

Perspectives in the Cove

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My perspectives: Outdoor Enthusiasts and Environmentalists

1. What do you know about these perspectives / groups of people?

A love of nature has been present in North Vancouver as long as this land has been lived upon. Before contact, the Tsleil-Waututh relied on the land with cedar being used for houses, boats and clothing and food sources coming from the animals and plants they could hunt and gather. This reliance led to a perspective of respect and value for nature across the nation. According to *Echoes Across the Inlet*, “nothing was taken without a reason and everything was shared” . Nature was also enjoyed as much as it was respected, with the beautiful waters of Indian Arm being used as raceways for war canoe competitions. One thing I know about these perspectives from this information is that they transcend the borders of race and time, as many value and enjoy nature in the same way today.

After a white population began to settle North Vancouver, new forms of outdoor enjoyment were introduced. In 1908 the

first climb of mount Seymour was made and soon after its reputation grew as a popular ski destination. We know that the groups of people who enjoyed this outdoor recreation also wanted to protect nature as *Echoes Across the Inlet* describes that mountaineers on Seymour “wanted to save it from the ravages of logging and mining”. This led to the creation of Mount Seymour Provincial park in 1936 with 677 acres put aside for protection. Outdoor recreation was also enjoyed in land sports such as golf and of water sports including swimming, diving and boating. *Echoes Across the Inlet* describes the Regatta competitions as “very popular and people came from all over North Vancouver and Vancouver to the shore of Deep Cove to view the entertainment”, proving that in the perspective of locals outdoor activity was a core aspect of their community.

2. Where can we find out more about these perspectives / groups of people?

To find out more about people who enjoy exploring and protecting the environment, we can consult a number of sources. The two *Echoes Across* books give detailed histories about mountaineering and the Tsleil-Waututh people, and specific questions could be asked to the authors if we could get a hold of them. We could also speak with employees, management or

frequent visitors of natural recreational facilities such as Deep Cove Kayak, Mount Seymour, the Deep Cove Yacht Club or Mount Seymour Golf. All of these places also have websites with excellent information, and we can find independent sites as vancouverbestplaces.com which outlines a more generalized perspective on outdoor recreation. Another valuable source is the North Shore Black Bear Society website which comments on everything about local natural preservation and has gained notoriety as of late due to the bear shootings.

3. Why do YOU see these perspectives as important?

I first and foremost see these perspectives as important as they are perspectives I hold myself. I have grown up and have some of my fondest memories in the outdoor spaces around me and value their protection. They have given me an opportunity to explore, bond with friends and family and connect with my community, and the research I have done proves that many members of the Deep Cove community feel the same way. I also think these perspectives are important to share as they are often overlooked in favour of corporate or Government perspectives (e.g. the poor management of bears has come from a lack of resources provided by the Government). If we want to continue to have an incredible home which can be shared with a diverse

amount of wildlife we need to consider the perspective of environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts.

4. What stories could we possibly share about these groups of people / perspectives?

A story that I believe would be interesting and valuable to cover is the history of North Shore Residents, conservation services and bears. Over the past year, six bears have been shot in North Vancouver which unfortunately isn't a new trend. Irresponsible management of waste and other attractants has led to acclimatized bears being euthanized without hesitation time and time again, often causing unrest throughout the community. For example, the North Shore Black Bear Society recently posted "Deep Cove is well-known for having a strong sense of community among human residents. The recent loss of another member of the wider community, black bear Plum, has ignited a demand for change by residents on how black bears are valued and managed on the North Shore". These stories would be excellent to tell as to truly understand them you need to look beyond one perspective. You have to look beyond simply valuing environmentalism as human safety and the traditions of hunting black bears of the Tsliel-Waututh must be considered as well. It

also provides the opportunity to shed light onto what can be done for the future, as this issue will be prominent for years to come.

Works Cited

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