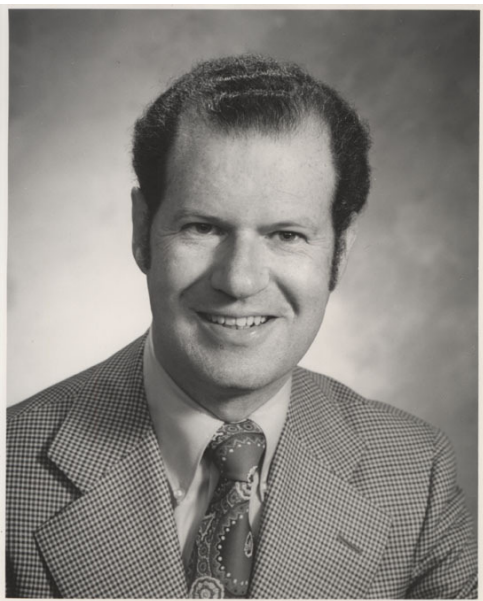


Saanich Archives collects and preserves archival material relating to the Municipality of Saanich. We welcome donations of photographs and other records that document the heritage of Saanich.

Stories of Saanich: An Oral History Project

Everyone has a story to tell. The purpose of the Saanich Archives Oral History Project is to capture aspects of municipal history that would otherwise remain absent from the historical record. Oral histories provide a first hand account of the experiences of Saanich residents over the decades and offer an opportunity to preserve these personal accounts for education and research by future generations.



Portrait of Mayor Hugh Curtis (2009-013-001)

The first interview was conducted in 1976 by Deputy Municipal Clerk Joanne Morrison, who started the archives. Between June 1976 and April 1977, 29 interviews were recorded. Production continued through the 1980s, with all interviews being recorded onto audio cassette until 1989, when video cassettes were used for a brief period. In those early years, interviewees consisted of former Mayors (Reeves) and Councillors, long-serving Saanich

employees, and members of pioneer families. Topics ranged from pioneer and early life in Saanich, farming, and family history to employee experiences and memories. In total, over 100 interviews were captured between 1976 and 1997. In 2008, Saanich Archives took the significant step of having these recordings digitized. An audio specialist cleaned the cassettes, restored the sound quality, and digitized the recordings. These interviews now form the foundation of the Saanich Archives Oral History Project.

The program continued in 2007, and the project is now part of the ongoing work performed at the Saanich Archives. With a new decade has come new technology, and interviews are now conducted by staff or volunteers using a digital voice recorder or digital video camera. The interviews are copied to DVD or CD-ROM – as well as transcribed – and are made accessible to researchers at the Archives public reference room. Interviewees also receive a copy of the voice or video recording to keep for their own family records. Interviews take one hour or less and can be arranged either in the participant's home or at the Saanich Archives.

Saanich Archives will soon be adding a list of the oral histories to our website, with audio clips from each interview. In this way, we will be better able to share the stories that add colour to the history of our community. Have you considered using oral histories as a resource? Archives staff are able to search through the topics covered in our oral history database and can direct you to interviews that may provide you with information that does not appear in written sources. Do you have a memory to share? An interesting story from your time in Saanich? We would love to hear from you! For more information or to participate in the project, contact Saanich Archives at (250) 475-1775 ext. 3478

Recent Acquisitions

You can now check our most Recent Acquisitions on the Saanich Archives website. Find out about new archival resources available to you by clicking the link on our homepage, or by contacting the Archives.

- Oral History Interviews with Hugh Curtis, Sydney Girling, Doreen Poole and Jean Vantreight
- Copy of Arthur Erickson's plans for Jawl office building, 1971-2
- McKenzie Avenue School class photographs, 1945-6, 1948
- Map of Saanich, 1948
- Oral history interviews (used in writing of "Sea-Lake"): Beckwith, Campbell, Quick, Jeune, McMorran – to be cleaned and digitized
- Photographs of Curtis Point/Gorge/Vancouver Island Swim Club, ca. 1920
- Gordon Head Junior High School Collection – photographs and yearbooks, 1961-63
- Blueprints, bath house at Cadboro Bay for the Victoria Gyro Club
- Photographs, 975 Haliburton Road (Doris Page house)
- Canada Dept. of Mines Geological Survey Maps of Saanich and Victoria, 1914-5
- Wall map of Greater Victoria, 1925
- Original sketch drawings & plans from 1936 of 2511 Sinclair Road (3808 Sinclair Pl.)



