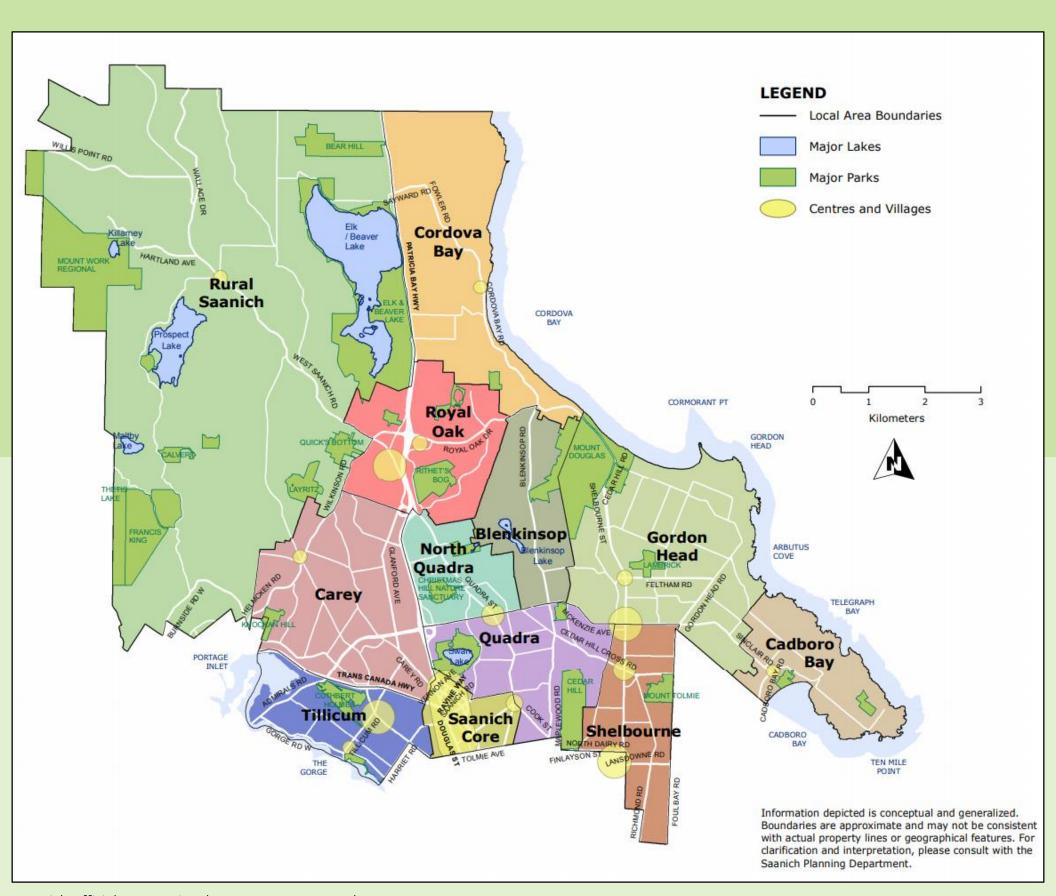
# Neighbourhood Timeline: Quadra



The Quadra neighbourhood we know today was created through subdivision of the early farms that had been cut from dense forest.

During the early period of European settlement, the Cedar Hill area (including what is now Gordon Head, UVic Campus, Lansdowne, Mount Tolmie, Cedar Hill Golf Course, and the slope bordered by Cook Street, Quadra Street, and McKenzie Avenue) was called **Cedar Plains** after the tall trees that covered the area.

Prior to European settlement, this fertile region was used by the Ləkwəŋən and WSÁNEĆ peoples for hunting and food gathering. Portions of Cedar Hill Road, Cedar Hill Cross Road, and Saanich Road were likely built over existing First Nations trails.



Saanich Official Community Plan 2008, Map 22 Local Areas



View of Swan Lake, after 1912 (2008-025-404)

Above : Old HBC barn on Borden property (present site of Reynolds School), 1910s (1980-008-005)

Below: 3926 Quadra Street, 1970s (1980-011-005)

The District of Saanich lies within the traditional territories of the Lakwanan and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples. Evidence of First Nations settlement in the area now called Saanich dates back over 4.000 years. The Ləkwəŋən peoples are made up of two nations, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. The WSÁNEĆ peoples are made up (Tsartlip), nations: WJOŁEŁP of five BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin), STÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations. Each nation had its own territory and travelled freely over the land, hunting, fishing, and gathering resources. The Ləkwənən and WSÁNEĆ peoples have historical connections with the land which continue to this day.

### 1845

The first European settlement in Saanich was **North Dairy Farm**, one of the three original Hudson's Bay Company farms, established in approximately 1845 to supply Fort Victoria with farm produce. Cedar Hill Cross Road, which began as a trail used by First Nations, headed inland from Cadboro Bay and was used by European settlers to connect Uplands Farm at Cadboro Bay with North Dairy Farm.

