

# Swimming, Singing, Remembering Norway Bay—1960s–70s

Rick Taylor

I learned to swim at Norway Bay a few years before the Beatles changed the world. My great grandmother, Ethel Russell, was born at a farm in Elmside, so family blood flows deep at the Bay. In the 1950s my parents, Tom and Eleanor Taylor, bought our cottage on Sawdust Trail from my great grandmother. In 1973 I met my wife Dale at Norway Bay when Diane Maclean brought her up for a visit, and I fell in love with Dale on a midnight swim. My first swimming lessons were taught by our neighbours Allan and Eleanor Gallichan's daughter, Gail, at Stacey's Beach in a few feet of water. I remember taking lessons at Scobie House Beach, then graduating to the scary, deep water that surged around the docks of the pier. But as a murderously skinny kid, my most vivid memory was watching Susie Gallichan swim the Long Distance Race in choppy waters while speedboats roared around her churning arms and legs. This heroic image of an open water swimmer was etched so deeply in my imagination that it shaped the rest of my life.



*Swimming Class lead by Ken Sweeney, 1960's*