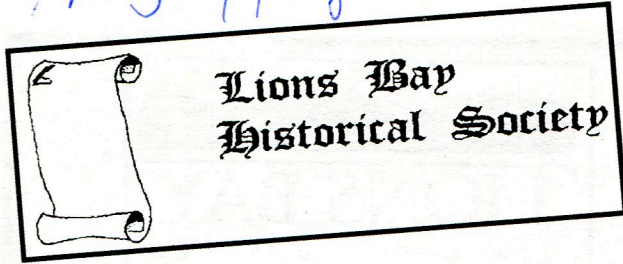


May 04 / page 15



The Seagull

In March, 1961 the water toll was \$5.00 per year. In 1961 Ralph and Miriam Cowherd built summer home as did Mrs. Isabel Stainsby. Permanent homes were built by Jean and Johnston Peter, Anne and Eric Thomson and Merna and Frank Gates. New property owners that year were Mr. & Mrs. L. Arbutnot, Mr. & Mrs. Bert Grant, Miss Mardy Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bolen. Telephones came to Brunswick Beach that summer.

October 12, 1962, Hurricane Freda hit over the mainland and Brunswick Beach. The highway bridge, logging bridge and railway trestle were all washed out - also our water system. Many trees were blown down—shingles blown off roofs, etc. etc. The roof of Thomson's Cabana was blown over top of their house, taking chimney with it and a tree fell across Kendrick's cottage and Mrs. Stainsby's.

On October 23, 1962 a special meeting was called with Grant Currie as Chairman. We now share road and railway crossing with Deeks Creek Logging. Temporary water service had been installed (just plastic pipe put in the stream to fill the lateral line. During several days of freezing weather we had to thaw the pipe every morning by hauling it to Peter's crawl space, then take it back and connect it so we had water for the afternoon—pipe would freeze up again by 7 p.m.

In 1963 a new water system was installed with settling box, intake cistern placed in creek bed, buried 3" pipe down side of Crystal Falls road to feed into same lateral line. The Kendricks were transferred to London. Messrs. Fearn, Grant and Thomson took over water problems.

In 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Larsen built a permanent home and moved to the beach. Mr. and Mrs. Lorne McRae bought the small cottage from the Peters.

In 1965 Jim and Ella Cooke built permanent home and moved to the beach - later to be sold to Roger and Felicity Duncan.

Merna's memories were submitted by Trudi Leuthy.

LOOKING BACK: AS I REMEMBER ... AND FROM NOTES ALONG THE WAY.

(The final instalment of the memories of Merna Gates from Brunswick Beach, submitted to LBHS in 1983)

The highway was opened in 1958 — the construction company working this section of the road was Campbell & Bennett. Their camp was on the "plateau" between the railway track and the highway. Some of the beach cottages were rented by the workers and roads had been put in where required. A dock was put in at the foot of Magnolia Avenue — the workers would come and go by water taxi. Another dock further along the bay was built and two huge oil storage tanks erected. Tugboats would come in with supplies. The main road from the camp (and which we used until 1962) came from the Highway to the railway, crossed the tracks and curved down to lower road. Just this side of the road was the first "Station".

Also in 1958, we started working on cancellation of the Esplanade and the dedication of a road allowance at the rear of properties to facilitate installation of utilities. Department of Lands and Land Registry Office gave us reason to believe our application would be approved and recommended we obtain legal assistance. That summer was extremely hot and Vancouver beaches were closed because of pollution. The Land Registry Office gave us reason to believe our application would be approved and recommended we obtain legal assistance, but somehow the Land Registrar had second thoughts and wrote to us saying our original request to cancel Esplanade would not be approved. We, therefore, requested approval to transfer 40 ft. from Esplanade to 40 ft. at rear of property be "exchange of property" system. There was no guarantee that our request would finally be approved but we went ahead - we had to omit Block 19 as two property owners objected to the change. In March, 1960 we were advised the Land Registrar had approved our application of transfer.

In 1959 there was a rumour that Black Ball Ferries were going to make terminal at Brunswick Beach!! Plans were started to install water system, and in the summer of 1960 an intake pool was made; plastic pipe came down bank of creek, under the highway bridge. Each property owner had to have an 18" trench dug across the back of his property by May 31st 1960. Pipe was laid and trenches had to be filled by September 1st.

In 1960 Deeks Creek Logging Co. made application for foreshore lease off mouth of Magnesia Creek. Also in 1960, Peter Kiewit Construction Co. placed mobile homes on road allowance and Government Lot 13, Blk. 19. They had their gravel works on the railway property. Electricity came to us in 1960.