Neighbourhood Timeline: Gordon Head part 1
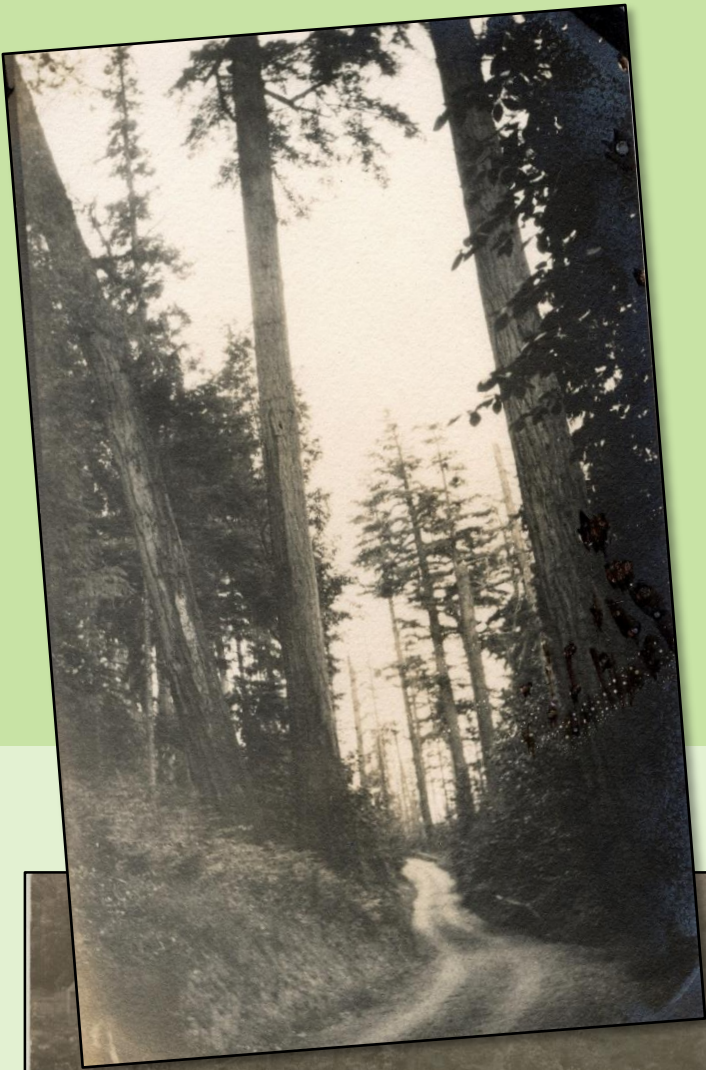

Geoffrey Vantreight with First Nations workers on the Vantreight strawberry farm, 1910 (1984-012-006)

Gordon Head is bordered on the north and east by Haro Strait, on the west by Blenkinsop Valley and Mount Douglas, and on the south by McKenzie Avenue. It was a heavily forested wilderness when it was first settled by farmers, starting with James Tod (Todd) in 1852. By the 1870s, thirteen men, including Charles Dodd, Michael Finnerty, and John Work, owned all of the land identified as Gordon Head. The area became famous for its strawberries, which sold for high prices until 1914 when the dropping value of the crop led to the formation of the Saanich Fruit Growers' Association. By 1945 the strawberry crop was declining in importance and daffodils became an important cash crop.

Starting in 1902, Arbutus Cove was favoured as an area of summer homes for prominent Victoria-area families. In 1921, city water service was brought to Gordon Head leading to a proliferation of greenhouses and vegetable growers. Since the 1950s, the area has gradually been developed with single-family housing, facilitated through the introduction of sewers in the late 1960s.

LEGEND
- Local Area Boundaries
- Major Lakes
- Major Parks
- Centres and Villages

Saanich Official Community Plan 2008, Map 22 Local Areas

The District of Saanich lies within the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples. Evidence of First Nations settlement in the area now called Saanich dates back over 4,000 years. The Lək̓ʷəŋən peoples are made up of two nations, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples are made up of five nations, W̱JOȽEȽP (Tsartlip), BOḰEĆEN (Pauquachin), SȾÁUTW̱ (Tsawout), W̱SIḴEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEȽ (Malahat) Nations. Each nation had their own territory and travelled freely over their land; hunting, fishing and gathering resources. The Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples have historical connections with the land which continue to this day.

