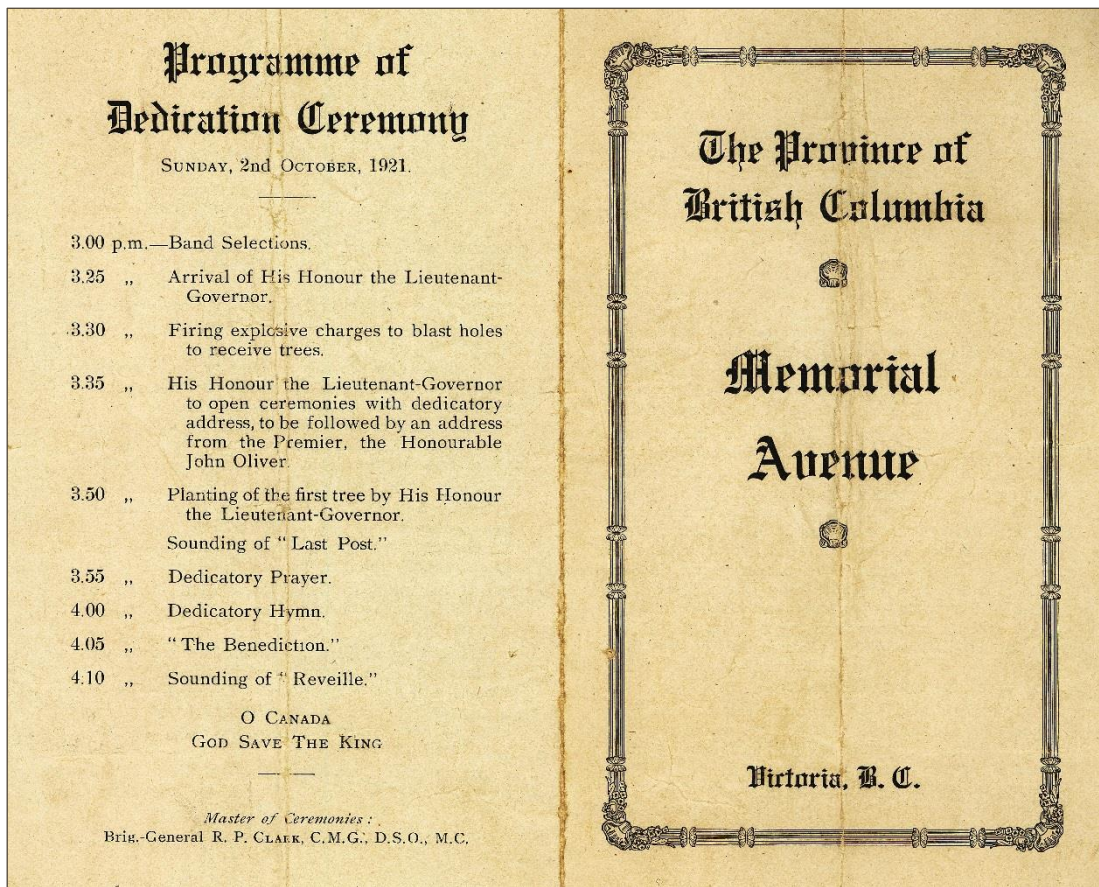




The Unveiling of the Vimy Memorial
Vimy Ridge Pilgrimage, 1936

Exhibit by Saanich Archives

Commemorating the end of World War One and
the culmination of the *Saanich Remembers* project.



Programme of Dedication Ceremony

SUNDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1921.

- 3.00 p.m.—Band Selections.
3.25 „ Arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.
3.30 „ Firing explosive charges to blast holes to receive trees.
3.35 „ His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to open ceremonies with dedicatory address, to be followed by an address from the Premier, the Honourable John Oliver.
3.50 „ Planting of the first tree by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.
Sounding of "Last Post."
3.55 „ Dedicatory Prayer.
4.00 „ Dedicatory Hymn.
4.05 „ "The Benediction."
4.10 „ Sounding of "Reveille."

