

SAANICH ARCHIVES

News & Events

December 21, 2015



Happy Holidays From Saanich Archives!



Article: Memories of Christmas in Saanich a Century Ago



Recipes: BC Electric Home Service News, 1940s



Oral History: On Christmas at Prospect Lake School



Image of the Week: Christmas Carols Book

Article: Memories of Christmas in Saanich a Century Ago



“As Saanich residents prepared for Christmas in 1915 their thoughts were with those fighting overseas. **The Great War** was in its second year and nearly every Saanich family had a son, brother, father, friend or neighbour in service. Local branches of the Women’s Institute and IODE were busy preparing packages for soldiers at the Front. Warm socks were always welcome but **it was good food from home that the men most looked forward to.**” [Read full article](#)

Recipes: BC Electric Home Service News, 1940s



“**The hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping is an ordeal** every woman faces this time of year. Not only are these shopping trips time-consuming and tiresome, but often it is difficult to find just ‘the right thing’ for some friends on the list. Many homemakers may overlook the possibilities of **Christmas shopping at home — right in their own kitchen.** A cherry cake, a box of shortbread or assorted cookies, dressed up in Christmas wrappings, are all welcome gifts. A box of fudge, stuffed dates, minted nuts or crisp cookies cut in fancy shapes and decorated with coloured icing or sugar will delight small friends.” [View the recipes](#)

Oral History: On Christmas at Prospect Lake School



“**We had Christmas concerts and a tree, of course,** and some of the men in the area used to sneak in comical gifts for me, disguising their writing. I used to have the children make things for their mothers. One gift I recall was an apron made up from a white flour sack. I put transfers on them and each student, including the boys, embroidered them. Every year there was a different project. Those were **happy days at Prospect Lake.**” From Oral History interview with Olga Louise Bossi. [Browse interview list](#)

Image of the Week: Christmas Carols Book



This undated book of Christmas carols for the piano belonged to **Ellen Girling**. Ellen Elizabeth, known as Elizabeth or Lizzie, was born in 1889 in Woolwich, England. She immigrated to Canada with her parents and siblings around 1912, and the family settled near Swan Lake where they lived until 1928. Ellen became a teacher and **taught at Cadboro Bay School and later at Cedar Hill.** The Girling property is now part of the **Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.** [Explore Girling Family photos](#)



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