One of the oldest surviving structures in Saanich is a small two-story house at 3926 Quadra Street built around 1875. In 1889, North Dairy Farm was subdivided, and this house and 460 acres were sold to W. Brown and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company (a subsidiary of Hudson's Bay Company). Between 1891 and 1946, the land was further subdivided several times.

In 1918, a 10 year lease was granted to Saanich by the district manager of the Hudson's Bay Company to use lot 37 of North Dairy Farm (near the corner of Blenkinsop Road and Persimmon Drive) for a quarry.



View from Mount Tolmie of St. Luke's Church and Irvine's "Rose Bank" farm, taken sometime between 1874 and 1892 (2011-024-141)

### 1850-1854

Between 1850 and 1854, James Douglas, Chief Factor and later Governor of the Hudson Bay Company colony on Vancouver Island, signed treaties with 14 Indigenous groups. These documents are often referred to as the "Fort Victoria Treaties" or the "Douglas Treaties". James Douglas did not explicitly use the word treaty in these agreements, but a Supreme Court decision ruled that these agreements were and remain valid treaties since Douglas, who was acting as an agent of the Crown at the time, arranged them with the Indigenous peoples. First Nations assert that their ancestors understood these as peace treaties or agreements of cohabitation of the land. The British, however, interpreted the treaties as purchase agreements that surrendered lands near Hudson Bay Company posts in exchange for reserve lands, the continued right to hunt and fish, and a one-time payment.

The treaty that covers the area today known as **Quadra** was signed by 20 members of the **Kosampson** tribe whose primary settlement was centered around Craigflower Park on Admirals Road. The treaty referred to the land "on the east side of the arm, enclosing Christmas Hill and Lake and the lands west of those objects." The conditions of the treaty state "that our village sites and enclosed fields are to be kept for our own use, for the use of our children, and for those who may follow after us and the land shall be properly surveyed hereafter. It is understood, however, that the land itself, with these small exceptions, becomes the entire property of the white people forever; it is also understood that we are at liberty to hunt over the unoccupied lands, and to carry on our fisheries as formerly. We have received, as payment, fifty-two pounds ten shillings sterling." (Full text available online through Indigenous Services Canada)

# NEW ADVERTISEMENTS NOTICE. To all whom it may Concern. A Large ABOUT 6 OR 7 YEARS OLD, HAVING BEEN FED FOR A LONG period at Hillside Farm, (late Hon. Mr. Work's) will be

### 1850s

An early European land-owner in the Quadra area was John Work. In addition to his properties in Gordon Head, he owned sections 42 and 43; this was the land to the east of William Fraser Tolmie's Cloverdale Farm, where Cedar Hill Park is now located. Work called his farm Hillside Farm.

The Daily British Colonist, 11 February 1862

## Sold by Public Auction,

In ten days after this date, to pay expenses &c., if not claimed by the owner and expenses paid up to that time.

For particulars apply to W. WALL, Hillside Farm, Victoria. Victoria, Jan. 30, 1862. jn31 10t



### 1852

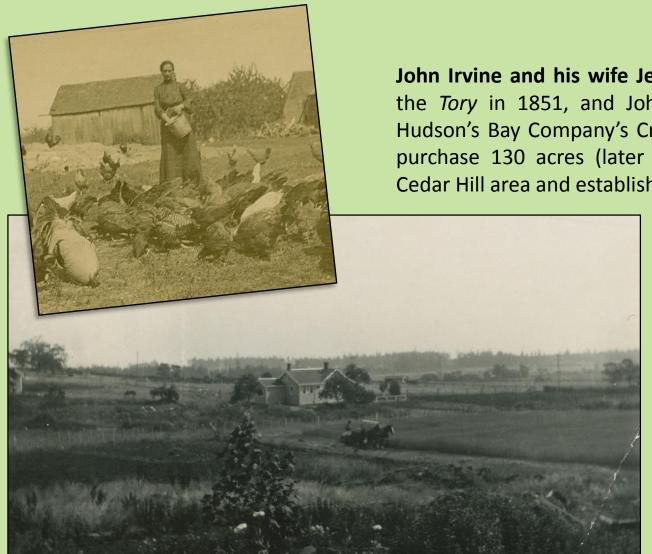
**Swan Lake** is likely either named after geologist John Gilchrest Swan or James Swan, a self-taught ethnologist who visited Victoria from Washington in 1852.

The lake was formed over 12,000 years ago when the last glacier receded. Prior to and well into the early years of European settlement in the area, Swan Lake and its surrounding fertile land were used by WSÁNEĆ and Ləkwəŋən peoples for fishing and hunting.

Over a hundred species of plants were known and used for food, medicines, and weaving. The lake and streams provided a variety of fish, caught by trolling, jigging, spearing, and wooden basket traps. All varieties of large birds were hunted and their eggs collected. Deer were plentiful around the lake area, providing an important source of food and clothing.

Above: View of Swan Lake from Christmas Hill, ca. 1920 (2008-025-665) Below: View across Swan Lake, ca. 1920 (2008-0250176)





John Irvine and his wife Jessie arrived on Vancouver Island aboard the *Tory* in 1851, and John was employed as a labourer at the Hudson's Bay Company's Craigflower Farm. In 1861, he was able to purchase 130 acres (later expanding to almost 300 acres) in the Cedar Hill area and established a farm that they named **Rose Bank**.