[Victoria and Island Athletic Association], Curtis Point, the Gorge, ca 1920 (2009-004-004)

From the Vault

Archives staff are always working to make our records more accessible, and to make the public aware of what is available in our archival holdings. The following are records that have recently been processed and are available for viewing in the reference room:



Council and staff in front of Municipal Hall on West Saanich Road, 1930s (2009-020-017)

Fred Webb Collection – finding aid available

McMorran Collection – finding aid available

Heritage Inventory Structures (Acc. #2006-015) – additional photographs now available online

Fire Department Collection photographs (2009-026) – 14 photographs now online

Edward H. Livesay Collection (Acc. # 2009-036) – 10 photographs now online

Attention Teachers & Students!

Visit us online or in person, and access information that supports your classroom learning and preparation. Our online collection includes over 2,500 searchable images. On-site, our easily accessible information files cover a wide range of curriculum subjects for all grades on history and society. We welcome visits by individuals and small groups.

For more information on our school programs and resources, contact Saanich Archives.

Photographic Mysteries

Our popular photographic mysteries feature is back with a new set of photographs to identify! Do you recognize any of the people or places in the images listed below? To view the photographs, visit www.saanicharchives.ca, click on 'Photographs', and search using the Archives Number.

Start your sleuthing!

- 1981-017-001b
- 2007-097-012
- 2007-097-014
- 2009-004-022
- 2009-020-002



*Unidentified woman with children in a buggy (2007-097-014)
(Part of the Jack Rowe Collection)*

Plan On it:

Maps & Plans at Saanich Archives

Did you know that the Saanich Archives has a collection of approximately 3500 maps and plans dating from 1906 to 1980? These include residential and commercial structures, sketch plans of proposed additions and outbuildings, subdivisions, and public works proposals. Additionally, researchers may also consult 1925 and 1968 fire insurance plans, air photographs, and historical maps of Saanich and the surrounding area.



History Bites!

Recipes from the Past

Along with official documents, Saanich Archives houses personal items such as journals, autograph books, notebooks, and sketchbooks, to name a few. Among these pages we occasionally find recipes – some odd, some charming, but always interesting.

The recipe below is from the handwritten notebook of Mileva Todd, whose dedicated Red Cross service during the First World War made her a household name in the municipality. The 1898 notebook, though primarily recipes, also contains laundry lists and other accounts.

Lemon Jelly Cake

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup milk
- whites of four eggs
- 3 cups of flour
- 3 teaspoonfuls of baking soda

Filling

- 1 lemon, grated
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoonful corn starch
- 2 eggs
- a piece of butter the size [of a] walnut

No directions accompany the ingredients, which is not uncommon with old handwritten recipes. Archives staff plan to try out the recipe; we will let you know how it turns out!

On Display

Have you been to the Saanich Centennial Library this summer? Several months ago, Saanich Archives acquired two tall display cases, which are now filled with artifacts, photographs and stories about the history of Saanich. Visit the exhibit in the Saanich Centennial Library foyer to view photographs and information on First Nations, European settlement, transportation, war time, waterworks, and early school life in Saanich.

A smaller display has been set up outside the Council Chambers at the Saanich Municipal Hall. View photographs of mayors and council members of days gone by.



Glendinning Farm (Irvine Family Collection) (2008-008-032)

Archives Orientation

New to archival research? Join us on a Wednesday morning for an orientation session. Tour the archives, explore the collection, and learn how to use our reference files and finding aids.

Every Wednesday at 10 am

Approx. 45 minutes

Drop in

Reference Room

The project of cataloguing and labelling the Saanich Archives' collection of history books is nearly complete! These reference books, which cover topics related to local, provincial, and national history, is a valuable resource.

Researching a specific topic? Staff would be pleased to search our catalogue and direct you to the relevant titles among our nearly 1500 books!

Our latest titles include:

- *Preservation of Open Space on the Saanich Peninsula* (thesis by Ian Peter Brooke Halkett, 1969)
- *John Dean's Cabin Diary* (Jarrett Thomas Teague, 2009)
- *The History of Royal Oak* (binder of compiled information)
- *The Victoria Sketch Club: a centennial celebration, 1909-2009* (John Lover)
- *Prof. M. Lindsay Lambert's Magic Lantern shows: popular 19th century entertainment for all ages* [DVD]
- *The rise of Jewish life and religion in British Columbia, 1858-1948* (Special issue of *The Scribe*), the *Journal of the Jewish Historical Society of British Columbia: Vol. 28, 2008*)

DID YOU KNOW?

✦ In April 1939, Cecil Fletcher applied to the municipality to build Lakeside Roller Rink, an outdoor roller skating rink on the west side of Elk Lake. By August of 1939, neighbours had submitted a petition to address the "... grievance existing in our district, that is the noise created by music and loud speaker in the operation of the skating rink on the shore by Elk Lake".