



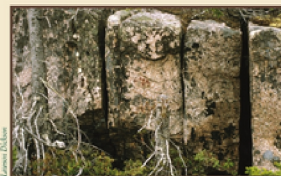
the town of
Conception
Bay South

CONCEPTION BAY SOUTH T'RAILWAY.

Seal Cove.

Early History.

Originally settled in the early-1800s by people from across Conception Bay, Seal Cove was then primarily a fishing community. Full-time farming and the granite quarry that opened upstream of Indian Pond (Quarry Brook) in 1882 provided work to non-fishers and in the off-season. First appearing in the 1857 *Census* with 61 residents, its population grew to 117 by 1884 and 706 by 1971. Family names include Coveyduck, Butler, Dawe, Dowden, Lear/Lehr and Morgan. Seal Cove has been part of the Town of Conception Bay South since 1986. The trestle, built over the natural "gut" in Seal Cove Pond when the railway went through in 1892, remains. It provides local fishermen and boaters access to Conception Bay.



Large granite blocks remain along Quarry Brook. The natural vertical joints would have assisted the quarrymen when splitting the granite. This quarry supplied construction materials to the railway, likely bridge abutments.

Area residents are employed at either the quarries or the Holyrood thermal electric generating plant (built in 1968). While many families have long working ties in the telecommunications industry, others found work in the Capital. The Seal Cove River Valley is home to several

rare Avalon Peninsula plants such as eastern white pine, highbush cranberry, and winterberry holly.



Residents have long enjoyed the swimming holes on Seal Cove River, known as 'The Canyon', 'The Flats', and 'The Still' (above) where a municipal park has been built.

Lance Cove was a farming and fishing community that first appears in the 1836 *Census* with a population of 16 settlers. The 1835 Voter's List records two men: George Kelly and Richard Welsh. These early family names, along with Lear/Lehr, Harvey, Kearney/Carney, Kelly, Morgan, and Warford are the dominant family names still. By 1857, residents had constructed a Church of England (Anglican) school/chapel. A water-powered sawmill business operated in the early-1900s. The population peaked at 157 in 1901 and was down to 32 by 1936. Aggregate quarries operating near Lance Cove Head once had their own railway siding. Lance Cove beach is a popular spot when the capelin roll.

Indian Pond forms the western boundary of the Town of Conception Bay South with Holyrood. The Dawe and Morgan families of Port de Grave settled there in the mid-1800s, attracted by the good farmland and easy access to the Bay. Indian Pond appears as a separate community in the 1884 *Census* with 13 families. Other surnames were

Education.

St. Andrew's School operated in Seal Cove from 1884 to 1974. Students then were bused to larger schools in Conception Bay South. In 1963 a District Vocational School opened.



St. Andrew's School in 1953.



Students pose with their teacher in front of St. Andrew's School, 1925.

Anthony and Butler. A Salvation Army citadel was constructed in the area known as Quarry Brook (now part of Holyrood) and Hope Pentecostal Church was constructed in 1935 on donated land.



The congregation of Hope Pentecostal Church built this larger church building on Garden Road in 1968.

power plant, as well as maintenance of the flume and dams. One was torn down before 2001 and the other was removed for the connection to Peacekeepers Way in 2012. When the house received the Florence Miller Award in 2000 from the Conception Bay South Historic Trust Society, Frank Jones, Chief Operator for 36 years in Seal Cove, was living there.



The Chief Operator's House, 2004. These maples were brought as seedlings from Spout Cove in Elsie Vaters' handbag.

The impact to the area was immediate, with staff and students seeking accommodations and a marked increase was felt by local businesses. With name changes, came changes



The Campus has expanded significantly, and in 2010-2011, underwent extensive renovations.



In the 1970s, there were courses offered in Beauty Culture, Commercial Cooking, Drafting, Motor Vehicle Repair (both mechanical and body), and Electrical Power Utilities.

Let There Be Light.

It is nearly impossible to imagine a world without electricity at your fingertips with the flick of a switch. Yet, life without electricity in Seal Cove was only 100 years ago. The first hydro generating plant was built at Petty Harbour in 1900 and it would take until the Fall of 1929 before all of Conception Bay had electrical service. The power station at Seal Cove Brook was constructed June-December, 1923. Its first operator was Mark Vaters, who was transferred from the Victoria station. A 2.1 m (7 ft) diameter wooden flume was constructed between the station and a concrete intake dam 1.2 km (0.75 mi) upstream on White Hill Pond. The capacity was 3600 kilowatts. In the late-1940s an additional dam was built at Soldier's Pond to serve the Seal Cove plant.

United Towns Electrical Company, known as UTE, had incorporated in



The Seal Cove Power House continues to generate power in 2018, receiving its water supply from White Hill Pond via the flume shown at right.

in courses offered. Some students will recall attending the College of Trades and Technology, others Cabot College, and more recently College of the North Atlantic.

1902 after receiving a 50-year franchise from the Newfoundland Government to provide lighting and heating of residences and businesses in Harbour Grace, Carbonear, and Heart's Content. The franchise built the Victoria Power Station in 1904. As UTE expanded its electrical distribution throughout Conception Bay, it further provided telephone service to residents and had public telephones in the post office of each town. In 1919, UTE obtained the hydro rights to the waters of Seal Cove Brook (along with Manuels Brook and Topsail Hill Brook) and set about to meet the demands of residents between Avondale and Topsail. With the rising costs of coal and kerosene oil, electricity had become the more economical and convenient and less smelly form of light and heat.

On September 8, 1966 UTE and two other regional power companies merged to become Newfoundland Light and Power Co. Limited.



CN Engine Number 924 heads a long line of rolling stock westbound across Seal Cove Pond, at the end of Dowdens Road.

Railway.



Seal Cove had three sidings able to take 13-24 train cars and housed a dispatcher's office. The dispatcher took and passed on train orders. Jack Morgan's house is in the foreground.



The removal of the train tracks is one of many changes neighboring the old railway shed (as portrayed in the two pictures above).



One shipment from the 'tal' (pyrophyllite) quarry in Manuels were brought by train starting in 1904 to the Seal Cove siding, dumped, and then loaded onto ships anchored in the deeper waters here.



A westbound CN Train crosses the trestle at Seal Cove Pond in August, 1978. The boats at anchor attest to an active fishery. The fence in the foreground surrounded the summer home of Herbert J. Russell, General Manager of the Newfoundland Railway 1923-1949.

Heritage Sites in Seal Cove.



The Morgan House was built by William Morgan (see inset above), who moved to Seal Cove from Burnt Head (Cupids) as a baby. After William's death in 1882, the house went to Henry, his older brother. Henry moved it from its original site about a mile (1.6 km) to their land near Indian Pond. The house still sits on its rock and mud foundation. The house did not have electricity

and running water until the 1970s, when it was sold for the first time outside the Morgan Family. It is the oldest home in Seal Cove. The Morgan House received the Conception Bay South Historic Trust Award and became a provincially registered Heritage Structure by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2000.

The Chief Operator's House was built by United Towns Electrical Company in 1923 for staff stationed at the Seal Cove hydro electric station. Two houses were on the site, each with running water, and dedicated telephone and power lines - a marvel for its time - and virtually unchanged since constructed. The Chief Operator and staff were responsible for the