



## The Seagull

asked who had been hurt, they said it was the 'Bee Keeper's wife'.

Gordie kept bees here in Lions Bay for years making wonderful honey for all to enjoy! Gordie provided show and tell demonstrations to the school children over the years completely dressed in his Bee Keeper's regalia.

Gordie, our Bee Keeper, also our official archivist. Having been a partner in ABC Colour all these years, he had enjoyed a continuous career as a professional photographer. Lions Bay's luck .... Gordie ensured that our history has been recorded for over 40 years.

They began building in the Fall of 1959. A young couple, Alex and Sharon Dalrymple, now long time residents of Lions Bay, rented the partially completed home for the winter. In the summer of 1960 the Kern family moved to Lions Bay and rented their home in Vancouver. It was a beautiful summer and looked to be a beautiful fall, so their tenants in Vancouver phoned to suggest that they enjoy Lions Bay into the fall, ... they never went back.

That fall, Gordie drove the children into Vancouver to go to school, and then the children of Lions Bay were asked to attend school in Squamish and the Howe Sound School District sent down a school bus – and this begins Gordie's activist days – noone got on the bus and in Gordie's own words, "there was a stand-off for a week or so and then it was agreed that the children of Lions Bay could go to school in West Vancouver. Gordie is truly a "Father of Lions Bay" and Robin a "Mother of Lions Bay".

Gordie drove the six Lions Bay children into West Vancouver to go to school and Robin picked the children up at the end of the day returning them to their homes in Lions Bay. The Provincial Government paid \$1.00 per child per day for transportation and Gordie and Robin used this money to finish their home. We were now a part of the West Vancouver School District- hooray!

In 1961, Gordie helped to form a Property Owner's Association. The Provincial Government gave permission to collect \$5 per owner and Gordie was the tax collector.

Later, Gordie supported Lions Bay becoming a Water Improvement District responsible for Fire Protection, Water, Garbage and Parks. Gordie served as an elected

## LOOKING BACK:

### GORDON AND ROBIN KERN VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY PIONEERS LIONS BAY RESIDENTS SUMMER 1960 – FALL 2003

*By Brenda Broughton*

Gordon and Robin Kern, pioneers and outstanding citizens of Lions Bay. Robin has so often been an amazing support, most recently when Gordie was deathly ill for a prolonged period in 2000. Robin's unfailing support and Gordon's unfailing will created the health both enjoy today as their journey takes them to their next move to West Vancouver by the Capilano River. Here, their life and liveliness is exemplified by the energy this river exudes.

Robin and Gordie have three married children, eldest son Bryan, daughter Leslie and David, their youngest and enjoy their seven (7) wonderful grandchildren.

For Gordie and Robin, in April, 1958 it was love at first sight when, on the same day, they viewed and purchased their lot on Seaview Place. Still residents of Vancouver they brought Robin's mum and Gordie's parents up by boat to view their new homesite. There was only the third lot to sell in Lions Bay. Purchased from developer, Bob Nelson the prospectus promised a resident-owned marina, Beach Clubhouse, school, store with a gas bar and 'all-wave' TV ... much of this was to come, in some cases with a long wait .... much to Gordie's chagrin the marina was sold.

Both growing up on Vancouver's westside, Robin walked 2 blocks to spend her summer days at Jericho Beach, while Gordie's family rented cabin #4 at Sunset Beach just south of Lions Bay, where Gordie describes his childhood memory of, "looking at the diamonds dancing in the water" of Howe Sound. Is it any wonder that they both embraced Lions Bay so wholeheartedly? Robin and Gordie first met in school at age 16 and 18 when Robin signed Gordie's high school annual, leaving her mark!

Recently, Robin and Gordie described the specialness of Lions Bay. They talked about Lions Bay's location, its privacy, the amazing view looking out the window at the mountains, water and sunsets with easy going friendly people, with a lot of talented artists and writers. They are leaving Lions Bay, "kicking and screaming, but it is a good time" and they will have a good time while enjoying the convenience to amenities and Gordie's dialysis.

Memories bring about wonderful stories of when Lions Bay had a wading pool at the beach park (in the 60's) and Robin took her turn cleaning the pool. At one point Robin had an accident serious enough to be cut out of her car with the jaws of life. When her neighbour went by and



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