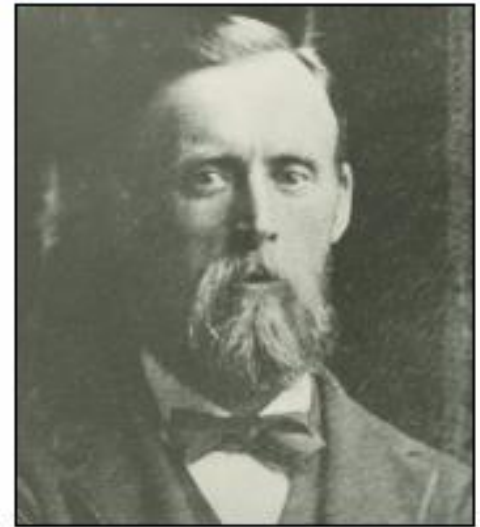


# Saanich Archives

Newsletter | Spring 2023

---



## **New Online Exhibit: Royal Oak Neighbourhood Timeline!**

We're pleased to announce a new online exhibit! Saanich Archives is continuing our series exploring the timelines of different Saanich neighbourhoods, and this time we're focusing on the history of Royal Oak. Learn about the Royal Oak School, the early history of Broadmead Farm and Estates, the beginnings of the Saanich Police – along with so much more!

Neighbourhood Timeline: Royal Oak can be viewed [here](#). Interested in seeing even more exhibits? Links to all our previous exhibits can be found [here](#).

*Pictured: Ed Anderson on Police Horse, 1936 (1981-025-005); Stewart Elgar and Jack Bothwell, Broadmead farm, 1893 (1989-008-198); Reeve T.A. Brydon 1906-1907 (2012-015-002)*

---



### **New To The Website: Shelbourne Memorial Avenue**

**Saanich Archives has a new web page all about Shelbourne Memorial Avenue. Learn about the special history of this tree-lined street with its tributes to fallen soldiers of WW1. The page includes links to interpretive signs that were installed as part of recent rededication efforts, as well as a link to the documentary *Trees of Remembrance: Shelbourne Memorial Avenue*.**

**The new Shelbourne Memorial Avenue page can be viewed [here](#).**

*Pictured: Detail of View from Mount Douglas, 1969 (1980-021-001a)*

---

### **Did you know?**

**Beaver Lake became the water source for the City of Victoria in 1875. When additional lines were added to the water system, a significant amount of mud and silt was drawn out with the water. Filter beds were constructed at the south end of Beaver Lake to separate the dirt from the clean water to be pumped to the city.**



*Pictured: Water works and filter beds at Beaver Lake, after 1886 (2010-030-008)*