John and Jessie Irvine had six children: William, Mary Anne, Jessie, Christine, John Irvine Jr. (Long Gun Jack), and Margaret. Margaret Irvine lived at Rose Bank until her death in 1955.

Above: Margaret Irvine at Rose Bank Farm, ca. 1889 (2008-008-002)

Below: View of Rose Bank Farm, 1910s (2011-024-121)

Above: Horse-drawn Cedar Hill school bus near Blenkinsop and Cordova Bay Roads, ca. 1900

Below: Mr. Landells, an early Cedar Hill School teacher, 1880

### 1861

The **first school** available for children living in the Cedar Hill, Quadra, and Gordon Head areas was held in 1861 at Mrs. Elizabeth King's kitchen table.

In September 1863, after applying to the governor for a teacher and money to pay the teacher's salary, classes at the first **Cedar Hill School** officially began full-time with a regular teacher at the newly constructed Cedar Plains Chapel (later St. Luke's Church). Children came from as far as Cordova Bay and Cadboro Bay.

Mrs. C.C. McKenzie was probably the last teacher to work in the crowded and inconvenient church. She had 37 pupils and not even a blackboard.

In 1872, a dedicated two-room schoolhouse was built. This schoolhouse was taken down when the one-story Cedar Hill School was built in 1912. The school, which originally had 6 classrooms and was enlarged in 1957, is still located at **3861 Cedar Hill Cross Road**.

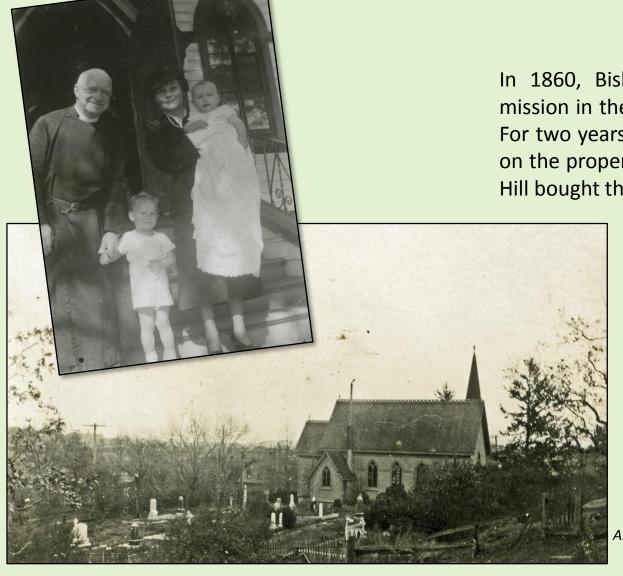


Cedar Hill Cross Road near the school, 1880 (2011-024-124)

In 1860, Bishop George Hills established an Anglican mission in the area that was then known as Cedar Plains. For two years, church services were held in a farm house on the property of John and Jessie Irvine. In 1862, Bishop Hill bought the land on which St. Luke's church was built.

The congregation built a chapel, but by 1887, had outgrown it. A new church, **St. Luke's** was consecrated in 1888. Additions were built in 1942 and 1951.

As the social hub of the community, the church played an important role in the lives of early residents. Social gatherings and musical or other entertainments were held for the enjoyment of parishioners and to raise money for worthwhile causes.



Above: Outside St. Luke's after a christening, 1948 (2019-016-441) Below: View of St. Luke's. ca. 1912 (2019-016-138)

# SWAN LAKE HOTEL

ably known to the public under the management of the 'ate Wm. Smith, will in future be conducted by the undersigned, who will use every endeavor to make it a comfortable home for families.

As an Hotel it will be supplied with everything first-class. The Liquors and Cigars will be of the very best description.

The ROOMS and BEDS will be kept with the strictest regard to CLEANLINESS and COMFORT.

It will be the aim of the proprietor to leave nothing undone to give entire satisfaction to patrons, and as it will be managed with the strictest economy the CHARGES will be VERY MODERATE.

> W. H. LEWIS. oclo

Victoria, Oct. 9th, 1882.

