

## Saanich Archives

### WWI References in Annual Reports and Financial Statements

#### 1914-1919

- 1914 p.4 (Reeve's Report): "The great war in Europe has accentuated the difficulties of financing Municipal undertakings and this has necessarily delayed the commencing of the work under the by-laws."
- 1915 p.4 (Reeve's Report): "Waterworks By-law: Considerable progress has been made during the year with the installation of the Waterworks system, but in carrying out this work great delay has been occasioned owing to the fact that the manufacturers were unable to deliver the pipes and particularly the castings, owing to their works having been requisitioned by the Imperial Government for military purposes, and further owing to the unfortunate blocking of the Panama Canal just at the time a vessel with a large consignment of our pipes and special casting was about to pass through."
- 1915 p.6 (Reeve's Report): "The labour situation all over the Province has been very acute and distress has been prevalent and at the beginning of the year Saanich was no exception to other districts, but in the second half of the year, thanks to the large amounts of money available for expenditure, the Council by authorizing various works have been able to mitigate this – in fact in Saanich the labour situation is now almost quite normal. The coming year should show further improvement in this respect as even larger sums of money will be available for expenditure."
- 1915 p.7 (Reeve's Report): "As it will not always be possible to purchase debentures when required, the Council have authorized the investment of a certain amount of sinking funds in the Dominion of Canada War Loan and \$26,500 of these bonds have been acquired, to be distributed amongst the Local Improvement and School Loan By-law issues. This, apart from the fact of its being of some assistance to the Dominion and Imperial Governments, will prove to be a lucrative investment to the Municipality and a great saving eventually to the taxpayer."
- 1915 p.14 (Engineer's Report): "It is very gratifying that, notwithstanding the financial stringency and the subsequent poverty and distress which has been general throughout British Columbia during the past eighteen months as a result of the European situation, the extent of work carried out in Saanich has been the greatest in its history and I think it may be stated that the Council has so indiscriminately distributed the work amongst the residents that, compared with

many other municipalities, there has been very little poverty or distress experienced in Saanich.”

- 1915 p.23 (Engineer’s Report): “The slow progress made on the waterworks was due to the great delay in obtaining the waterworks pipes and castings from the Manufacturers in Scotland on account of the War Department having taken control of their works for the manufacture of war munitions, and to provide work for the unemployed, trenching operations were started prior to the pipes and castings being received and in the circumstances sections of the trenches subsided during the rainy season involving a slight additional expenditure in re-excavating same.”
- 1916 p.7 (Reeve’s Report): “I regret that the Municipality will for a time lose the services of Mr. Johnston, our Engineer, owing to his joining His Majesty’s Overseas Forces. He has done efficient service to the District and I sincerely hope he will soon return at the end of the war, safe and sound, to further carry out the works which in future will be necessary.” *See p.49 and 50 (Engineer’s Report) for Mr. Johnston’s thank you to specific staff members including G.G. Girling. Does not mention the War).*
- 1917 p.3 (List of Officials): “Engineer.....\*D.W. Johnson”. Beside asterisk at bottom of page: “On leave of absence in France.” *Same entry at the beginning of the 1918 report.*
- 1917 p.5 (Reeve’s Report): “December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1917. Another year has passed and still it is impossible to foresee [*sic*] the end of the great war. Four large Canadian loans have been issued for the purpose of carrying on the war and it is more than probable before the desired end is gained the debt will be further increased. All this necessarily means largely increased taxation and to meet same great economy will have to be exercised, both in private and public life. Realizing this, the Council have curtailed expenditures as much as possible, only carrying out such works as were absolutely necessary. The rate of wages for Municipal work has been increased in keeping with the times, the cost of living having increased during the year and the demand for men being in excess of the supply.”
- 1917 p.9 (Engineer’s Report): “The expenditure has not been near so great as in the year 1916, as only works that were absolutely necessary have been carried out.” *Report submitted by Superintendent of Works G.G. Girling, as Engineer D.W. Johnson was on leave for military service (see above). G.G. Girling also submitted 1918 report.*
- 1918 p.3 (Reeve’s Report): “Royal Oak, B.C., Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1919. 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 behoves public

SAANICH ARCHIVES: WWI References in Annual Reports

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.”

- 1918 p.38 (Report of Chief of Police): 2 cases relating to the Military Service Act appeared before the Police Court during the year.
- 1918 p.39 (Report of Chief of Police): “During the months of October and November the Department, in conjunction with the nurses of the Saanich Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses, attended to one hundred and fifty-seven cases of Spanish Influenza, with good results, there being only four deaths taking place with that disease.”

#### Additional Notes:

- During the course of the war, the Municipality provided funds to the following organizations:
  - British Sailor’s Relief Fund (1917)
  - Victoria Order of Nurses (1917, 1918)
  - Military Branch Y.M.C.A. (1917)
  - Gorge Branch, Red Cross Society Charity (1917, 1918)
  - Navy League (1918)
  - Central Iron Committee (1918)
  - Victoria Patriotic Society - \$5000 (1918)
- The Municipality invested in Canadian War Loan Bonds (1915, 1916, 1917), and Canada Victory Loan Bonds (1917, 1918).
- The Municipality granted tax exemption to the Isolation Hospital and the Rifle Range in 1916.
- 1919 p.32 (Financial Statement): Following the war, the Municipality spent \$443.57 on Peace Celebrations.