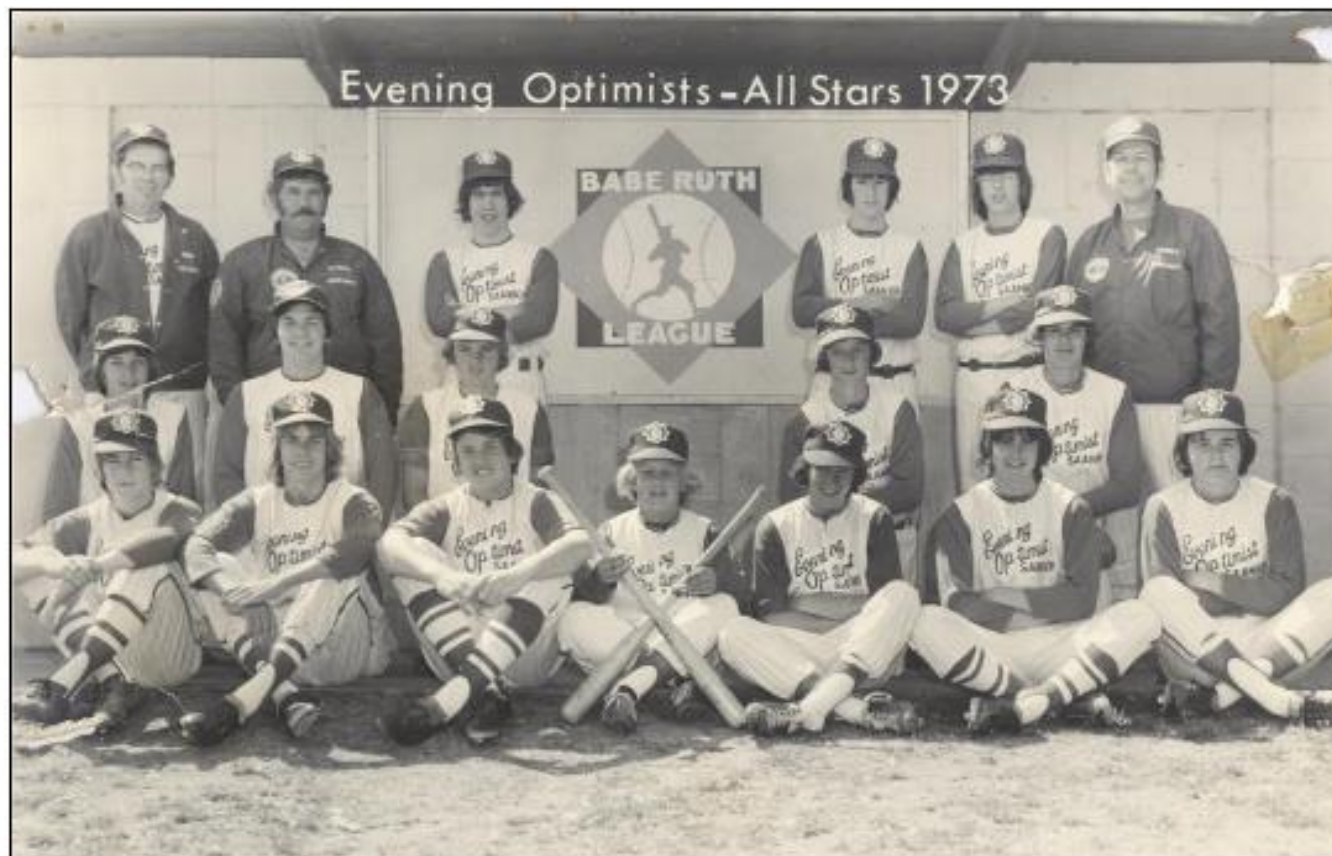
## History Highlight

The property at 620 Judah Street was owned by Walter & Sarah Mepham Lavender, and later by their son Leslie John Lavender and his wife Bernice. Walter and Sarah Lavender immigrated to Saanich in 1912. They had two sons, though unfortunately the older son died in 1914 of scarlet fever at age 7.

The younger son, Leslie, worked on the property all his life. Leslie sold part of his property to the government to build a postal station, but he died in 1976 soon after the sale. After Bernice Lavender died, the rest of the property was sold, the original house was demolished, and the Lavender Estate Housing Project was built. To view more pictures from the Lavender collection, please click [here](#).

*Pictured: Baling hay on the Lavender family farm, Judah Street, ca. 1960 (2015-025-034)*





### **New to the Archives!**

If you haven't visited our photo search site recently, you might not know that we have added some new photos to our collection in 2023! This includes some pictures courtesy of the Saanich Fire Department, as well as several pictures of Babe Ruth League baseball teams from the 1960s and beyond. Feel free to explore and see if you can find any familiar faces!

The new photographs can be viewed [here](#).

*Pictured: Saanich employees who built the original bleachers at Reynolds Park, ca. 1956 (2023-001-001); Saanich Fire Chiefs J. Sutherland (l.) and J. Robbins (r.) in front of 1969 LaFrance water tender, 1971 (2023-004-002); Evening Optimists All Stars baseball team, Babe Ruth League, 1973 (2023-001-012)*

---

## **Contact Us**

Saanich Archives  
3100 Tillicum Road  
Victoria, BC  
V9A 6T2

t. 250-475-5494 ext. 3478  
e. [archives@saanich.ca](mailto:archives@saanich.ca)  
[saanich.ca/archives](http://saanich.ca/archives)