### 1860s

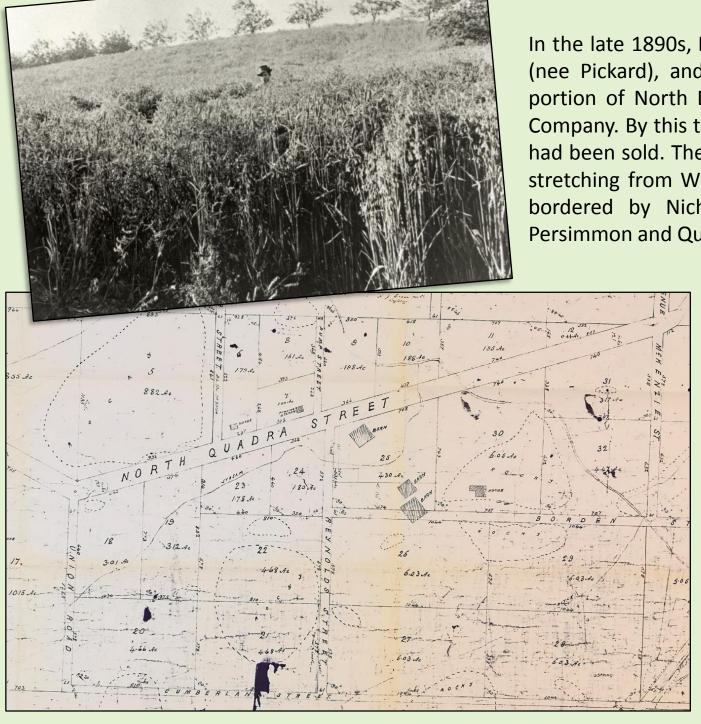
The Swan Lake Hotel, located on Saanich Road near Falmouth Road, first opened in the late 1860s. William and Mrs. Smith are listed as proprietors from 1875 until 1887. The hotel was advertised as having a "commodious ballroom open for Quadrille parties every evening".

Between 1887 and 1897, the hotel changed ownership a few times before it was ultimately destroyed by fire in 1897.

### 1890s

In the late 1890s, Frank Noble Borden, his wife Millie (nee Pickard), and their 4 children began renting a portion of North Dairy Farm from the Hudson's Bay Company. By this time, much of the original 700 acres had been sold. There were only 460 acres left to rent, stretching from Winston Crescent to Blenkinsop, and bordered by Nicholson Street to the north, and Persimmon and Queensbury Avenues to the south.

> Frank Borden kept dairy cattle and shipped his cream to the Victoria Creamery on Douglas Street. The Bordens also kept a large garden, and grew grain including wheat and oats. By 1906, the Department of Agriculture was promoting this area for fruit growing, but due to hard times from 1910-1912, much of the land had to be subdivided and the orchards were eventually abandoned.



Above: Fred Borden standing in the wheat on North Dairy Farm, 1930s (1980-008-011)

Below: Detail of subdivision plan of section 32, North Dairy Farm, 1901 (m1-06-06) FOR SALE-CHOICE PURE BRED Yorkshire swine, both sexes; the big growthy, early maturing kind. Apply Harrap, Braefoot Farm, Mount Tolmie, B.C.

PEKIN DUCK EGGS FOR HATCHING; choice stock. Apply Braefoot Farm, E. Harrap, Supt., Mt. Tolmie, B.C.

BRAEFOOT Farm offers several extra choice young pure bred improved Yorkshire boards from prize winning stock. Also one hundred and fifty high class pure bred White Leghorn hens. Fine laying strain, Apply E. Harrap, superintendent, Mount Tolmie, B.C.

Daily Colonist Classifieds; Above: 24 August 1910, Middle: 23 February 1911, Below: 26 May 1912



### 1890s

Simon Fraser Tolmie was born at Cloverdale Farm to parents Dr. William Fraser and Jane (nee Work) Tolmie in 1867. Dr. S.F. Tolmie (a veterinarian) married Mary Ann Harrap in 1894 and they had two daughters. In the 1890s, he purchased some of the former North Dairy Farm in section 32 near what is now Braefoot Road and McKenzie Avenue. The property became known as Braefoot Farm, and Tolmie bred purebred cattle on this land.

In 1898, S.F. Tolmie became Provincial Veterinary Inspector, and in 1904 he was appointed Chief Inspector of the Health of Animals Branch for BC. In 1906, he was appointed representative to the Dominion Livestock Commission. In 1917, Dr. Tolmie entered federal politics, representing Victoria in the House of Commons. In 1928, he was elected Premier of BC. Tolmie was defeated in the 1933 provincial election, but served again federally from 1936 until his death in 1937 at the Tolmie family home on Cloverdale Farm.

### 1900

Built in 1900, the Lake Hill (or North Dairy)

Pumping Station housed equipment that pumped water from Elk Lake to the City of Victoria. In 1912, because a new pumping station had been built, the Lake Hill building was occupied by Laurel Canners Limited.

In 1927, the building was leased to Holsum Products Limited (later, Holsum Packing Company) and became a jam and canning factory using produce provided by the Saanich Fruit Growers Association. The Growers Association purchased the building for use as a cooper's shop and warehouse in 1954. In 1974, Ste. Michelle Wines Limited took over the building. Between 1978 and 2020, the old pumping station housed a restaurant.

# LANT DIA REAL TO A STATE OF THE STATE OF THE

Interior of Lake Hill Women's Institute Hall on Quadra Street (2006-001-006)

Above: Alice Mary Girling following geese along Ralph Street, by Annie Girling, ca. 1912 (2008-025-402) Right: Portrait of Girling Family by Annie Girling, ca. 1920 (2008-025-394)

1909

The **BC Women's Institute** was formed as a way to encourage camaraderie among women. Its goal was for members to learn more about homemaking, child rearing, health issues, and other concerns.

