

Saanich Archives Newsletter

| Spring 2025 |



Welcome to Spring!

Though it still might be wet and wild, we know that summer is just around the corner. For now, enjoy the spring rains and the flowers it brings, and cozy up with this season's Saanich Archives newsletter. We're highlighting a few new collections, checking in with Evenings in the Archives, getting excited for some upcoming exhibits and more!



New Photos in Parks Department Collection!

Over the past few months, Saanich Archives staff have been working through some new additions to our holdings and making more visual records available online. One of the larger collections recently added to our online catalogue is photos from the Saanich Parks Department from the late 1950s through the late 1960s. While the vast majority of the photos are fairly simple landscape photos



of Saanich's various parks, the items accessible online are a more curated collection highlighting the whimsy inherent in parks - featuring children (and adults!) at play. This online selection of photos also features some beautiful colour photos of Saanich Municipal Hall and gardens, an aerial photo of Beaver Lake, the Gorge beautification, and even some municipal workers having a snowball fight in the aftermath of the 1969 blizzard! To view these photos and many others, visit saanich.accesstomemory.org and look for the Saanich Parks Department Photograph fonds.

[View the Collection Here!](#)

New Collection - The Smith Family Collection!

We are pleased to also announce a new private donation courtesy of the Smith family. The collection consists of photos, documents, pamphlets and newspaper articles surrounding the life of Lawrence and Kathleen Smith, as well as their son Russell Smith. Lawrence and Kathleen spent most of their married life in Cordova Bay, where Russell would eventually be born. Russell was an avid rugby player, having gone overseas for both training and competition. Back home, and after spending some time in the Air Force, Lawrence dedicated himself to working for the Province of British Columbia, where he would spend a little over twenty years working. Kathleen was extremely social in her home life. To view some of their collection, please click below!



Evenings in the Archives!



The cooler weather is warming up and it is staying light later each day - which makes it a great time to check out Evenings at the Archives! One Thursday each month, usually the third Thursday, the Saanich Archives is open from 1:30pm until 6:30pm, instead of our usual 10am - 2:30pm hours. We will often have items from our holdings available to view - ones that may not get out very much. Be sure to check the Saanich Archives website to confirm the date of the next Evening.

[Archives Website](#)

Upcoming Exhibit at Cedar Hill Rec Centre - Postcards to Propaganda!

For the first time in many years, Saanich Archives will have items from our holdings available to view somewhere other than at the Archives! Postcards to Propaganda: Communications from the Past, an exhibit by Saanich Archives will be at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre from April 29th to May 26th, 2025. The exhibit will feature a selection of items from our holdings that focus on ways people in Saanich (and around the world) communicated in the past. It's sure to be an interesting one so stop by Cedar Hill Rec Centre to check it out.



Saanich Archives Photos coming to electric box wraps on Shelbourne!



While the work on Shelbourne Street continues, some of it has been completed. During this work, new utility boxes have been added and now they're getting a facelift! Saanich Archives has been working with Saanich Parks, Recreation, & Community Services to provide archival photos for new vinyl wraps for utility boxes along Shelbourne Street. There are 3 different themes for the wraps:

- Muggins
- Historical Shelbourne
- Gore Memorial Park and WWI Remembrance

Keep your eyes peeled for this awesome collaboration and beautification project.

New Display at Municipal Hall

If you happen to be at Municipal Hall, check out the updated display on the second floor, across from Accounts Payable/Finance and next to the elevators. The display features photos and records highlighting the history of recreation and pastimes in Saanich. One of the books featured in the display, *Life in Saanich Then & Now* can be accessed digitally so you can read it in full here: [Life in Saanich](#). Seniors and students in Saanich were asked the same question - and the answers might surprise you!



Archives mystery - envelopes of shapes found in Goward files

As we continue to work through some parts of our holdings that need to be reorganized or processed more fully, we occasionally find ourselves puzzled by items that have been included in a fonds. We are including one of these mysteries in the newsletter, in hopes that perhaps one of you lovely people can shed some light on what this might be! Found in amongst some correspondence of a prominent Saanich family, there were two envelopes filled with these shapes cut from construction paper - one of the envelopes also contained the business card of a professor from Uvic. We estimate that the envelopes may be from the 1960s. If you think you might know what this is, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at archives@saanich.ca!



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