O CANADA
GOD SAVE THE KING

Master of Ceremonies :
Brig.-General R. P. CLARK, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.

The Province of
British Columbia

Memorial
Avenue

Victoria, B. C.

Unless otherwise noted, all images in this exhibit are from Saanich Archives collections



SO THAT NONE SHALL GO UNRECORDED

Honour Roll Artist Richard Grenville Rice

Born in England in 1888, R.G. Rice immigrated to Victoria at the age of twenty. He was a draughtsman with the E & N Railway and later with the BC Department of Public Works.

Rice enlisted with the Royal Canadian Engineers in December 1916. He served in France with the 1st Battalion for much of the war and was discharged in April 1919.

Rice began designing Saanich's Honour Roll in 1916 before deploying overseas.

R.G. Rice was co-architect with Karl Spurgin of the Saanich War Memorial Health Centre at 4353 West Saanich Road. Built in 1920, it was the province's first Health Centre and the main Public Health Nursing Station for BC. Rice moved to Seattle in 1922 to further his career in architecture, leaving the Honour Roll unfinished.



SO THAT NONE SHALL GO UNRECORDED



Commonwealth War Graves

The Saanich men who died in World War One are buried in Commonwealth War Graves; their sacrifice is honoured in perpetuity. In 2015 and 2016, volunteers with the *Saanich Remembers* project visited over 30 graves of Saanich soldiers in France and Belgium. A certificate signed by Mayor Atwell, on behalf of the Municipality, was placed at each of the sites.

Photos: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium and grave of Private Thomas Landy; courtesy of Steve Clifford

Saanich Nursing Sisters

Four Saanich Nursing Sisters are commemorated on the Honour Roll. During the course of the *Saanich Remembers* project, Archives staff and volunteers have identified four more.

The nurses are:

- Nora Birkett
- Beatrice 'Trixie' Eugene Bradshaw
- Hannah 'Nancy' Jennings Bradshaw
- Margaret 'Maggie' McCullough
- Amelia Jobson Midgley
- Beatrice Alma Morison
- Maude Walker
- Violet Walker



Portrait of Trixie Bradshaw in her School of Nursing uniform and cap, 1915

"And then Trix was a nurse at the Jubilee and as soon as she was through, she went off to the war. I think I have an awfully nice picture of Trix. Trix was very pretty."

Madeline Howden (nee Bradshaw),
sister of Trixie and Nancy Bradshaw
from an oral history interview, 1997



Soldiers with Nursing Sister Beatrice 'Trixie' Bradshaw

Trixie is wearing her Royal Jubilee School of Nursing post-graduation uniform with military nursing veil.

Photo was donated by the sister of Trixie and Nancy Bradshaw, Madeline Howden, but it remained unidentified until 2014 when a volunteer at the Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Archives saw the photo and was able to identify Trixie as an alumna of the school.



Town Hall Hospital, Waltham Abbey, Essex England

Handwritten on verso: *"5th March. Meal time I am on the right, diving into a nice feast of roast beef. This is the place to get the grub. D E".*

Saanich At Home

The First World War had a profound effect on Saanich families. As fathers, brothers, sons, and daughters left for war duty, women were left to run households, farms, and family businesses. Citizens who remained in Saanich supported the war effort by growing food, fundraising, and providing moral support for troops overseas.



Mileva Todd in Red Cross uniform, 1915



May Aitkens, Mike Roberts, Emily Estlin, and Emily Maude at the Aitkens farm in Gordon Head, 1914

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Muggins the Red Cross Dog

Muggins canvassed downtown Victoria for Red Cross donations throughout World War One. Wearing two tin boxes with slots, he travelled the streets collecting money. When the boxes got heavy he'd return to the Red Cross Centre. Muggins raised over \$21,000 for the war effort. He became internationally famous, met many celebrities and dignitaries, and was awarded medals for his service.