The Lake Hill Chapter of the BC Women's Institute held their first meeting in 1909 in an apple packing shed at the corner of Quadra and Rock Street. Mrs. S.F. Tolmie was appointed the first president. Soon, the Lake Hill W.I. was given a room in North Dairy School.

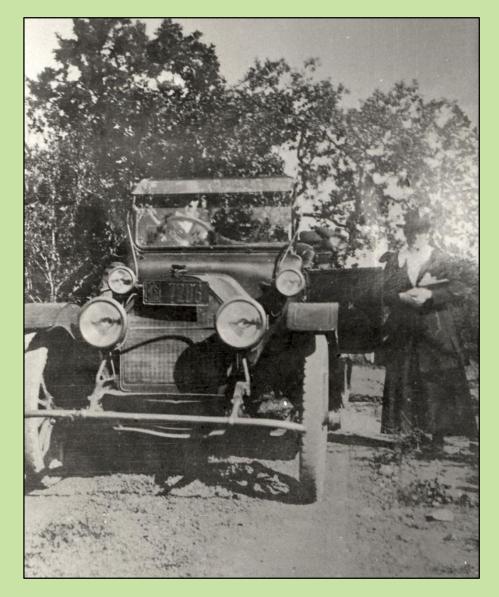
The Lake Hill Women's Institute described themselves as "child-minded", and much of their community service over the decades focused on improving services related to child welfare, education, and support for parents.

In 1948, the Lake Hill W.I. bought the Hall from the Community Club located at 3880 Quadra Street. The Community Hall, built in the 1920s, was renamed the Lake Hill Women's Institute Hall and later renamed Jaycee Hall. It was demolished in 1988.

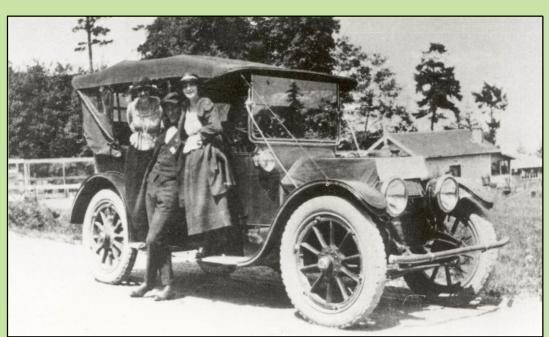
### 1912

George Godfrey and Elizabeth Mills Girling, along with their children, arrived in Victoria and settled on the shores of Swan Lake in 1912. G. G. Girling became the Superintendent of Works for Saanich. Their daughter Annie was a prolific photographer, having studied at Woolwich Polytechnic Institute in England before coming to Canada.

From 1912 to 1928, **Annie Girling** took thousands of photographs of their farm and the surrounding area at Swan Lake, over 900 of which were donated to Saanich Archives in 2008.



Jitneys were private, unlicensed taxis or buses. Around 1915, Arthur Stewart started the **Lake Hill Jitney** service which ran from the Campbell building near Fort and Douglas Streets in Victoria to the Lake Hill Pumping Station at 3940 Quadra Street.



Left: Mrs. Stewart Sr. in front of the Lake Hill Jitney, 1915 (1981-010-004) Right: Mrs. Stewart and the Lakehill Jitney Bus, 1920s (1981-010-006a)

### 1917-1935

From 1917 until 1935, the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway ran through Quadra on its way from Victoria to Sidney. The route followed the present Lochside Regional Trail past Swan Lake and along Lochside Drive. The service was abandoned in 1935.

Above: CNR track, from Vernon Ave to Mount Douglas, ca. 1960s

(1984-003-033)

Right: CNR trestle, Swan Lake, ca. 1960s (1978-001-053)





Lakehill Mission Church, 1974 (1980-003-014)

### 1920s

The Lakehill Mission began as a small Sunday School operated by David Todd and Alice Ballantyne out of their home on Quadra Street. When the class size became too large for the Ballantynes' home, the school was moved to a building previously used as a fruit-packing shed, also on Quadra Street. Alice died in 1922 and David Todd in 1924, but the community ensured that the school carried on. In 1937 a new hall was opened at the corner of Falmouth and Savannah. Frank Bullen was the builder in charge of construction, and his wife Frances acted as secretary/treasurer and Sunday School teacher for the new mission. Mrs. Bullen was still active in the Mission in 1968 at the age of 92.

During the 1950s, the hall was raised and a basement added to provide more classrooms. The congregation continued to grow through the 1950s and 1960s, but by the 1970s, many parishioners had passed away and attendance had declined. The hall was sold in 1975 and Mission assets were distributed to international charities. Several more additions were made to the building, including the addition of a steeple, and it became the home of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist.



Growers' Wine Company, 1930s (2009-043-028)

### 1927

Growers' Wine Company, founded by Neil Lamont, opened on Quadra Street near the Lake Hill Pumping station in 1927. The company launched the loganberry wine industry on Vancouver Island, which vastly increased the commercial value of the berries. In 1954, they purchased the former Lake Hill Pumping Station building next door.



