

# New history book on CPL shelves

By *Silvana Harwood*.

Coquitlam Public Library received a New Horizons for Senior's grant about 16 months ago as reported last year in this publication. We received the grant in order to do a book on the history of Coquitlam and my last words on this receiving the money were "I am still smiling."

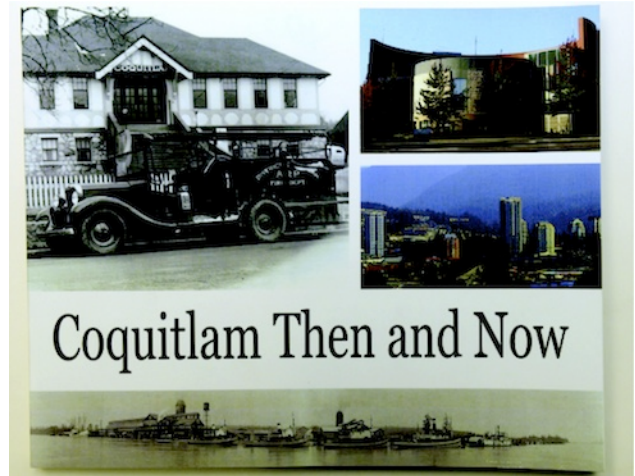
## What seemed to be a small project got really big

Well, I didn't smile the whole time – in fact, I was ready to give back the money and set my hair on fire last October. We had been working with about 13 seniors to put together a really well researched, totally indexed, fully illustrated history of Coquitlam. We also added special sections on the Kwikwetlem First Nation, the immigrants working in Fraser Mills, Sports, and Riverview. And we had the whole thing translated into French.

It is my present view that all librarians should have to write/organize a non-fiction book to totally appreciate what it takes to "put a book on the shelves." The writing, the versions of the chapters, the edits, the proofreading, more edits and re-writes, fact checking – all I can say is thank goodness for Excel spreadsheets and email.

## Success

In the end, our designer, a young volunteer, put together a fabulous work, our translator not only gave us the French but she fixed some of the English and we ended up with a really wonderful book, **Coquitlam Then and Now**.



We printed 300 copies, which pretty well ate up all the grant money, and we are almost sold out and looking to do another printing. You can find copies on the shelves at Coquitlam Public Library and if you should want a copy, please contact me as we are taking names for a possible re-printing.

I am so very proud of those 13 seniors and the staff here at CPL who assisted them. I learned so much about our local history, met some terrific people and re-discovered project management. It has truly been an education. And I have fulfilled one of my lifelong dreams – to be an author. I am still smiling!

*Silvana Harwood is the Deputy Director of  
Coquitlam Public Library*