SO THAT NONE SHALL GO UNRECORDED



World War One soldiers marching on Government Street in support of conscription, 1917

The protest took place prior to the December 1917 federal election, which was effectively a referendum on conscription. Soldiers and their families felt that everyone needed to do their bit. The signs reflect their frustration and anger at “friendly aliens” who were not volunteering, but instead were staying home and making more money than the soldiers at the front.

Enthusiasm Rampant At Peace Celebration

"The ending of the war by the victory of the Allies is a source of gratification to all Canadian citizens and everyone will be ready to welcome home our soldier boys. It behooves public bodies to do all that is possible to enable the soldier to settle down into his civilian position as easily, quickly and comfortably as possible. The principal duty in this respect no doubt should be borne by the Dominion and Provincial Governments, but there will be much that can and must be done by the Municipal Governments, and I would commend to the early consideration of the 1919 Council this question."

Reeve's Report,
January 9, 1919



Handwritten on verso: "Hope to be home Sat noon but all depends how I make out Friday. best wishes & lots of luck, (me) milking Fred".

SO THAT NONE SHALL GO UNRECORDED

The Invalid Soldiers Commission

In February 1918, the federal government established the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment (DSCR). Within the DSCR, the Invalid Soldiers Commission offered retraining programs to injured soldiers to help them re-establish themselves in civilian life, contribute to society, and provide a sense of purpose.



The Invalid Soldiers Commission Victoria unit office was located on View Street. Soldiers exhibited their work at the Home Products Fair held at the Hudson's Bay warehouse at 1120 Wharf Street.

Saanich resident and returned soldier Charles Frederick Dawson (pictured right standing in centre rear under the calendar) worked for the DSCR as the Chief Industrial Training Inspector.

So That None Shall go Unrecorded



**Group of returned World War One soldiers
taking photographs on a beach in Victoria**

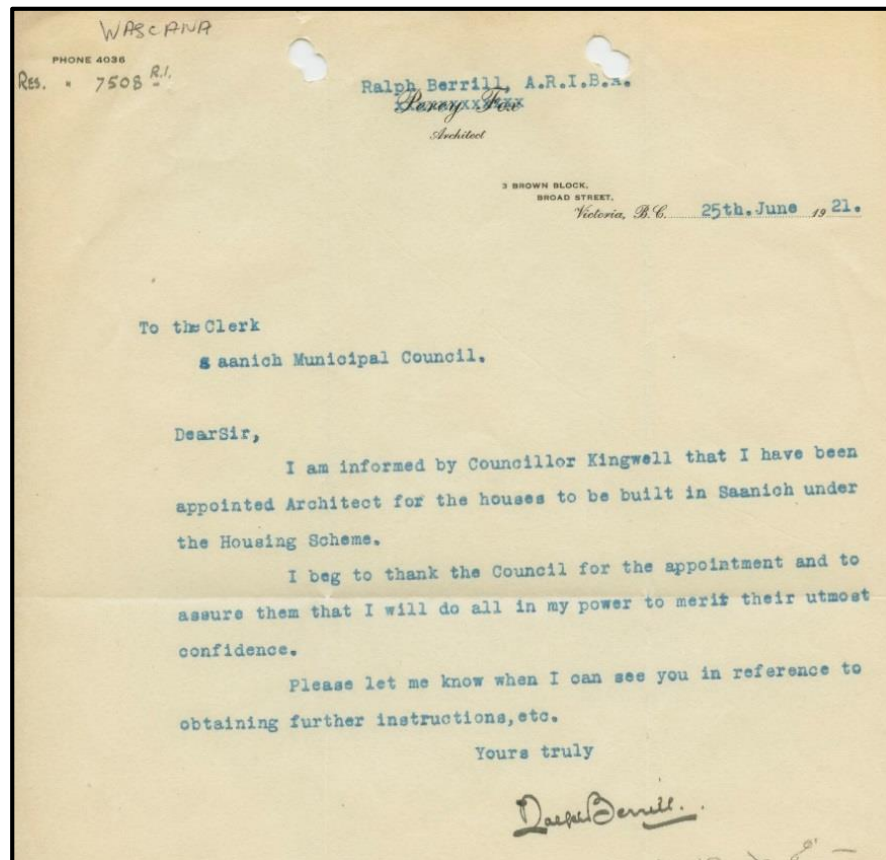
Notice that the three men being photographed by the soldier with crutches in the photo on the left are the same three men in the photo in the right. C. F. Dawson is on the right in both photos.