Thirty years before the Saanich Parks Department was formed in 1958, **Reynolds Park** was established on 5.65 acres of land at the corner of Reynolds Road and Lassalle Street. In 1931, the Lake Hill Lawn Bowling Club opened and in 1933, ladies were allowed to join the club.

Closing day, Reynolds Park playground programme, August 15, 1952 (2005-006-059)

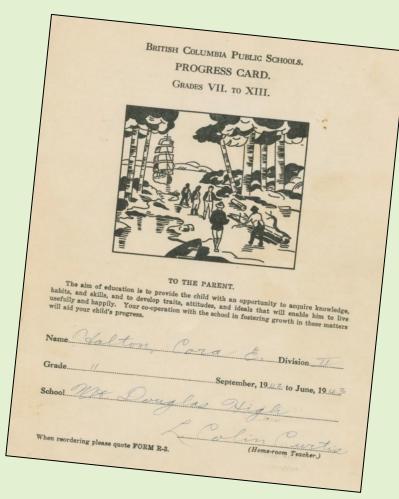


Above: Mount Douglas High School class photo, div. 3, 1932 (2007-172-015) Below: Mount Douglas High School class photo, grade 12, 1954 (2014-008-059)

Right: Cora Halton's 1943 report card

### 1931

Mount Douglas High School was one of the first high schools in Saanich. Located at 3910 Cedar Hill Road, it was one of three new high schools to open in 1931. Originally built with six classrooms and an auditorium, it has been added to many times over the years. In 1970, Mount Douglas High moved to its current location at 3970 Gordon Head Road, and the original high school building became Cedar Hill Middle School.



Lieutenant Governor George Pearkes signing Freedom of Saanich, July 12, 1968 (1981-021-009c)

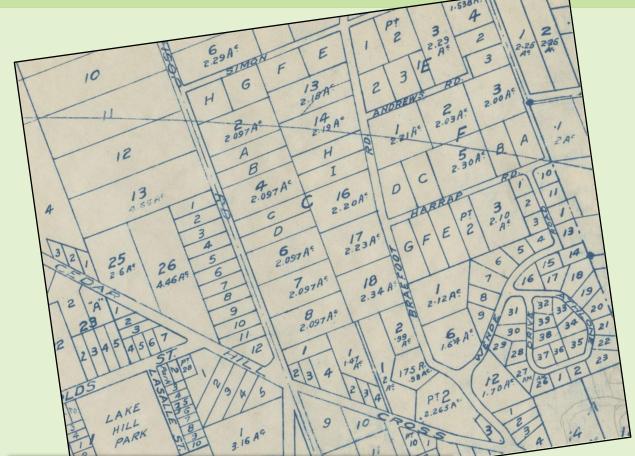
### 1945-1984

Major General George R. Pearkes and his wife Constance Blytha (nee Copeman) moved into "Rocky Oak Knoll" house at 1268 Tattersall Drive in 1945. G.R. Pearkes came to Canada at 18. He served in WWI and was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry at Passchendaele in 1917 while serving as a Major in the 5th CMR's. He served again in WWII before entering politics. Pearkes served five terms as the Conservative MP for Saanich/Gulf Islands, during which time he was Minister of National Defence. He also served as Lieutenant Governor of BC from 1960-1968.

### 1946

In 1935, Ernest and Annie Palmer bought two acres at 3970 Braefoot Road. During WWII, Annie hosted gatherings of neighbourhood women to aid in Home Front work.

In 1946, Annie built an extension on the front section of her house and opened a store. Palmer's Store, a neighbourhood favourite, stocked all the essential staples as well as penny candy. Annie ran the store until 1985. The building was later set on fire as part of a three day Saanich Fire Department exercise.



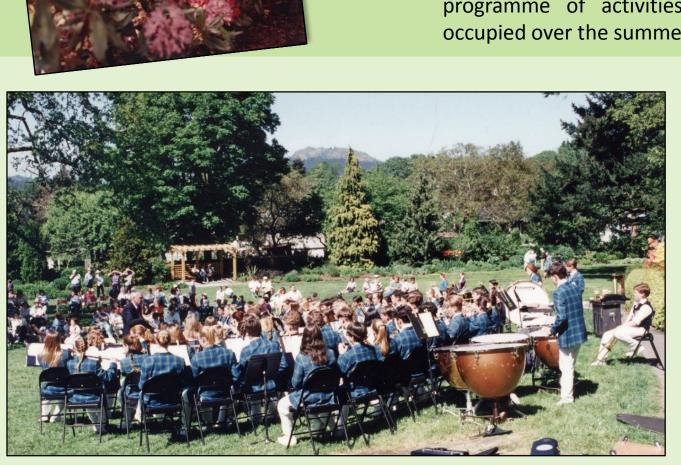


Beginning around 1950, Mrs. Palmer allowed the parents of the neighbourhood to build a children's playground on the property behind her store. This small playground would develop into Braefoot Park. Around 1960, Saanich bought the land from her and for the next 10 years added to the park by buying partial or entire properties from the neighbours.

