

SAANICH WOMEN IN WWII: ON THE HOMEFRONT



EXHIBIT BY SAANICH ARCHIVES

When war was declared in 1939, Saanich residents immediately began preparations and eligible men and women began signing up for active service.

Those women who did not join the service became the heads of families while running the municipality's farms and businesses. They also joined organizations such as the Red Cross, the Women's Institute, the Civilian Air Raid Precaution Program, and the Women's Land Brigade, whose support efforts played an integral role in the allied victory.

JOIN US



in a

VICTORY JOB

APPLY AT YOUR NEAREST NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE

While the Canadian government actively urged women to work during the war, it was understood that they would revert to conventional female roles after hostilities ended.

In war, women's labour was essential, but in peace-time it was expendable.





Volunteers at the Yates Street Red Cross Jam Kitchen, August 1944

During World War II, volunteers for the **Canadian Red Cross Corps**, a body of uniformed, trained and disciplined women ready for service in case of emergency, were mobilized to drive ambulances, support patients, and assist staff in military hospitals both at home and overseas.

Those who served on the home front made bandages, sewed surgical gowns, and collected donations of clothing, books, recreational items, and food to be shipped overseas.

Five Tons of Jam To Go to Britain

The Victoria City and District Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society states that the Jam for Britain Project objective of five tons of jam has been completed at the Red Cross jam kitchen, 517 Yates Street, and no more fruit is required. Cooking utensils and food choppers are at 602 Broughton Street for owners to call for same.

*The Daily Colonist,
16 September 1944*

The Canadian Red Cross developed a civilian **Blood Program** for the first time during WWII.

Across Canada, the Red Cross collected blood for the relatively new life-saving blood transfusion procedure in military hospitals overseas.

CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONOR SERVICE ENROLMENT BOOK



"For he to-day that sheds his blood for me shall be my brother."—King Henry V.

—Shakespeare.

Please Bring Your Book With You

REGISTRATION

This is to certify that

NAME Miss Beruie Neal

ADDRESS 282 Princess
Please advise if address is changed

SIGNATURE OF DONOR Berudette Neal
Whose signature is affixed hereto has been registered as a VOLUNTARY Blood Donor of the Service.

F. R. BROOKS
Clinic Official

RECORD OF BLOOD DONATIONS

DATE	CLINIC	NO. OF DONATION	AMT. IN CC.	PHYSICIAN	NURSE
23.5.44	KINGSTON	1	360	Noakes	
25.8.44	"	2	380	"	
27.11.44	"	3	260	Clarke	

YOUR BLOOD IS NOW IN THE FIGHT

As they had during World War I, local branches of the **British Columbia Women's Institute** mobilized to support their communities and the war effort. They supported the work of the Red Cross through fund-raising events, sewing and knitting clothing and blankets, making jam, and preparing care packages for soldiers overseas.



Garden Party at Mrs. Munro's in aid of Red Cross, July 1940. Raised \$70.



Volunteers collecting fabric, 1943
(City of Victoria Archives M06648)



Volunteers making apple butter, 1943
(City of Victoria Archives M06650)

The Women's Institute also played an important role in educating women and children in food production, preparation, and conservation.

Women's Institutes across Canada worked with the government to establish Farm Labour Bureaus to encourage young women and children to spend their holidays assisting with the harvest.

"We'll have lots to eat this winter, won't we Mother?"



**Grow your own
Can your own**

NATIONAL HEALTH SERIES No. 109



Published by authority of the
HON. IAN MACKENZIE, K.C.
Minister of Pensions and National Health.