Left: A road in Gordon Head, 1910s (2014-008-009)
Below: Beach north of Gordon Point, 1890s (1984-012-013)

First Nations berry pickers camp, Gordon Head, ca. 1910s (1984-012-006b)

1850-1854

From 1850-1854, James Douglas, Chief Factor and later Governor of the Hudson Bay Company colony on Vancouver Island, signed treaties with 14 Indigenous groups. These documents are often referred to as the **"Fort Victoria Treaties" or the "Douglas Treaties."** James Douglas did not explicitly use the word treaty in these agreements, but a Supreme Court decision ruled that these agreements were and remain valid treaties since Douglas, who was acting as an agent of the Crown at the time, arranged them with the Indigenous peoples. First Nations argue that their ancestors understood these as peace treaties or agreements of cohabitation of the land. The British, however, interpreted these treaties as purchase agreements that surrendered lands near Hudson Bay Company posts in exchange for the continued right to hunt and fish, reserve lands, and a one-time payment. The text in the treaties is quite short, and the agreements reached in the fourteen treaties are almost the same, except for the territories referred to, the persons signing, and the payment amounts for the land.

The treaty that covers the area today known as Gordon Head was signed by members of the **South Saanich** tribe to the north of Gordon Point, and by the **Checkonein** tribe to the south of Gordon Point including Cadboro Bay. The treaty signed by the South Saanich tribe referred to the *"the whole of the lands situated and lying between Mount Douglas and Cowichan Head, on the canal de Haro, and extending Thence to the line running through the centre of Vancouver Island, north and south."* The treaty signed by the Checkonein tribe referred to *"the whole of the lands situated and lying between Point Gonzales and Mount Douglas, following the boundary line of the Chilcowitch and Kosampson families, the canal de Haro, and the Straight of Juan de Fuca, east of Point Gonzales."*

The conditions of the treaties state *"that our village sites and enclosed fields are to be kept for our own use, for the use of our children, and for those who may follow after us and the land shall be properly surveyed hereafter. It is understood, however, that the land itself, with these small exceptions, becomes the entire property of the white people for ever; it is also understood that we are at liberty to hunt over the unoccupied lands, and to carry on our fisheries as formerly. We have received, as payment, Fifty-two pounds ten shillings sterling."* [Full text available at www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca]

1852

The first registered land owner in Gordon Head was **James Todd**, son of Hudson's Bay Company trader and early Oak Bay settler John Tod. In 1852, James decided to leave the relative security of Fort Victoria and purchased two sections in the wilderness of Gordon Head. He established his home at the base of Mount Douglas and called it **Spring Farm** after the abundant fresh water springs on the property. For 5 years, James Todd was the only registered land owner in Gordon Head. In 1857, he married Flora Macaulay and they had 17 children. At some time during the decades to follow, the spelling of the family name was changed from Tod to Todd. After James died in 1904, Spring Farm was divided between three of his sons; James Jr., Albert Henry, and Thomas.

Thomas Todd, James' youngest son, married **Mileva** Shaw (nee Compton) in 1911. Mileva was the daughter of Hudson's Bay Company trader Nevins Pym Compton and Catherine Macaulay. At the outbreak of WWI, Mileva, like many Saanich women, was left to run the family farm. While Thomas was serving overseas, Mileva was active in raising money for the Red Cross and was well respected locally for her efforts. During the Depression, she was president of the Saanich Welfare Society. She also served for many years as the social convener for the Gordon Head Athletic Club.

Above: Thomas and Mileva Todd, 1916. Taken just a few hours before Thomas left for overseas (1980-006-008b)

Below left : Windmill and water tower that supplied spring water to the home of Albert Henry and Anna Todd, 19 February 1943 (2009-003-004)

Below right: Spring Farm, ca. 1903 (2007-194-004)

1858

The most prominent topographical feature of Gordon Head is **Mount Douglas**. The SENĆOŦEN name for Mount Douglas is **PKOLS** which can be translated as "White Head." For W̱SÁNEĆ people, stories of PKOLS go back to when the Creator gathered stones from near Cordova Bay, and created the surrounding mountains by casting the stones out upon the land around. PKOLS was also a significant meeting place, used by people from different nations to exchange news.

During the period of early settlement by the Hudson's Bay Company, Mount Douglas was called **Cedar Hill**.

