

For Immediate Release

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Local history from an ecological viewpoint

A shoreline thick with middens, archaeological remains dating back thousands of years, part of the last stretch of west coast to appear on world maps.... Boundary Bay and the mouth of the Fraser River have a fascinating human history. For nearly ten thousand years, people have drawn sustenance from the rich natural resources of its ocean, marshes, and upland forests. This story is engagingly told in *Tracing Our Past ~ A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay* (Nature Guides BC, April 2008, \$27.95 soft cover).

A companion guide to the popular *A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay* by the same author and photographer, *Tracing Our Past* is a portrait of the landscape and the people that transformed it. The guide takes a sweeping view of the ecological history of the area south of the Fraser River, from Steveston in the west to Langley at the headwaters of the Nicomekl River in the east, and south to Point Roberts and Birch Bay in Washington. Beginning with the end of the last Ice Age and exploring the origins of people's arrival on the coast, the book continues with archaeological finds and the Coast Salish presence that began over 9,000 years ago.

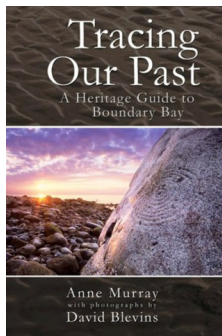
Emphasizing the interaction of people with the landscape and wildlife, *Tracing Our Past* provides a fresh local look at the familiar stories of Spanish and English exploration, the Gold Rush and the pioneer settlers. Cougars, wolves and bears were once a common sight in Surrey and Roosevelt elk were hunted in Burns Bog. The vast flocks of migrating ducks, geese, swans and cranes and the huge runs of salmon appeared to the newcomers as an unending bonanza. The cyclical nature of the landscape and its resources was not understood, however, and as industrial exploitation increased, the flocks and runs declined dramatically. The book devotes a whole chapter each to fishing and farming, the two mainstays of the Fraser delta, and discusses the successes and failures to conserve the bay and its habitats. It concludes with a section on Heritage Destinations, a useful resource for those wanting to go out and explore the area with fresh insight.

Tracing Our Past ~ A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay is lavishly illustrated with 90 colour photographs by David Blevins, 47 sepia archival photographs and drawings, and 8 maps. David's photographs highlight the natural beauty of the area and present a compelling argument for why it should be better known and valued.

"Well researched, well written and intelligently presented, a beautifully illustrated local history not to be missed by anyone with an interest in how this area got to be the way it is" ~ Derek Hayes, historian and author.

Anne Murray, author of *Tracing Our Past ~ A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay* and *A Nature Guide to Boundary Bay* has had a lifelong interest in nature, history and different cultures. Born and educated in England, she has taught mathematics and science to every age group. She has lived in Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Alberta and for the last two decades in Tsawwassen, British Columbia. She volunteers with a number of nature organizations, including BC Nature and the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust, and among other awards, she was a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal.

Anne offers slide shows and talks on topics related to both books, together with book sales and signing. To make a booking please call 604 943 4460.



Title: Tracing Our Past ~ A Heritage Guide to Boundary Bay

Author: Anne Murray

Photographs: David Blevins

Specs: 240 pages, 6" x 9", over 140 colour and sepia illustrations, index, bibliography, soft cover, \$27.95. Printed in Canada on recycled paper.

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