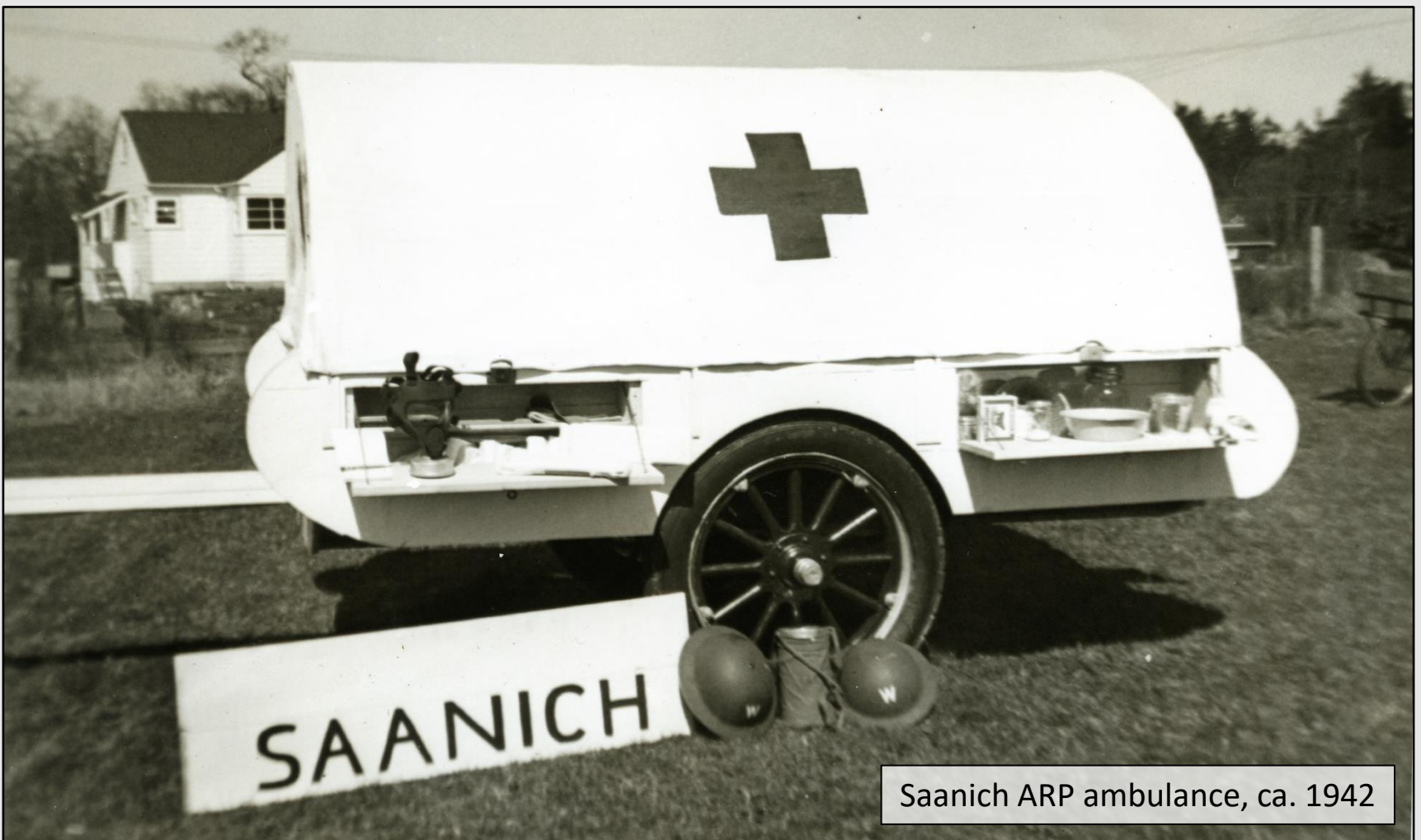
DIG for Victory



**GROW
YOUR OWN
VEGETABLES**

Women were also encouraged to join **The Civilian Air Raid Precaution Program** to be trained in emergency preparedness in the event of an air raid. Members of the ARP were given instruction on blacking out their homes, surviving a bomb blast, keeping children safe during an emergency, and first-aid.