View of Mount Douglas from Mount Tolmie, ca. 1920 (2015-002-005)

In 1858, then Governor James Douglas claimed the mountain and parkland as government reserve. Sometime before 1911, the park was renamed Mount Douglas presumably after Governor James Douglas. In 1862, E.B. Jackson, who had a farm on the mountain, wrote to the Colonial Secretary asking that he might fence in and lease these acres but his request was turned down "principally because it has long been a place of habitual resort to the citizens of Victoria in holiday times." In earliest days, it was a long drive or walk to Mount Douglas Park, but by 1902, it was only a two-mile walk from the Royal Oak Station of the V&S railway. As the population of Gordon Head grew, the park became very popular for annual picnics and weekend excursions. Access to the park got a boost in the 1930s when Saanich and other municipal governments were looking for ways to give useful employment to the victims of the Depression. Huts were built within the park to house the workers who built Churchill Road that leads to the lookout at the top.

1859

Clara, Willie, and Elsie Merriman with the St. Luke's Choral Group, ca. 1906 or 1907 (2011-024-050)

Another early settler in Gordon Head was **Peter Merriman**. He made his first land purchase in 1857 but did not come to live in Gordon Head until a second large land purchase in 1859 which brought his holdings to over 300 acres. Peter Merriman is considered to be the **first dairyman** in Gordon Head. Although much of his property was rocky or open, Merriman also had many acres of forest to provide him with cordwood.
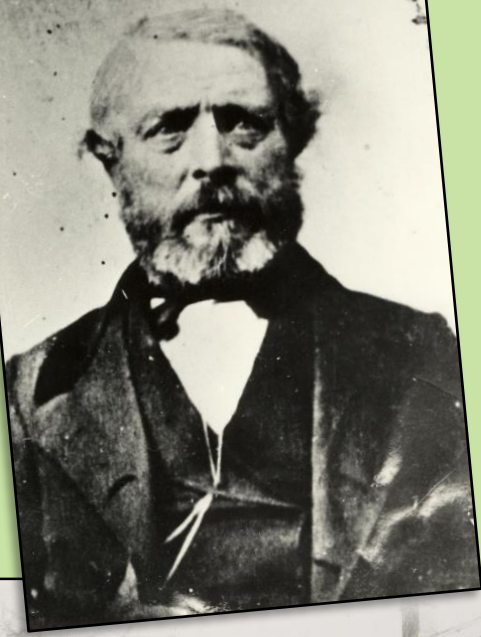
His property extended slightly north of today's Feltham Road, and was bordered by Blair Road to the south, Glendenning Road to the west, and Gordon Head Road to the east. In 1879, Merriman sold 14 acres of land on Gordon Head Road, to John Sinclair, who in turn sold it to Moses Smith in 1883. In 1884, Smith leased this land to two Chinese men, Kum Sing and Lee Ching for $.50 a month. The Merriman house was on the east side of Cedar Hill Road, probably near where Feltham Road intersects today, but was later destroyed by fire. Peter married Annie Hiller in 1884 and the couple had 5 children, but only their two sons lived to adulthood. Elizabeth, Elsie, and Clara died of tuberculosis between 1905 and 1907. Annie Merriman sometimes served as midwife to her neighbours. She helped deliver Alixena "Bee" Williamson (daughter of William and Wilhelmina Williamson) in 1903.

1859

In 1859, Hudson's Bay Company junior officer, **Charles Dodd**, his wife Grace (nee McTavish), and their 7 children moved to their newly purchased 200 acre property in Gordon Head. Their property was located between today's Torquay Drive and Ponoma Way, stretching from Kenmore Road to the sea. Less then a year later, Charles died leaving two fellow Hudson's Bay Company men, William F. Tolmie and Roderick Finlayson, to care for the property and for his widow and children. Their duties were apparently not only financial, for when in 1863 Grace Dodd was charged with "harboring and secreting five deserters" from the British barque *Haversham*, "Mrs. John Work appeared on behalf of Dr. Tolmie, guardian of Mrs. Dodd." In 1864, Grace married Alfred Gorridge, a labourer with the Hudson's Bay Company.

Following Grace's death in 1881, the 200 acres passed to the 7 Dodd children. At this time, the property was subdivided and the first rough version of **Tyndall Avenue** was created. The house, which had been the home of the Pollock family since probably around 1874 retained 10 acres. The Pollocks lived in Dodd house until around 1900. In 1978, the Dodd house was threatened with demolition, and was moved from 1710 Kenmore Avenue to Lambrick Park for preservation. Built in 1859, it is the oldest surviving home in Saanich and the municipality's first designated heritage building.

Above: Captain Charles Dodd, 1850s (1980-006-022)
Below: Exterior view of the Dodd House, 1978 (1990-026-001)

1870

Important Discovery—Is Mount Douglas a Mountain of Gold?