SO THAT NONE SHALL GO UNRECORDED

Soldiers Housing Scheme

The Soldier Settlement Act following World War One was a Canadian Government program that provided veterans with loans to purchase land.

Saanich set up its own program, headed by Major Karl B. Spurgin. Spurgin supervised construction of the first 14 houses in 1919 and architect Ralph Berrill designed the last five in 1921.



In the Saanich program, funding was available for building new houses on residential lots acquired for:

“the purpose of affording home sites to returned British Columbia soldiers who follow industrial occupations in or near existing centers of industry, and also to the dependents of those who have been killed, and to returned soldiers who have been disabled.”



National Unemployed Workers' Association postcard, 1932

National Unemployed Workers' Association postcard, 1932

The *National Unemployed Workers' Movement* was a British organization established in 1921 by members of the Communist Party of Great Britain. It aimed to draw attention to the plight of unemployed workers during the post-World War One slump and later, the Great Depression.

A central element of the movement's activities was a series of hunger marches organized throughout the 1920s and 1930s. The largest of these was the National Hunger March of 1932.

In Canada, groups such as the *Workers' Unity League*, the *Relief Camp Workers Union*, and the *National Unemployed Workers Association* (NUWA) played a significant role in organizing the unskilled and unemployed in protest marches and demonstrations.



Brass Commemorative Plaque from Shelbourne Avenue

Found in a ditch and donated to Saanich Archives in 1980 by Mr. Wenman, a teacher at St. Michaels University School.

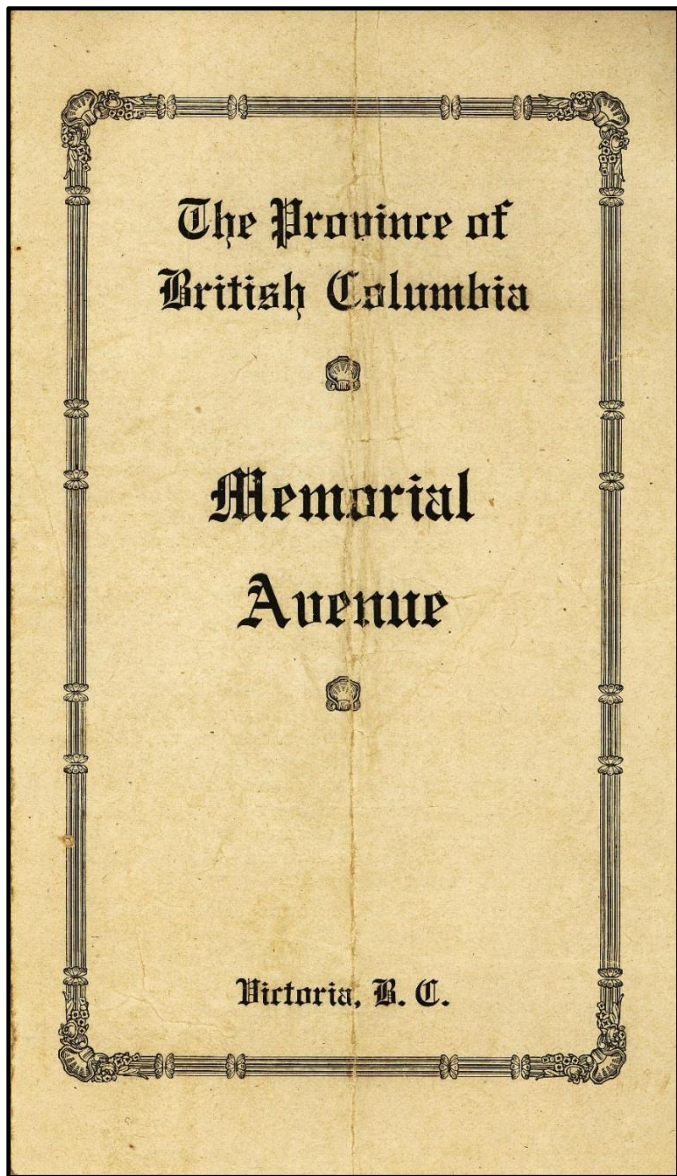
Many similar plaques were affixed to the trees along Memorial Avenue but none of the original plaques remain.