Saanich ARP ambulance, ca. 1942

A.R.P. for women



Our country may never be subjected to air raids; but there are excellent reasons behind the extensive programme of civilian A.R.P. education recently launched by the Federal Office of Civil Air Raid Precautions. Modern warfare, Axis-style, has no consideration for the safety of civilians. The armed forces can and will do much—but they cannot protect us all. We, as civilians, can help nullify enemy air raids by protecting ourselves now. Thus A.R.P. is primarily a civilian responsibility. Women, traditionally known for their sense of devotion and sacrifice, can play a heroic part, each within her own little circle, in the trials we may be called upon to face. This little booklet will be a practical guide to refer to—should air raids come. Keep it in your handbag.

What to do in an Air Raid



No matter where you are when the alert comes, remember to keep cool. Perhaps this thought will reassure you: it is practically impossible for the Axis, because of geographical conditions, to punish Canada the way it pounded Britain during the Great Blitz of September, 1940. There are military and physical reasons, too, which make it improbable that high explosive bombs will be dropped on this country in any appreciable quantity. Nevertheless, it is wise to be prepared for fire bomb raids and in a later chapter you will be shown what to do about

these. In general, however, you will be safe if you memorize the following suggestions and act upon them the minute the air raid alert is sounded:

1. *Keep cool and don't get excited.*
2. *If you are at home:*
 - (a) Blackout your house.
 - (b) If your coal or wood stove is burning, set the drafts and damper so that it will die down.
 - (c) If you do not belong to an A.R.P. unit, go to your refuge room 'till "All Clear" sounds.
3. *If you are away from home* or at work and are not in the A.R.P.:
 - (a) Seek shelter at once. Go home if you are within five minutes' walk.
 - (b) If in doubt ask the nearest A.R.P. Warden and follow his instructions.
 - (c) If you are caught in the open without shelter, lie face down on the ground and protect the back of your head with your handbag.

What to wear in an Air Raid



If you can sew, make yourself a "siren suit" out of those old ski togs. Make some for the children. Add a few big patch pockets with odd bits of material and keep it handy. Dig up an old pair of strong, flat-heeled shoes and a beret. You will find that if you actually have to go into action or lend assistance elsewhere at the request of the A.R.P. this garb will be very practical. At home you will be well protected from bruises and scratches on arms and legs, and you won't run the risk of

Emergency hints



Every civilian should have a small first-aid kit. It should contain iodine, tannic acid, adhesive tape, gauze and bandages, and small scissors. Carry it in your hand-bag—or keep it where you can find it. And take a First Aid Course.

Fractures



Injuries involving broken bones can be dangerous if not properly handled. Make the patient *comfortable* and keep him warmly covered. If you have taken the A.R.P. First Aid Course you will know what to do—otherwise make no attempt to administer first aid or move the patient. Summon the First Aid Squad and let it take charge.

Shock



This is similar to a fainting spell. The body is cold, pulse feeble and the patient may lose consciousness. Lay the patient on his back, with head lower than the feet and loosen all tight clothing and keep the patient well covered. Do not give alcoholic stimulants. Hot tea or coffee only if patient is conscious.

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Cuts



Cuts and scratches should be thoroughly cleansed with antiseptic to prevent infection. You may be surprised to learn that the most effective antiseptic is salt water. It is simple and economical, if sometimes painful. When there is only slight bleeding a simple bandage may be used. The main point is to keep the wound clean and prevent dirt from getting into it. Your first aid kit will contain the articles needed to make a few bandages. Keep it well supplied.

Carrying injured people



Never move an injured person unless his life is endangered from another source. When at all possible, use a stretcher, even a makeshift one, using two broom-handles and a couple of old coats. Jolting or even moving injured persons may kill them. Internal injuries might be extended as a result of careless handling. If you cannot get anyone to help, and the patient can walk, you may assist him to safety. If he is seriously injured, *get help before making any attempt to move him*. Your local A.R.P. conducts classes in First Aid; you will realize now the advantage of following them.