On Wednesday afternoon Mr Peter Cargotitch and Mr A W Piper of this city went grouse shooting. Victoria district was chosen as the theatre of their sport, and in pursuit of the toothsome game they ascended the steep side of Mount Douglas or Cedar Hill—that huge brown mass of rocks that rears its ugly head 2500 feet above sea-level, at a point four miles distant from Victoria in a northerly direction. From this altitude they enjoyed a magnificent view of the surrounding scenery, and while resting themselves, Mr Cargotitch observed a vein of grey quartz cropping out of the hard trap-rock on the very summit of the hill. With a piece of detached rock, he knocked off several specimens from the ledge and upon examination discovered that they were flecked with gold! The discoverers returned to town the same night, kept the matter a profound secret until yesterday morning, when they admitted several friends to their confidence, procured a few tools and conveyances and returned to the spot yesterday noon. With the aid of wedges and sledges they removed a few pounds of the rock and brought it to town. Some of the specimens show the gold plainly. One large lump—taken from a ledge 200 feet distant from the one first discovered—is very rich. The course of the ledge is N E and S W. During the afternoon about forty persons visited the locality and discoveries of several new lodes were made.
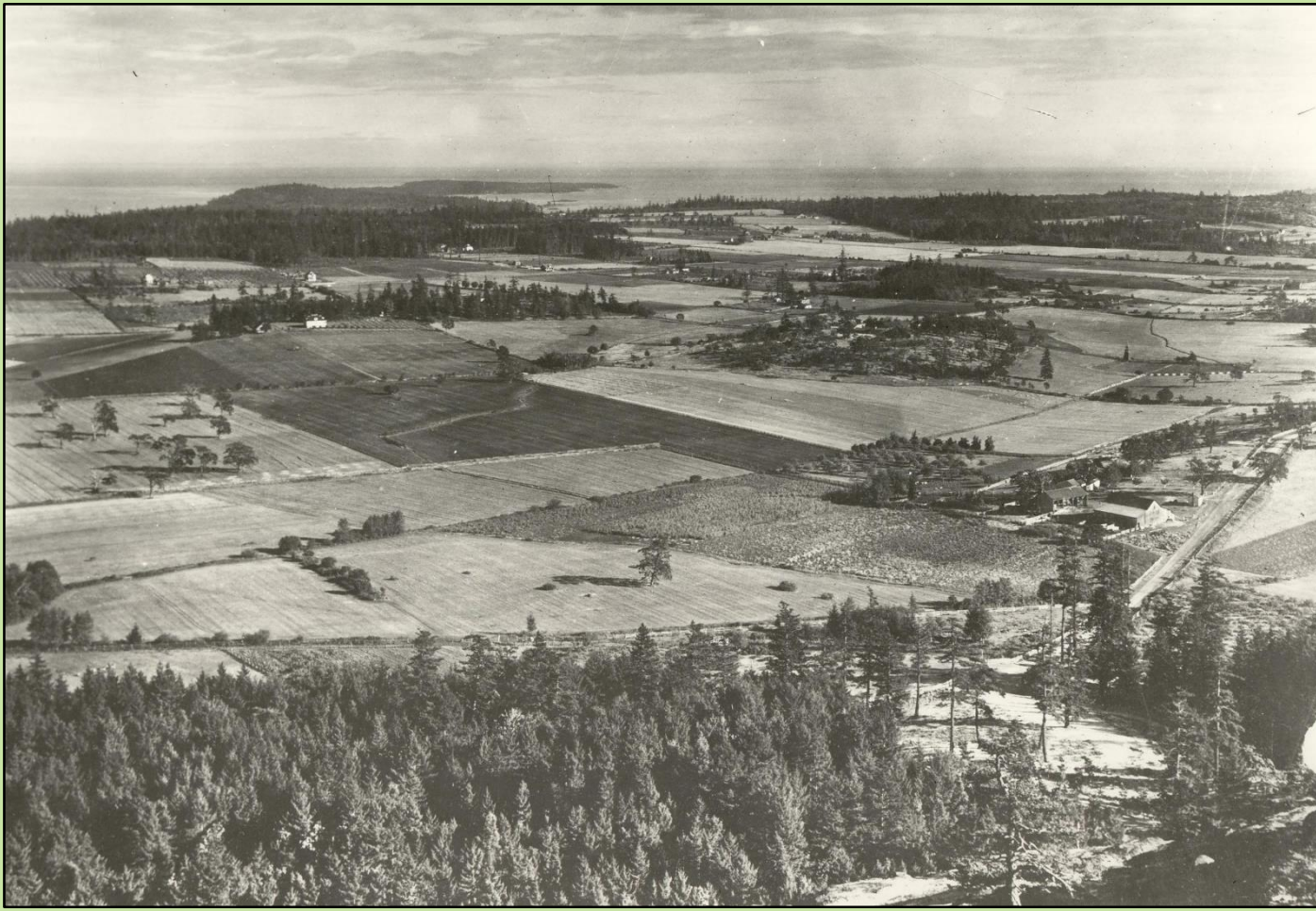
In the morning of Friday, September 2, 1870, the British Colonist reported that Wednesday prior, Mr. Peter Cargotitch and Mr. A.W. Piper had discovered **gold on Mount Douglas**. Following this news, many prospectors staked claims on Mount Douglas, but no more gold was ever found. Copper and zinc were also mined on Mount Douglas well into the early 1900s.

