

neighbourhoods

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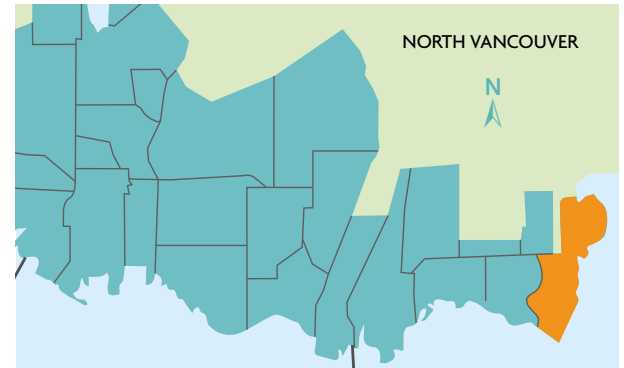
Next week's
neighbourhood:
Ambleside



Kayaking and other water sports are popular activities among residents and visitors in Deep Cove. PHOTO KEVIN HILL

A weekly profile of 12 neighbourhoods that help form the North Shore.

› Deep Cove



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Welcome to Deep Cove, a true nature lover's paradise, a community where hiking, boating, and water sports reign supreme among residents lucky enough to call this laidback, artsy community home sweet home.

Comprising the area on the far east side of the North Shore, Deep Cove lies nestled in the shadow of Seymour Mountain to the north and the placid waters of Indian Arm to the east.

Only 13 kilometres from Downtown Vancouver, this quaint seaside village feels light years away from the crowds and traffic of city living. The traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, Deep Cove eventually became a popular cottage destination as Vancouver grew with European settlement in the early 20th century. Following the completion of the Second Narrows Memorial Crossing

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bridge in 1960, the village saw a build-up of residential neighbourhoods surrounding the area as more and more people chose to call this idyllic setting home, according to the Deep Cove Heritage Society.

Deep Cove is a community with distinctly West Coast vibes with many of the homes dotting the area's shorelines sporting their own boat slips, whether for lavish sport boats or a couple of salt-streaked kayaks. Inside the pint-sized village, a series of funky businesses can be found.

One thing this nature-loving community does particularly well is food, whether it's loaded pizza and craft beer at the Raven Pub, mouthwatering treats from Honey's Doughnuts and Goodies, or hearty fare from the Arms Reach Bistro Restaurant, a local dining favourite. All that outdoor recreation keeps Deep Covers hungry.

With recreation reigning supreme in the area it's not surprising that "the cove" offers one of the largest selections of water sport rentals in the country with Deep Cove Kayak offering rentals of kayaks, paddle boards, and dragon boats, something that Amy Harris, communications manager for the company, says is a booming business.

"It gets pretty busy down there. We've been selling out pretty much every weekend so far this year and been very busy during the week as well," she notes, explaining the business, which operates on the village's waterfront from March to October books between 30,000 and 40,000 rentals per



Arts and culture

Stroll down the last block of Gallant Avenue before the water's edge and you'll come across a pale yellow building with a red steepled window at the front. This is the Deep Cove Cultural Centre.

The unique space is home to four community groups: Deep Cove Heritage Society, First Impressions Theatre, Deep Cove Stage, and the Seymour Art Gallery.

The non-profit public gallery has existed as an organization since 1985, and moved into its current location when the cultural centre opened in 1992. Before that, it occupied an exhibition space in a hallway at Seycove school and filled other spaces when available.

Curator and director Sarah Cavanaugh says the cultural centre is unique and great for the community.

"I know people worked really hard to get the space designed and put up, and all the groups that started it are still in here and going strong," she notes.

Cavanaugh has been with the gallery for five years, and agrees that Deep Cove is an artistic community.

"There's definitely a lot happening artistically in this community," she says. "In this building alone there's a lot happening artistically, but in many other spaces as well. There are a lot of interesting groups working in and around the cove and well-known artists living here."

Artists often take their inspiration from nature and

Deep Cove is particularly suited to serve as muse.

"Who wouldn't want to be here? It's beautiful," adds Cavanaugh. She believes location is part of the reason the little gallery does so well, welcoming about 25,000 visitors a year.

"For a small little gallery like this those are big numbers," notes Cavanaugh.

The gallery presents 11 shows a year, most running four weeks with some special exhibitions running for five. The most recent show of Iranian door knockers ended this weekend. The next show will feature an exhibition of oil paintings and sculptural felt-making by two artists who live in the Gulf Islands. The collections throughout the year are diverse by design.

"We're really trying to bring forward ideas and artwork that we think will interest the community," says Cavanaugh.