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Bleeding



If bleeding is not checked immediately, complications can develop and prove fatal. Ordinary bleeding is easy to stop by applying a pad and bandage. Severed arteries involve using a tourniquet, which compresses the artery until it is closed. This bandage should be loosened every twenty minutes, otherwise the patient may die. Severe cases of bleeding are a matter for a doctor. So don't take any chances; call the First Aid Squad immediately.

Burns



Baking soda, dissolved in water to a paste, will relieve slight burns. But when burns are of a serious nature clothing will have to be cut away. Lard, olive oil, vaseline or white of egg will relieve burns. Here again your A.R.P. course will prove very useful while you wait for the First Aid Squad. Be safe and call them without delay.

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Doctors are Scarce

One out of three has gone to war

Be Prepared
for minor injury
for minor illness

LEARN First Aid & Home Nursing



Lighting & Black-out Regulations

WHEREAS the Minister of Pensions and National Health under Article 35 of the Defence of Canada Regulations has conferred certain authority on me:
 NOW, THEREFORE, I, the undersigned, Premier of the Province of British Columbia, pursuant to such authority hereby order:
 THAT in the Province of British Columbia the following provisions shall be in effect:

Preliminary Provisions

1. There are two types of black-out, a "Precautionary Black-out," and an "Imminent Danger Black-out."
2. A "Precautionary Black-out" will be announced by a continuous and steady note of five minutes duration on sirens, whistles and similar instruments; by the Civilian Protection (Air Raid Precautions) Service; through the Press; and by other means. In any area where a siren system is provided, the siren system alone will be used for announcing a black-out.
3. An "Imminent Danger Black-out" will be announced by a wailing or fluctuating note of five minutes duration on sirens, or by a rapid series of distinct blasts on whistles or similar instruments. In any area where a siren system is provided, the siren system alone will be used for announcing a black-out. An "Imminent Danger Black-out" may be announced without the prior announcement of a "Precautionary Black-out."
4. While a "Precautionary Black-out" and an "Imminent Danger Black-out" are alike in respect that during both all lights must be extinguished or completely masked, they differ in that during an "Imminent Danger Black-out," whether by day or by night, all vehicular traffic must cease (with lights extinguished at night time) and pedestrians must use sidewalks only, whereas, during a "Precautionary Black-out" vehicles with masked headlights may continue to operate (but not above fifteen miles per hour) and pedestrians are unrestricted. (See detailed provisions below.)
5. An "Imminent Danger Black-out" will only be used when there is a threat of immediate attack. A "Precautionary Black-out" will be used when danger is believed to exist and lights might assist the enemy, but the threat does not justify the cessation of traffic. In those parts of the province west of the Cascade Range (including islands) that cannot

when there is no black-out, notwithstanding the requirements of any Statute or law to the contrary; but no person shall during the period from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise, drive or operate any motor-vehicle or motor-cycle with masked lights at a greater rate of speed than fifteen miles per hour even although there is no black-out.

20. After the date of this Order (whether a black-out is in force or not)—
 - (a) As to outside lights—no person shall between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise cause or permit any light, illumination, sparks, or glare, to emanate from any lighting apparatus, burning or smouldering material or other source, such apparatus, material or other source not being completely enclosed within a roofed building; and for greater certainty but so as to restrict the generality of this prohibition the same shall apply to advertising and display signs, whether neon lights or not, and to porch lights and to lights on or in front of residences or business houses whether for lighting purposes or otherwise, and to clearing and camp fires.
 - (b) As to inside lights—no person shall between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise cause or permit any light, illumination, sparks, or glare to emanate from inside any building or enclosure, unless a person is constantly present with authority and the means of instantly extinguishing or masking the light, illumination, sparks, or glare.