GOLD MOUNTAIN.— A number of persons visited the quartz range yesterday and returned with specimens containing both gold and silver. It is the opinion of some that the lead contains more silver than gold. An assay to test its value will be made to-morrow at the Bank of British North America.

Left: Daily Colonist, 2 Sept 1870
Right: Daily Colonist, 4 Sept 1870

1872

View of Gordon Head farms from Mount Douglas, ca. early 1900s (1984-008-001b)

When **Michael Finnerty** moved to Gordon Head in 1872, the forest extended unbroken from Cedar Hill Cross Road to the sea. He settled in the area that became the University of Victoria and his 300 acre property extended as far east as Haro Road. Finnerty was a **dairyman** and in the beginning, most of his milk was sold to the Royal Jubilee Hospital but in time his milk was going to 250 homes in Victoria. It was delivered by cart along the then narrow and rough **Finnerty Road**. By 1911, Finnerty had sold the majority of his property and the remaining 66 acres were leased to Fred Wooster.

1883/1884

Around 1883 or 1884, Henry Dodd, son of early Gordon Head settler and Hudson's Bay Company officer Charles Dodd, sold his portion of the Dodd property to **Dr. John Ash**, oculist and Provincial Secretary to British Columbia's first Legislature after Confederation. Dr. Ash, after whom Ash Road is named, called his cottage **Jersey Hall** in memory of his second wife. He was responsible for cutting the first trail down to **Margaret Bay** and is said to have named it after Margaret Pollock, the daughter of the Pollock family who had been living in the former Dodd house since around 1874.

Margaret Bay, 1900 (1984-012-007)

1884

Geoffrey Vantreight Sr. with workers on strawberry farm, ca. 1910 (1984-012-006d)

John and Florence Vantreight emigrated from Dublin to Saanich in 1884 and settled in the northeast corner of Gordon Head in a section that had originally been a part of John Work's extensive land holdings. John had been a civil engineer for the Irish government. A vocal advocate for local improvements, John frequently made the seven-mile walk to the legislature buildings to petition for new roads and a school in Gordon Head.

When John died in 1896, 16 year old Geoffrey took over running the farm. Eventually he bought 20 acres of his own on Tyndall Avenue, and in 1906 he and his brother, Sidney moved into a small shack on the property, while his mother, sisters, and youngest brother moved into Victoria. In 1914, Geoffrey married Maud Bartholomew and by the 1920s, their apple and berry crops were so profitable they were able to build a larger house on Tyndall Avenue where they raised their family. In 1913 Geoffrey persuaded his neighbour, William Edwards, to part with some of his daffodil bulbs, but he never made the flowers his primary crop. In the 1940s and 1950s, **Geoffrey Jr**. turned the daffodil crop into a thriving business, earning him the title **Daffodil King**. Soon, he was shipping bulbs and flowers across Canada and around the world.

John Vantreight's Gordon Head property at North Bay, ca. 1886-1890 (1984-012-005)

1885

Old snake fence on Gordon Head Road, 1906 (1983-011-002)

In June 1885, John Vantreight petitioned the Provincial government to improve access to the north east part of Gordon Head. The petition was successful and by the end of the year, **Gordon Head Road**, had been widened and graded. By November 1886, access for land owners was again improved as the road connecting Gordon Head Road to Tyndall Avenue, now Ferndale Road and Grandview Drive, was completed. The new Ferndale Road replaced an earlier trail nearer the coast and was built on land donated by James Houlihan.

