It is known that she adored her students and at one time protested for female teachers' right to wear slacks to be able to get down on the same level as her little charges. This rekindles memories of those school days in the 1950s and earlier when girls were not allowed to wear long pants, even on the coldest of days. Our own Carole Lefler of Burkeville remembers Mrs. Reid fondly as her teacher in 1953.

The Reids were a family of four with two sons and they all loved summer camping in the

Rockies, even managing a family trip across Canada to Expo '67 in Montreal. Mrs. Reid was a keen photographer and in retirement she and her husband enjoyed many trips to Australia, Europe, Russia and the British Isles. Cruises were on their agenda as well. Apparently, she was one of the first western tourists allowed into communist China, travelling by military cargo plane. She was also active in the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Retired Teachers Association and the Canadian Club.

After leaving the coast and returning to the Okanagan, Mrs. Reid taught in Keremeos and Okanagan Falls, grades one and two. Penticton became home upon retirement in 1984 and many former students remembered and visited her well into her 80s. After 50 years of marriage, her husband passed and she lived for another 19 years, aging in place at Village by the Station until 2011. She and her husband are interred together at Penticton Lakeview Cemetery.

Much of this information was made available by a handsomely written obituary (author unknown) and was prematurely released by the Penticton Museum Archives in its ongoing efforts to digitize Penticton Herald obituaries. The Sea Island Heritage Society has placed a memorial in recognition of Margaret Anne Reid on Find-a-Grave for her dedication and commitment to teaching at Sea Island Elementary School, 1947-1955. Her Memorial ID is: 158581238.



Mrs. M. Anne Reid, Grade 3 - Sea Island Elementary (donated by Carole Lefler)

School Days and Classmates

Ah September! Remember our school days? Time to shake the sand out of our hair, put away the swimming gear, and go shopping for new clothes and school supplies.

I (Eunice) remember my first day at Cambie Junior High School, getting off the school bus, with my brand-new loose-leaf binder, and thinking this school is huge, I'm going to get lost. Gone being the seniors at Sea Island Elementary School and being one of the little Grade 7 students. First time we had locker with a combination lock. Biggest fear, forgetting the combination.

We also wondered who our teacher would be and who would be in our class. Those memories flood back when we view old class photos. While the Society has collected many and diligently recorded student and teacher names, Vernon Clark recently donated his class photos several of which we didn't have. And he remembered the names so many of the kids!



SIS class photo. (Donated by Vernon Clark)

Another of Vernon's photos is the Sea Island School band of '69. We didn't even know they had a band!



Band 1969. (Donated by Vernon Clark)

Sometimes people ask if we have their class photos. They either didn't get one OR they were lost due to moves or fires. One person contacted us, and we sent her two of her father's class photos. She was delighted as she had never seen them before.

If you have class photos to donate to SIHS, contact Eunice Robinson at eunice@genbug.ca.

A Burkeville Childhood

By Gordon Ross

As a child (1945 to 1954, birth to nine years) I lived at 325 Catalina Crescent. My Dad, Dan, worked in the weather office at the old airport, what is known as the South Terminal now. It was a full house with my brother Tom, sister Joan as well as my Mom's (Mavis) parents (Joe and Marie Griffiths). I was the baby of the family with my brother being eleven years older and my sister nine years older. We have family photos of them playing with me when I was very little. Once they got into their teens, they preferred playing with friends their own age. I spent a lot of home time playing by myself. I often tell people, "I have one brother and one sister and I'm an only child".



325 Catalina Crescent, Burkeville (Photo: Gordon Ross Collection)

One of my earliest memories is fishing in the ditch between our house and the Airport highway. It seemed like it was about 20 feet wide but I'm sure it was no more than five - too far to jump over. On summer days I would lie in the grass on the bank of the ditch with a piece of thread (stolen from my Mom's sewing basket) and a worm tied to the end. I would spend countless hours catching minnows. So many

that I would fill a jar till it was packed like sardines. I often think of those lazy, hazy days as some of the best of my childhood. I feel like I led a Huckleberry Finn type of existence. Burkeville was a magical place for kids to grow up.

My grandmother, Marie, was blind and would spend the days sitting in the living room knitting. I remember coming home from school and sneaking quietly up to her and softly touching her leg, pretending to be a fly. She would swat it away and I would, giggling quietly, do it again and again until she finally said, "Gordon is that you?" I always thought I was fooling her, but I now realize it was a game with her and she loved it.