This Regulation shall not apply to lights operated exclusively for street lighting purposes or to lights used on any vehicle or to navigation lights.

21. Exemptions from black-out requirements under these

3. An exemption from the black-out requirements is hereby granted in respect of any automobile or motor-cycle that is operated by a member of any of the Defence Forces to whom permission to operate such automobile or motor-cycle during a black-out has been granted by authority of the General Officer Commanding in Chief, Pacific Command, provided such automobile or motor-cycle is equipped and operated in the manner specified in the permission.

DATED at Vancouver, B.C., this 11th day of August, A.D. 1942.

(Signed)
W. C. MAINWARING,
 Chairman, Advisory Council,
 Provincial Civilian Protection Committee.

DIM-OUT

I, the undersigned, Premier of the Province of British Columbia, pursuant to authority granted to me by the Minister of Pensions and National Health under Article 35 of the Defence of Canada Regulations, do hereby amend the lighting and black-out orders made by me on the 24th day of April, 1942, by adding the following as Orders 25 to 38:

25. AREAS—There are established for the purposes of these orders three areas known as Area A, Area B, and Area C, and described in the Schedule.
26. APPLICATION—Orders 25 to 37 inclusive are applicable only during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise.
27. SEAWARD LIGHTS—Every occupant of a building, yard, or other premises in Area A or Area B shall prevent any light in or about his premises from casting any light, glare or reflexion that is visible from any navigable waters.
28. INDUSTRIES—In the case of buildings, yards and premises in Area A or Area B used for construction or manufacturing purposes, if compliance with Order 27 is



"Air Raid Preparedness" Children being fitted for gas masks, 1943 (City of Victoria Archives M06654)

Central to the federal government's wartime food policies was the need to feed Canada's overseas allies and soldiers.

Thousands of school children and young women devoted their summers to low-paid agricultural labour on farms across British Columbia as members of the Farm Cadets, Farmerettes, or Women's Land Brigades.