1888

Craigelachie, W.C. Grant's home on Ferndale Road, ca. 1900 (1980-006-028)

In 1888, **William Charles Grant** and his brother James bought land near present-day Tyndall Avenue. William Grant and his wife Isabella (nee Eddie) had two houses on that land, the first they called Homewood and then further north, **Craigelachie**, which was located on the property that later became known as Strangewood. W.C. Grant was the first to cultivate strawberries in Gordon Head in the 1890s. The strawberry fields at Craigelachie increased in acreage so much that outside help had to be enlisted in picking. The first pickers on Grant's farm were First Nations, some Songhees and some Kiksilah from up-Island. Each June a dozen or more canoes might be seen drawn up on the beach at Margaret Bay.

In 1905, Grant bought part of the Pollock property (which had belonged to Captain Dodd) and built a new house on Torquay Drive. In anticipation of the BC Electric Company installing lines in Gordon Head, the house was wired for electricity. Unfortunately, electricity did not reach the area until 1921, by which time the Grants had departed for the Cariboo district. In addition to operating a successful farm, William Grant was one of the first school trustees at Gordon Head School, holding the office for 13 years. He also served as Saanich councillor in 1906 and 1907.

1889

Daily Colonist, 14 May 1880

Andrew Henderson Strachan and his wife Isabella moved to Gordon Head in 1889 having previously operated a grocery store on Johnson Street and a broom factory in Victoria West. In 1889, Strachan moved his broom business to Gordon Head and built a house at 4226 Gordon Head Road. The first house was demolished, but their second house, built in 1907, is listed on the Saanich Heritage Register. Strachan was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1900 and performed the swearing-in of the first councillors for the newly organized Municipality of Saanich in 1906. He continued this duty until his death in 1921. Strachan was also long-time president of the Saanich Liberal Association.

1891

By 1890, parents in Gordon Head were growing frustrated that their children had to walk to Cedar Hill to attend school, so they circulated a petition for a new school to be built, and the completed petition was carried to the legislature by John Vantreight. The petition was successful and **Gordon Head School** opened in August 1891. The schoolhouse was built on a half-acre of land donated by Mr. Deans near what is now Grandview Drive and Tyndall Avenue. The first trustees were William Deans, John Vantreight, and W.C. Grant. The first teacher was Miss Marion Gordon.

In 1912, to accommodate growing enrollment, a small piece of farmland was purchased directly to the east of the original school and, rather than demolishing the first school, a second was built next to it. Gordon Head School burned down in 1925 but was quickly rebuilt and operated until 1956 when the new Gordon Head Elementary School opened on Kenmore Road. In 1957, the Gordon Head schoolhouse was declared surplus and turned over to the Municipality to be used by other organizations. It was demolished in 1966.

Above: Class photograph, 1904 (probably Gordon Head School) (2010-028-002) Three students identified: Charlotte Watson (second row, 4th from left), Fanny Strachan (back row, centre), and Airlie Watson (back row, 4th from left)

Below: Gordon Head School division 2, grades 1-4 with teacher Miss Girling, 1945 (2014-008-056)

Right: Second and first Gordon Head Schools taken from Aitkens strawberry field, ca. 1912 (2015-031-147) In foreground, present day Grandview Drive would be on right.

1898

The first **Gordon Head Community Hall** was erected in 1898 on land donated by strawberry farmer William C. Grant. Mr. W. Clayton, teacher at the one-room Gordon Head School from 1895-1897, founded the **Gordon Head Mutual Improvement Society** in 1896 as a debating club. The society was the impetus behind building the first Gordon Head Community Hall to accommodate the group and its popular activities. The demand for a community hall had existed for some time, and after the hall opened its doors on November 25, 1898, it quickly became a social and cultural centre for families living in the area.

Although the Society was the hub of community life for many years, in the 1920s the hall was gradually used less and less, and it fell into disrepair.. After the Gordon Head Mutual Improvement Society broke up in 1929, the hall was sold for back taxes to Arthur Lambrick who, in 1932, had the hall moved down to his own property at 4146 Tyndall Avenue, adjacent to today's Lambrick Park. In its new position, the hall was rejuvenated with an added kitchen area and an addition along the south side of the building to be used for carpet bowling. Initially, Lambrick leased the hall to the Gordon Head Badminton Club and later to the Gordon Head Athletic Club. During WWII, the hall which was now known simply as **Lambrick's Hall**, was used for community war work and to host classes in St. John's Ambulance First Aid. In 1946, the newly revived Gordon Head Mutual Improvement Society purchased the hall and land back from Lambrick, who generously agreed to sell the hall to the Society for the original price he had paid for it and with no added interest. The Society's purpose was once again to carry out activities in the hall which would enrich community life. The hall was updated with heating facilities and a coat of paint, and in 1955, the popular Garden Club began using the hall for their meetings.

