

# The Hutchison Story



Bruce Hutchison, approximately 1960



The Hutchison property

During his career, which lasted 75 years, he covered politics in Victoria, Ottawa, Washington, D.C., and London, UK. He acted as a broadcaster for the CBC, including covering the Imperial Conference of 1937 and the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II, and edited the *Victoria Times*, the *Vancouver Province*, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, and the *Vancouver Sun*. He also authored 15 books, wrote numerous short stories and articles for various diverse publications including *McLean's*, *Time*, *Saturday Evening Post*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Life* and *Foreign Affairs*, penned screen plays and many other literary pieces. Perhaps his most personal work was *A Life in the Country* (1988), which was inspired by his love for his "camp" at Shawnigan Lake and his home, Rockhome.

Until his death on September 14, 1992 at age 92, Bruce wrote a weekly editorial for the *Vancouver Sun* as their Editor Emeritus. He was survived by his son Robert, an Olympian and former Justice of the BC Supreme Court, and his grand and great-grandchildren, all of whom live in Victoria.

In his lifetime Bruce received numerous awards and honours, including:

- Three Governor General's Awards for Non-fiction Literature
- The Royal Society of Arts Award for Distinguished Journalism in the Commonwealth (first recipient)
- The Canadian Authors Association Award
- Three National Newspaper Awards
- The Bowater Prize
- Four honorary university degrees
- Finalist for the Leacock Medal for Humour
- One of the first Officers of the Order of Canada
- Doctorates from the University of Calgary, University of Victoria and Yale University
- Library in the Saanich Commonwealth Place Recreation Centre named in his honour.

## Bruce Hutchison

*You are standing on land that was once part of the Hutchison property, site of 'Rockhome', the home of William Bruce Hutchison, journalist, author and Freeman of Saanich. It was he who coined the phrase 'Lotusland' to describe British Columbia.*

Bruce Hutchison was born on June 5, 1901, in Prescott, Ontario. He moved with his parents, Constance and John Hutchison, from the British Columbia interior to Victoria in 1911. In 1925, Bruce married Dorothy Kidd McDiarmid, also of Victoria. Soon after their marriage, the couple purchased an eleven-acre portion of the Rogers family farm (see other side) and there, in 1926-1927, built Rockhome. This designated Heritage structure still stands at 820 Rogers Avenue and remains in the ownership of the Hutchison family. Bruce and Dorothy shared this home with his parents, her mother, and their two children Joan and Robert. Bruce experienced both great joy and great sadness in his life; both his mother and Dorothy died in 1969 and his daughter Joan passed away in 1982.

Bruce's career in journalism began in 1918 as a high school correspondent for the *Victoria Times*. By his early 20s, he was covering the BC Legislature for the paper and, in 1925, he started what would become a lifelong custom of trekking off to Ottawa to report on Parliament and federal politics. He always returned to Saanich and his beloved Rockhome.



Bruce and Dorothy at Rockhome



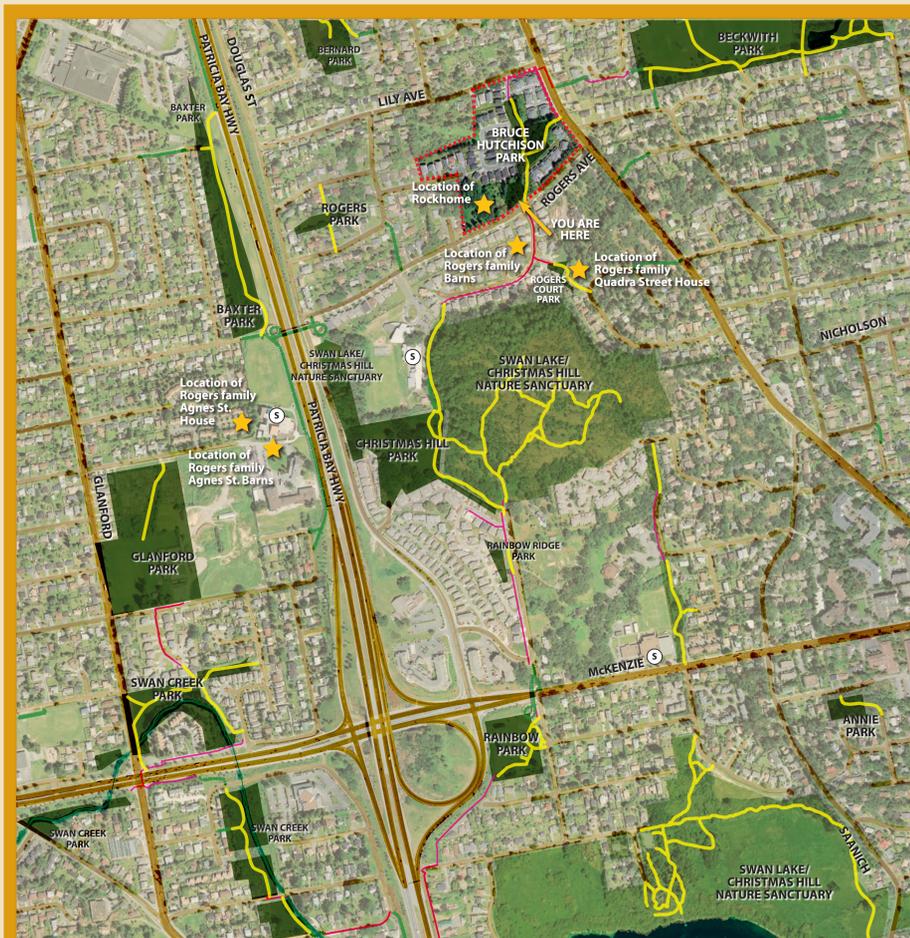
Bruce Hutchison holding the Freedom of Saanich Certificate, 1990



Rockhome



Constance Hutchison at Rockhome, approximately 1927 (before home was renovated)



### Neighbourhood Map

#### Legend

- Park Trail
- Footpath
- Trail route along roadway
- Ⓢ School
- Saanich Park
- Nature Sanctuary
- ★ Point of Interest
- Original Hutchison Property

Scale  
0 km 25 km 5 km



NORTH



PARKS & RECREATION

With thanks to James S. Hutchison, grandson of William Bruce Hutchison.

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