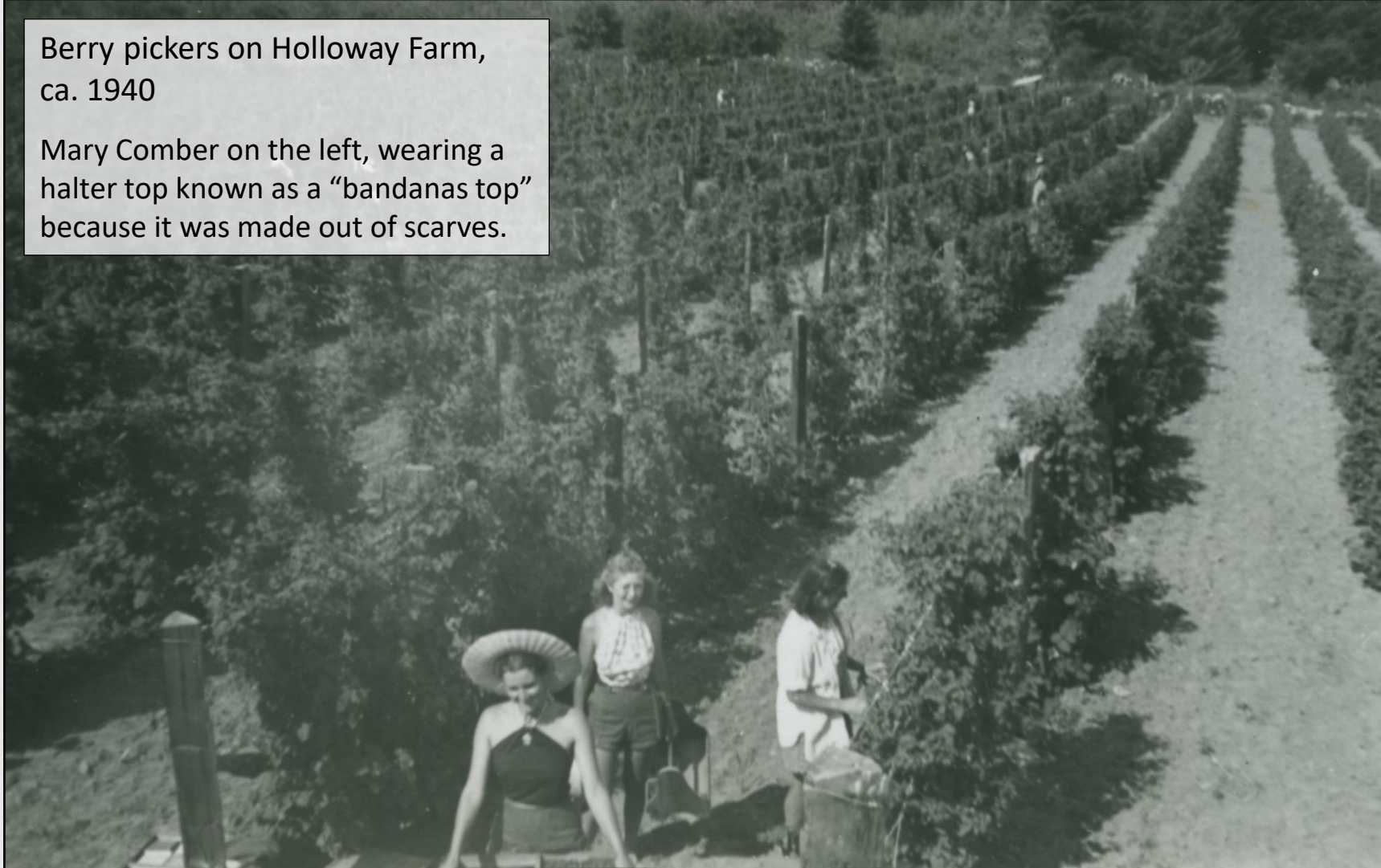
Saanich responded to the need for increased food production by forming the **Saanich Peninsula Farm Labour Committee**.

During the school year, the workers were transported to farms on a special bus, but during the summer fruit harvest, pickers lived at Mount Newton School.



Berry pickers on Holloway Farm,
ca. 1940

Mary Comber on the left, wearing a halter top known as a “bandanas top” because it was made out of scarves.



Interior of picker's bunkhouse,
Holloway Farm, ca. 1940

Modelling their name and organizational structure after the WRCNS, the **Wrenettes** were a naval cadet group who were trained as administrative support for the male cadets.

At the time, cadet organizations had the dual aims of military preparedness and training future model citizens, however, the idea that girls and boys had different roles influenced how cadet organizations trained male and female members.

The **Mount View Wrenettes**, organized at Mount View High School in 1943, was one of the first Wrenette Companies in Canada.



The Mount View Wrenettes, 1944

Gladys Baxter, Margaret Nelson, Frances Campbell,

Velma Hunter, Eileen Newton, Marguerite Richdale

In addition to joining established organizations, women who did not join the service often entered the work force for the first time or took on responsibility for the family farm or business, all while raising their children on their own. They also had to make do with less due to rationing of food, materials, and fuel.

In Saanich, women developed a strong community of support that helped them get through this difficult period.



Emily Agnes Underwood [seated right] holding son Leslie with friends at Brentwood Coffee Shop, 1943

Emily's husband, Leslie Sr. was overseas from 1939-1945. Leslie Jr. did not know his father until he was 5 years old.



As part of the war effort, many commodities in Canada were rationed.

Weekly rations of food included 1⅓ ounces of tea, 5⅓ ounces of coffee, ½ pound of sugar and ½ pound of butter per person.

Some other rationed items included meat, whiskey, and gasoline.

FOR SALE

Canada's Children

Will you outbid the Axis?