Left: Gordon Head Community Hall, 4146 Tyndall Ave, 1972 (1980-010-021a)

Right: Reeve Hugh Curtis and Mrs. Gertrude Miller (nee Grant) cutting cake at the Gordon Head Mutual Improvement Society 70th anniversary, 1967 (1981-027-006)

1900

On 1 November 1900, Mrs. Annie McRae opened Gordon Head's **first post office** at their home at 4495 Tyndall Avenue. Six days later, Norman Shaw, postmaster at Mount Tolmie Post Office, delivered the first sack of mail postmarked Gordon Head P.O. The next postmaster was Bella Grant, and later, Florence Gray ran the post office for one year from her home on Pollock Road.

From 1909 to 1920, **Elizabeth Watson** ran the post office from her home at what is now 1775 Barrie Road (formerly Ash Road). Elizabeth and **George Watson** built the home they called **Thrums** on property formerly owned by Dr. Ash, converting his cottage "Jersey Hall" into a barn. Outside the back door of Thrums was a small glass-walled room where residents came to buy stamps, register letters, or weigh parcels. Elizabeth Watson was also the first president of the Gordon Head branch of the Women's Institute, and George Watson served at various times as Reeve, Councillor, School Trustee, and Police Commissioner of Saanich. During his time as Reeve from 1920-1923, he fought for a water system to be installed in Gordon Head.

Above: Elizabeth Watson and daughter Marjorie at Thrums, 1930s (2014-008-110)

Below left: Watson family and others in front of Thrums, 1910s (2014-008-012)

Below right: George Watson at Barrie Road farm, 1910s (1981-002-003)

1901

In 1901, **Malcolm Dunnett** brought his wife, Jessie (nee Skinner) and their four daughters to live in Gordon Head. They would later have another daughter and 3 sons. Malcolm had purchased the property sometime earlier, and while the family were living in the Yukon, Malcolm asked his neighbour, carpenter Isaac Somers, to build them a house. The house was located at 4375 Tyndall Avenue. During the next few years, until enough land could be cleared, Malcolm continued to work as a shipwright in Victoria. He hired Chinese labourers to assist with felling large trees and eventually, was able to become a full-time farmer. After Jessie's death in 1957, eldest son Charles continued to live and farm on the property. In the early 1960s, The Anglican Synod purchased the land for what would become **St. Dunstan's Anglican Church** and the Dunnett family home was demolished.

Dunnett house on Tyndall Avenue, 1902 (1980-006-030)

1908

Ozard house on Tyndall Avenue, 1910s (1980-009-003a)

Fruit grower **William N. Ozard** and his wife Elizabeth Thomasina (nee Simons) relocated to Victoria from Winnipeg about 1908. Their sons, **Harry MacDonald Ozard** (who probably built the house located at 4456 Tyndall Avenue) and **Walter John Ozard**, and their daughter **Marguerite Jane Ozard**, continued to farm the land after their parents' deaths; William in 1909 and Elizabeth in 1918. In addition to farming, Walter was trained as a typesetter and worked as a compositor at the Daily Colonist and Victoria Times. Marguerite taught at Strawberry Vale School and then, from 1920 until her retirement in 1932, was the principal of Craigflower School. Marguerite was still living at the family house and operating part of the original farm at the time of her death in 1954.

1909

Martin Mallett and his wife emigrated from England in 1909 and 1910 respectively. They lived at the corner of Gordon Head Road and Ruby Road. Martin Mallett worked for the District of Saanich with the road crews for 42 years beginning in 1910. He worked on Shelbourne Street when it was put through in 1915 and on Mount Tolmie Road (now Richmond Road). The last job he worked on was Royal Oak Avenue. Mrs. Mallett worked as a seamstress at the University School on Richmond Road.