Volunteers help boost the small staff, and Cavanaugh easily recites the numbers: Last year 80 volunteers gave 3,743 hours of their time. She says community support, including that from volunteers (they are always looking for more) is key to the operation.

"We couldn't do what we do without them," she adds.

When talking about the gallery, it's clear Cavanaugh is proud of the work being done there.

"I may be a little biased but I think it's an absolute gem," she says.

— Rosalind Duane

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year, even more in recent years.

"Especially in the last couple of years it's been getting up there to 40,000 plus," says Harris.

She attributes the area's popularity as a water sport destination to two main reasons, both having to do with its location.

"It's a pretty protected area so the water is usually pretty calm," she explains. "Obviously having that calm water means that a lot of people who aren't familiar with water sports, beginners, can still go out and feel very safe out on the water."

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The view from the top of Quarry Rock. PHOTO SUPPLIED



A day in Deep Cove

Douglas Musselman, Dylan Matthews, Samuel Rook, Iain McTavish and Andrew Garnett cool off on a hot day in the photo at left; Honey's Doughnuts' patio below; 12-year-olds Meena Goundrey and Paige Fraser beachcombing bottom right; Judith Captein and Yuri Tsumori paddle boarding; and business in the cove. PHOTOS **CINDY GOODMAN**



Longtime resident recalls his early days in the cove

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In the late 1940s, Deep Cove played host to a lot of regattas and speed boat races.

Wilfred Fawcett was a teen at the time and often made the trek from his home in Vancouver to watch the action on the water.

He also regularly attended the Saturday night dances held at a local hall. They played swing music, including Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey. Fawcett was a fan.

An amateur musician at the time, he went on to play clarinet semi professionally, but gave it up to get a steady gig as an insurance salesman to support his family.

Deep Cove became part of his official sales territory, which started at Grand Boulevard. After years of working and playing in Deep Cove, Wilfred moved to the area with his wife Marge and their two kids in 1970. Their Cove Cliff home cost \$60,000. The house was 10 years old when they moved in, and although it seems low relative to today's house prices, it was not cheap for the time.

"Deep Cove in those days was (made up of) little settlements. There was a settlement around Panorama, then there was Cove Cliff, Cliffmont, Strathcona, and the new sub-division in the Dollarton area," recalls Wilfred. "The beach houses weren't all that favoured because it took a lot to keep them up because of the shoreline, it was quite difficult. Now those lots are



Wilfred Fawcett (centre) poses with members of the Old Time Jazz Band, which is based in Deep Cove. Fawcett is a longtime Deep Cove resident. FILE PHOTO MIKE WAKEFIELD

worth about \$2 million."

The family enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities. "In my earlier days as a youth I used to hike and ski all over Seymour. It was just a lovely place," says Wilfred.

As teens, his kids would row over to Belcarra and sometimes party with their friends on a nearby little island.

"The provincial police in those days would yell to the kids to get off the island and the kids would just laugh at them. They finally got the marine unit out there

and the kids just scattered," recalls Wilfred with a laugh. "They weren't hurting anyone. There was no vandalism."

Now 85, Wilfred lives at Cedar Springs retirement residence, and is a member of the Deep Cove Old Time Jazz Band. His wife is at Evergreen and he visits her often.

When asked what his favourite part of living in Deep Cove has been he answers quickly: "I think it was the people. It was just a lovely place to raise a family. It was just great."

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The other reason is the scenery.

"We're very lucky in Deep Cove to have such spectacular scenery right on our doorstep," she says.

Deep Cove also supports a thriving arts community, with three separate galleries located in the village alone. Among those is the Seymour Art Gallery that contains both a gallery and a store, which sells works by local artists.

"The community is very tightly knit here. It's very supportive of the arts," says Vanessa Black, gallery assistant at the Seymour Art Gallery. "I think that definitely encourages artists to stay and to work and to contribute to this community in particular."

Black says she believes it's the area's natural beauty that contributes to the many artists that call this community home. "I think it's just (the) scenery. Definitely nature. That's the subject matter of a lot of the art in the shop. I think that really speaks to a lot of creative people."

Hiking is also popular in the area, particularly the two-kilometre Quarry Rock hike, which takes trekkers high above the community and offers stunning views of surrounding waterways.

Deep Cove is also the eastern terminus for the 48-kilometre Baden Powell Trail, which spans all the way west to Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver.

So whether it's paddling, hiking, gorging on delicious food fare or simply taking in the breathtaking scenery that permeates the area, the community of Deep Cove has lots to offer.