Playfair Park was officially opened in 1946. Consisting of 10 acres stretching between Quadra Street and Blenkinsop, the land had originally been part of North Dairy Farm. Around 1912, the farm was subdivided, but when the lots did not sell quickly, the land reverted to Saanich at a 1924 tax sale. It remained unused for 20 years until Saanich decided to turn the land into a neighbourhood park.

In 1958 the Victoria Arboretum Association appeared before the Saanich Parks Board to propose the establishment of "an arboretum of national stature." The first phase of the project consisted of planting rhododendrons, azaleas, and other species at Playfair Park. The Rhododendron garden was officially opened by Mrs. Phyllis Ross, wife of Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross, in April 1959.

The tradition of summer parks programmes in Saanich began at Playfair Park in 1949 when a local mothers group established a programme of activities to keep neighbourhood children occupied over the summer months.



Above: Playfair Park closing day celebration,

Left: Playfair Park rhododendrons,

1948 (1990-006-002)

1970s (1981-007-012)

1967

Reynolds Secondary School officially opened on October 23, 1967 at a ceremony led by Principal Robert Hunter. The school began as a junior secondary with senior grades added in 1969 and 1970.

Since the early 1980s, the Reynolds School band has performed an annual Mother's Day concert in Playfair Park.

Reynolds Secondary School band concert, Playfair park, Mothers Day, 1994

In 1886, George Charles and Elizabeth (nee Kelly) McRae bought 200 acres of land that had formerly been part of John Work's 1858 farm. Their first house and farm buildings were at the bottom of the hill, where the Cedar Hill Community Centre now stands. George died in 1901, just before their second house (1445 Ocean View Road) was completed. His widow Elizabeth, left with 5 small children, completed the house in 1902. Over the years, she tried several times to sell the property without success, so she rented it instead. Around 1920, she began renting some of the land to Harry W. Eve, a golf professional who started the Cedar Hill Golf Course.

In 1967, Saanich purchased the land from the McRae family for \$1,200,000. The McRaes retained lifetenancy of the house with the surrounding two acres and the use of the outbuildings. In 1968, the name was changed to **Cedar Hill Park** to encompass the golf course and park area. In 1972, the community centre was built.



Above: McRae farmhouse, 1925 (1980-013-002)

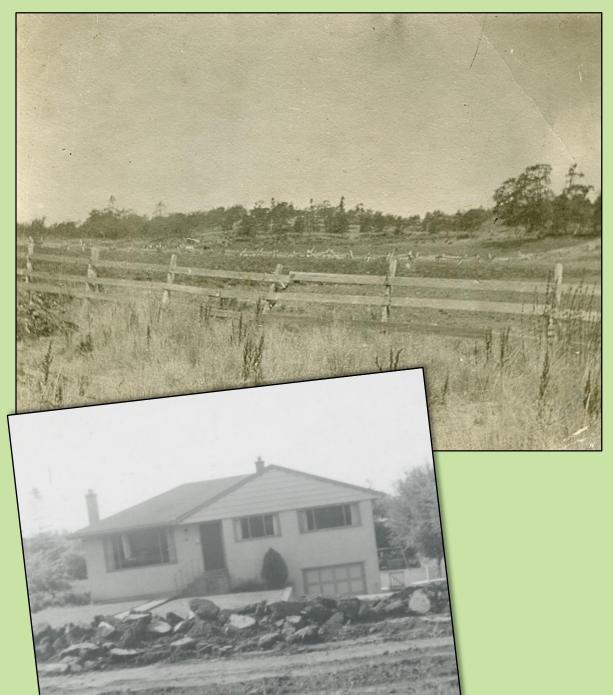
Middle: Golfers at Cedar Hill Golf Club,

1969 (1980-021-003)

Right: Aerial View of the McRae Farm,

1950s (1980-013-001b)





### 1968-1979

By 1960, a high volume east-west connector road was becoming increasingly necessary. In February 1963, Saanich Council approved the plans for the McKenzie Avenue extension, and authorized the purchase of land from A.D. Ballantyne, C.H. Borden, and J.V. Borden near the intersection of McKenzie and Borden Street. This project would be the largest single road construction project undertaken in Saanich up to that point.

In 1968, the Provincial Government approved funds for the McKenzie Avenue project. McKenzie Avenue had been reclassified as a secondary highway, meaning that the Province would contribute half of the construction cost. In the Quadra area, Douglas Street was reconfigured, while McKenzie was widened from two lanes to four and extended from Carey Road west to the Trans-Canada Highway. To the east, the project included the extension of McKenzie from Cedar Hill Cross Road to the University of Victoria.