I went to Sea Island School for grade one, the Air Force barracks for grade two and back to the school for grade three. I don't remember much of my time in class other than spending a lot of time fooling around and teachers always telling me to be quiet and pay attention. I also remember always forgetting my slippers at school and Mom having to walk back and get them.

Our dog Mickey

We had a dog, Mickey (my brother's dog but he was away in the Navy). Mickey was a German Shepherd/Collie cross - a beautiful, intelligent dog. He was known by pretty much everyone in the neighbourhood. Mom would put my school lunch in a brown paper bag and Mickey would carry it to school in his teeth, never trying to eat it himself. He knew it was for me. At school, Mickey would sit on the grass outside my



*Gordon and his dog Mickey
(Photo: Gordon Ross Collection)*

classes so he could always see me (I always got a window seat). He got to know my classes so well that when the bell went, he would get up and trot around to my next class and was there before I was. Unfortunately, one day another kid tried to pick on me and Mickey bit him, so he wasn't allowed to come to school any more.

When my mom would do the grocery shopping on Saturday mornings and take Mickey with her, she would get a bone for him from the butcher shop (wrapped in butcher paper) and he would walk home with it in his mouth and set it on the back steps and just stare at it. When Mom got home, she would say to Mickey, "OK", and only then would he tear into the paper to get the bone. It was a tragic day when he was hit by a car on Airport Road and died.

Weekend Fun

On Saturday mornings I would get my nickel allowance and go to the stores at Miller and Airport roads with my friends. It took us a

couple of hours to walk there so, in later years, I always assumed it was a long way. Turns out it was probably a couple of hundred yards. The path went through blackberry bushes so, in season, this slowed us down picking and eating berries. Other times of the year it was just kids playing along the way and taking forever to go anywhere.

The big challenge at the store was making the best use of my nickel, buying candy that would last the longest. Jawbreakers (three for a penny) were a favourite. The stores I remember were the Confectionary, Bill and Jim's Grocery, the BA station and the butcher shop. The first time going to the confectionary on my own, I asked for ice cream and was asked to pay. I just stared confused. I didn't know you had to pay.

Another time I tried to throw a rock across the Airport highway and hit a car. A police car! I was terrified as the cop gave me a talking to.

One Christmas I was chosen to play Tiny Tim in "A Christmas Carol" at the community hall. Nothing to do with my acting talent, I was the smallest kid. I still remember my one and only line at the end of the show, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." I spent hours practicing that line. I was convinced that Tiny Tim was the star of the show.

I remember, on cold winter mornings, getting dressed behind the old coal burning, cast iron kitchen stove as it was the warmest place in the house. Another time I was playing with the old wringer washing machine and managed to get my arm caught in the wringer. How I howled! It didn't hurt but it sure scared me.

I remember walking across the old wooden swing bridge into Marpole on Saturday mornings to see a movie at the theatre. My

brother and sister would take me and, half the time, the movie scared me. I would howl and they had to leave and bring me home. Boy, they were mad at me!

Being so young and my siblings doing their own thing, I don't remember much about their lives on the island. The one thing I do remember was that they both rose to the top in Scouts and Guides. A couple of my brother's buddies in Burkeville were Wally Acre and Art Leowski. One of my sister's friends was Gail Cunningham who lived next door to us.

Burkeville was a wonderful place to grow up. Being so isolated as it was, it had a great community spirit. Everyone knew everyone else, and it was a safe place for kids to play. When we went trick-or-treating on Halloween, we never had to worry about what was being handed out.

We'd get fresh, unwrapped goodies like candy apples and popcorn. Can you imagine that happening today!

Note: Can you find Gordon in Mrs. Reid's class photo of 1953 (p. 10)? He is in the top row, second from the left.

We thank Gordon for sharing his childhood memories of life in Burkeville, especially tales/tails of Mickey going to school with Gordon.

Have you got a memory or two to share? Our next newsletter in November honours the veterans and military friends in our Sea Island lives. We'd love to hear from you. Contact Marilyn at seaisland20@gmail.com.

A Request

Please help us return the historic Sea Island Equestrian Centre sign on the Ferguson Road barn. The sign went missing in the summer of 2023. It is the loss of a valuable heritage treasure that generations of the Sea Island McDONALD families enjoyed, as did we all. Let us know if you hear anything.



In Loving Memory

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

- Les INGLIS
- Elizabeth (Liz) SCARDINA
- Rose WHITE (née KINGSTON)
- Doreen BRAVERMAN (née CAMPBELL/MONTGOMERY)

Should we have inadvertently missed someone, please let us know at seaislandbc@gmail.com.

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: seaislandbc@gmail.com

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."