MAKE NO MISTAKE if the Axis should win this war your children would be doomed to a life of slavery and moral degradation. To control their future the enemy is bidding all the power built up through years of totalitarian scheming and preparation.

But you can outbid the enemy . . . it's up to you!

No power in this world can equal that of a free people, provided that each is determined to contribute to the last ounce of his or her strength. Canada asks you to invest every dollar you possibly can in the new Victory Bonds as an essential duty of the freedom-loving citizen.

Every bond you buy will be a bid for your children's future. Every bond will help to make victory sure. And victory will open up a glorious destiny for the youth of Canada — in a land singularly blessed by Providence and in a new world at peace.

How to Buy — Give your order to the Victory Loan salesman who calls on you. Or place it in the hands of any branch of any bank, or give it to any trust company. Or send it to your local Victory Loan Headquarters, or you can authorize your employer to start a regular payroll savings plan for you. Bonds may be bought in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and larger. Salesman, bank, trust company or your local Victory Loan Headquarters will be glad to give you every assistance in making out your order form.

Come on Canada

BUY the new VICTORY BONDS

(LOCAL VICTORY LOAN HEADQUARTERS)

National War Finance Committee, Ottawa, Canada.

During WWII, the collection of discarded materials which could be transformed and reused for war purposes made it possible to find substitutes for materials in short supply or cut off by enemy blockades. The Salvage Division of the Department of National War Services publicized collection drives and coordinated local efforts.

Salvage allowed every Canadian to feel a part of the war effort.



VICTORY RIDES ON RUBBER!

Announcing... **AMITY-RED CROSS RUBBER CAMPAIGN!**

Rubber rides in the forefront of salvage, is most essential to our national war effort. Almost every major war project would stop if rubber needs were not kept supplied. The loss of rubber imports means complete salvage of all possible rubber articles. It is a national emergency, and can only be met by united, national effort. The Amity-Red Cross Salvage Campaign has inaugurated a special drive for collection of rubber articles.

100 GAS STATIONS CO-OPERATE

To provide city-wide, convenient depots for all rubber articles, the Gasoline Stations of Hamilton are offering their facilities to the Amity-Red Cross rubber campaign. Clean out and bring in your articles NOW!

Leave Your Parcels — Large or Small — of All Rubber Products at Any of the Stations of the Following Gas Companies:

Canadian Oil Co. Limited	Crown-Dominion Oil Co. Limited	McColl-Frontenac Oil Co. Limited
British American Oil Co. Limited	Good Rich Refining Co. Limited	Shell Oil Co. of Canada Limited
Cities Service Oil Co. Limited	Imperial Oil Limited	Sun Oil Co., Ltd.

Sponsored by the **AMITY-RED CROSS SALVAGE CAMPAIGN - DIAL 7-2078**

Mesdames s'en vont en guerre



AU PAS, MÉNAGÈRES, AU PAS!

Récupérez MÉTAUX CHIFFONS VERRE OS CAOUTCHOUC PAPIER

TOUT DOIT SERVIR

★ **CONSULTEZ VOTRE COMITÉ LOCAL**

PUBLIÉ PAR LE SERVICE DE L'INFORMATION, À LA DEMANDE DE L'OFFICE NATIONAL DE RÉCUPÉRATION, OTTAWA; AUTORISÉ PAR L'HON. J. G. GARDINER, MINISTRE DES SERVICES NATIONAUX DE GUERRE.

DIG IN and DIG OUT the SCRAP



Save

METALS RAGS PAPER BONES RUBBER GLASS

THEY ARE VITAL WAR NEEDS

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMITTEE

ISSUED BY PUBLIC INFORMATION, FOR NATIONAL SALVAGE OFFICE, OTTAWA; UNDER AUTHORITY OF HON. J. G. GARDINER, MINISTER OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES.

Virtual exhibit by Saanich Archives

Our hours are:
**Monday to Friday,
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

For more information visit:
www.saanich.ca/archives

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