Above: View from Rose Bank house towards McKenzie Avenue, ca. 1900 (2008-008-023)

Below: 881 McKenzie Avenue during road construction, 1969 (2019-006-001)

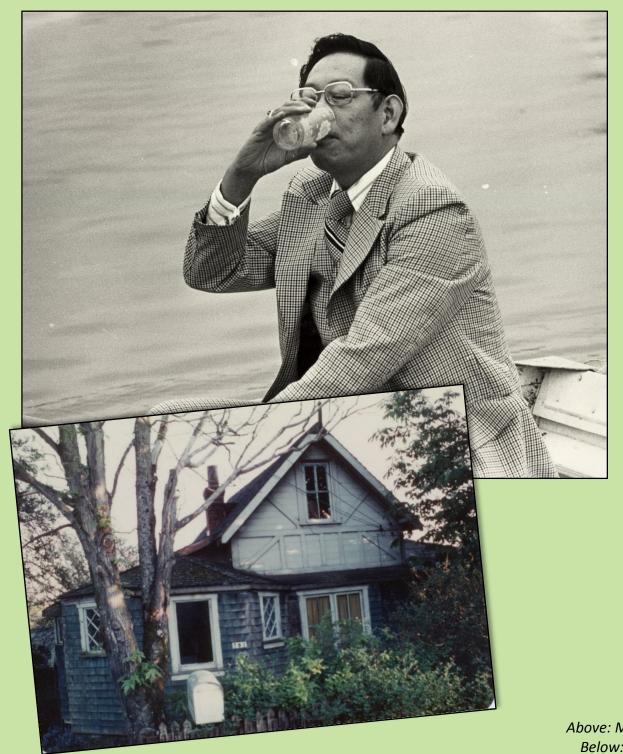
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C.F. Dawson unveiling plaque at official opening of Braefoot School, 28 October 1971 (2011-024-165)

### 1971

In 1965, the first three classrooms of **Braefoot School** were built, with the long range plan of moving Cedar Hill School from 3861 Cedar Hill Cross Road to the new Harrop Road location.

It was not until 1971 that the new building was complete and Cedar Hill students were moved to the new Braefoot School. The original 1912 two-room schoolhouse served as Sentinel Elementary School until 1976, and in 2019 was being used by Community Living Victoria.



From the 1920s through the 1940s, **Swan** Lake was a popular place for swimming in the summer and skating in the winter. Unfortunately, by the 1950s it was becoming a catch basin for sewage and waste products from local farms and industries, and the biodiversity that existed a hundred years earlier had greatly diminished.

In 1965, Saanich voters approved spending \$100,000 to acquire the land around the lake. By 1973, further purchases of land had been made, a major cleanup was underway, and the Saanich Planning Department had developed a proposal for an educational nature centre on the site.

Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society was officially incorporated on June 16, 1975. The first office of the Society was located in the Girling family's former house at 781 Ralph Street. The house was later demolished.

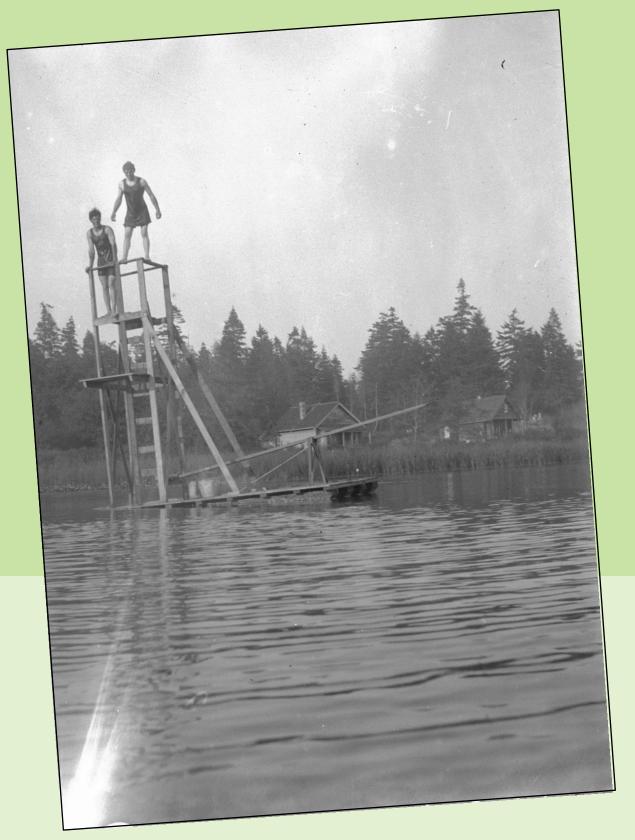
Above: Mayor Ed Lum tests the water in Swan Lake, 1975 (1980-014-010) Below: Former Girling home at 781 Ralph Street, 1970s (1979-001-022)



### 1979

In 1969, plans for a new open-air shopping centre located between Quadra and Borden Streets on McKenzie Avenue were approved. **Saanich Centre**, with its varied shops and services, officially opened in 1979.

Intersection of Borden Street and McKenzie Avenue, (prior to McKenzie expansion), August 1963 (1980-015-023a)



# Working on your own research project?

Visit www.saanich.ca/archives to access our online finding aids and photo search site.

Diving platform at Swan Lake, ca. 1912 (2008-025-397)

Saanich Archives is located inside the Saanich Centennial Library next to Pearkes Recreation Centre at 3100 Tillicum Road.

Our hours are:

Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

For more information contact us at:

archives@saanich.ca | 250 475 5494 ext. 3478