Memorial Avenue

Following the end of World War One in 1918, Canada began erecting statues and cenotaphs to honour the memory of its war dead. Out of this arose proposals for a 'Road of Remembrance', or 'Memorial Avenue' to serve as a tribute to fallen soldiers.

Shelbourne Street became the first such Road of Remembrance in Canada and was formally dedicated on the afternoon of October 2, 1921. The ceremony was held near the entrance to Mount Douglas Park where 7,000 people arrived to hear speeches by BC's Premier John Oliver and Lieutenant Governor Walter Nichol who said: "*he who plants a tree plants a hope*".

The original intention was that Shelbourne Street should include one tree for every British Columbian who fell in the war. Some 600 trees were planted but that number would prove insufficient as ten times as many men and women from British Columbia died in the Great War.



"So That None Shall Go Unrecorded"

"British Columbia owes, not only to her soldier dead, but to posterity, some monument which will adequately commemorate the heroic sacrifices of the South African War, and of the Great European War."

The programme for the 1921 Memorial Avenue dedication ceremony, outlines the purpose and importance of creating a Memorial Avenue in Saanich.

The programme concludes:

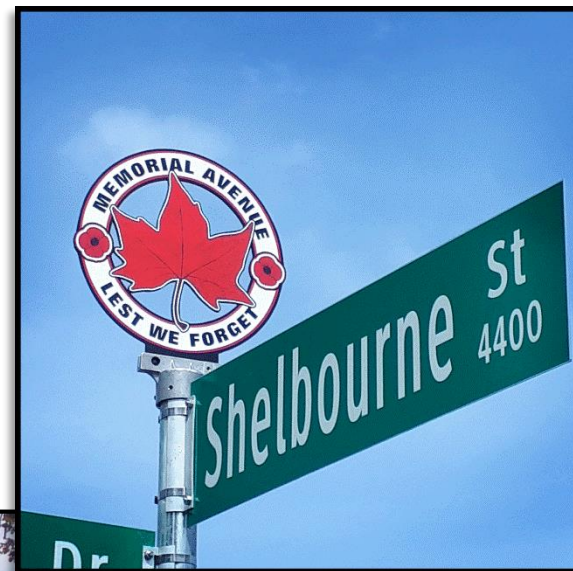
*"In the months to come, too, can the names of the fallen be gathered in,
so that none shall go unrecorded."*

SO THAT NONE SHALL GO UNRECORDED

Memorial Avenue Rededication

On September 29, 2018, the *Citizens Memorial Avenue Committee*, led by Saanich residents Ray Travers and Mary-Jane Shaw, organized a re-dedication ceremony and commemoration of the 1918 Armistice. The ceremony included a traditional First Nations blessing and speeches by BC's Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin, MP Murray Rankin, MLA Andrew Weaver, and Saanich Mayor Richard Atwell.

In advance of the event, Saanich installed 30 Memorial Avenue sign toppers along Shelbourne Street.



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Saanich Archives is located inside 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.

To learn more about the *Saanich Remembers* project and to find out
how to volunteer visit: www.saanich.ca/archives

Or contact us at:
archives@saanich.ca
250 475 5494 ext. 3478



SAANICH REMEMBERS WORLD WAR ONE – 1914 TO 1918