Above: Mrs. Mallett with power driven log saw, Ruby Road, 1910s (1981-012-015a)

Below: Martin, Fred, and Mrs. Mallett with horses, Ruby Road, ca. 1900 (1981-012-005)

1910/1912

Inez Mitchell's party, 15 July 1914 (2020-002-006)

Some of the other girls pictured are: Marjorie Watson, Ursula Edwards, Kay Dunnett, Dallas Cameron, Bee Williamson, Connie Beales, Pam Edwards, and Maude Aitkens

Edward Hamilton and Florence Rebecca (nee McInnis) **Mitchell** came to Saanich from Toronto around 1910 or 1912 and, like many other Gordon Head farmers, they grew strawberries and later daffodils. They called their home at 1955 Saltair Crescent, **Avalon**. During WWII, Florence Mitchell was very active in the community, directing the activities of the Gordon Head Red Cross as Mileva Todd had done during WWI. She was also an executive member of the Gordon Head Athletic Club, and headed a volunteer project to support young mothers during the Depression. Their daughter **Inez Mitchell** was the Assistant Provincial Archivist from 1954 to 1971.
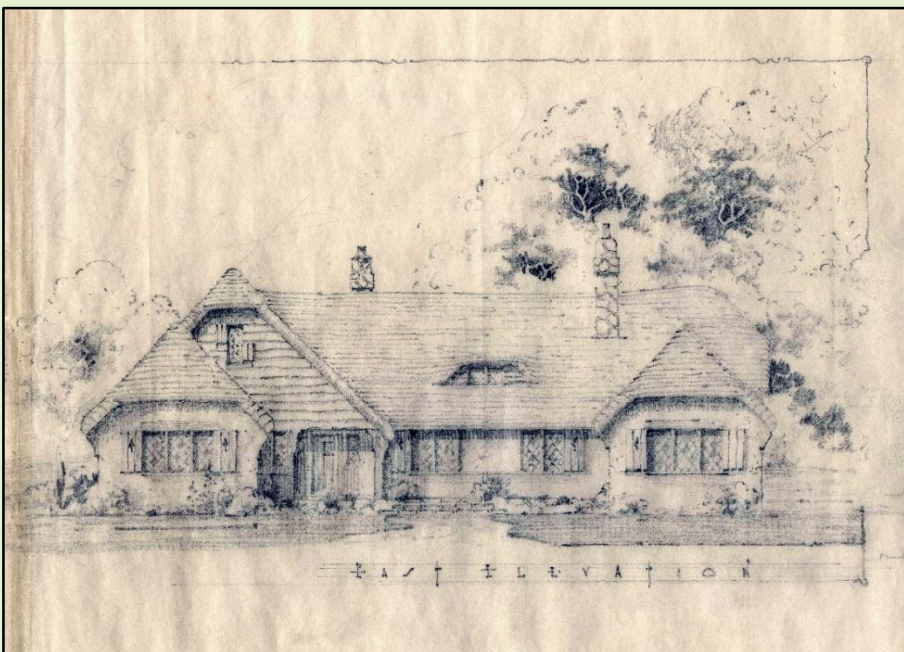
1910

Algernon Henry **Pease** and is wife Letitia Jean (nee Grydges) came to Saanich around 1910 and settled in the area of Finnerty and Sinclair Roads, which later became part of the University of Victoria campus. They called their property **Hamsterley Farm** and operated a successful strawberry jam factory. They also made chocolates and candy, sold produce, operated a chicken farm, and made home-made wine which they marketed during Prohibition. One of the last remaining water towers in Saanich is located on the Pease's former property. It stands as a reminder of the importance of market gardening in the area's early development. Until Saanich Waterworks reached rural areas, many farmers had gravity-fed water tanks like this. The Pease house was moved and was still serving as the University of Victoria's Student Health Services Center in 2008. In the 1920s, the Peases sold Hamsterley Farm and went on to open the Hamsterley Tea Room on the Malahat, then Hamsterley Lakeside and later the Toby Jug at Elk Lake.

From 1933 to 1946, Alice Maud Robertson (nee Ferguson) owned the property. She renamed it **Drummadoon**, later changed to Upper Drummadoon when her daughter's house, Lower Drummadoon, was built down the hill on Sinclair Road.

Above: Water tower at 3815 Haro Road, ca. 1968 (1978-001-015)
Below: Plans of Drummadoon, 1936 (2009-039)

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Saanich Archives is located inside the 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.

For more information contact us at:
archives@saanich.ca
250 475 5494 ext. 3478

Above: Woman enjoying the view from Mount Douglas. Cormorant Point and Ash Road below, after 1911 (1989-017-080)

Right: John Woods standing in a field of larkspur at his home on Ash Road, 1910s (1989-017-080)