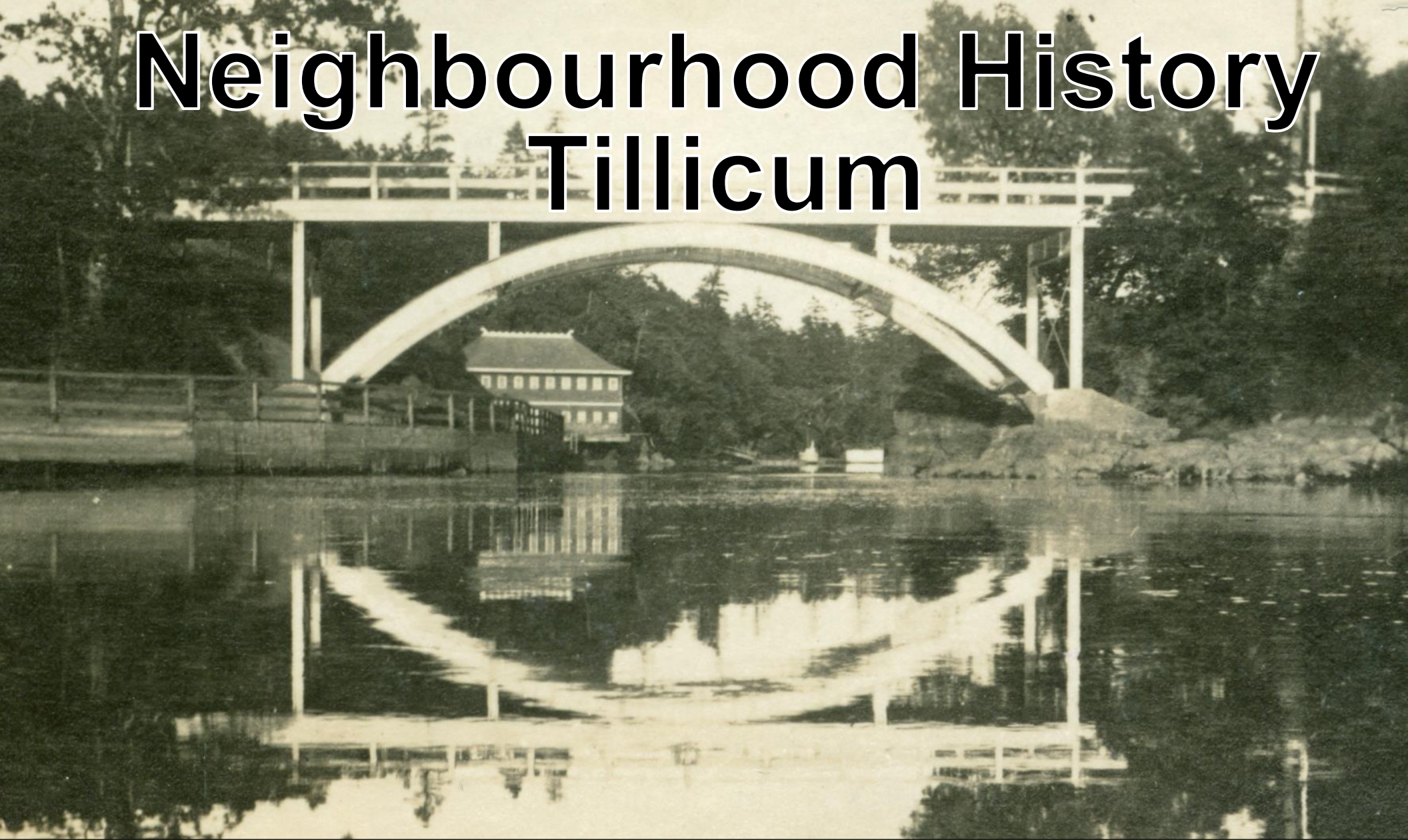
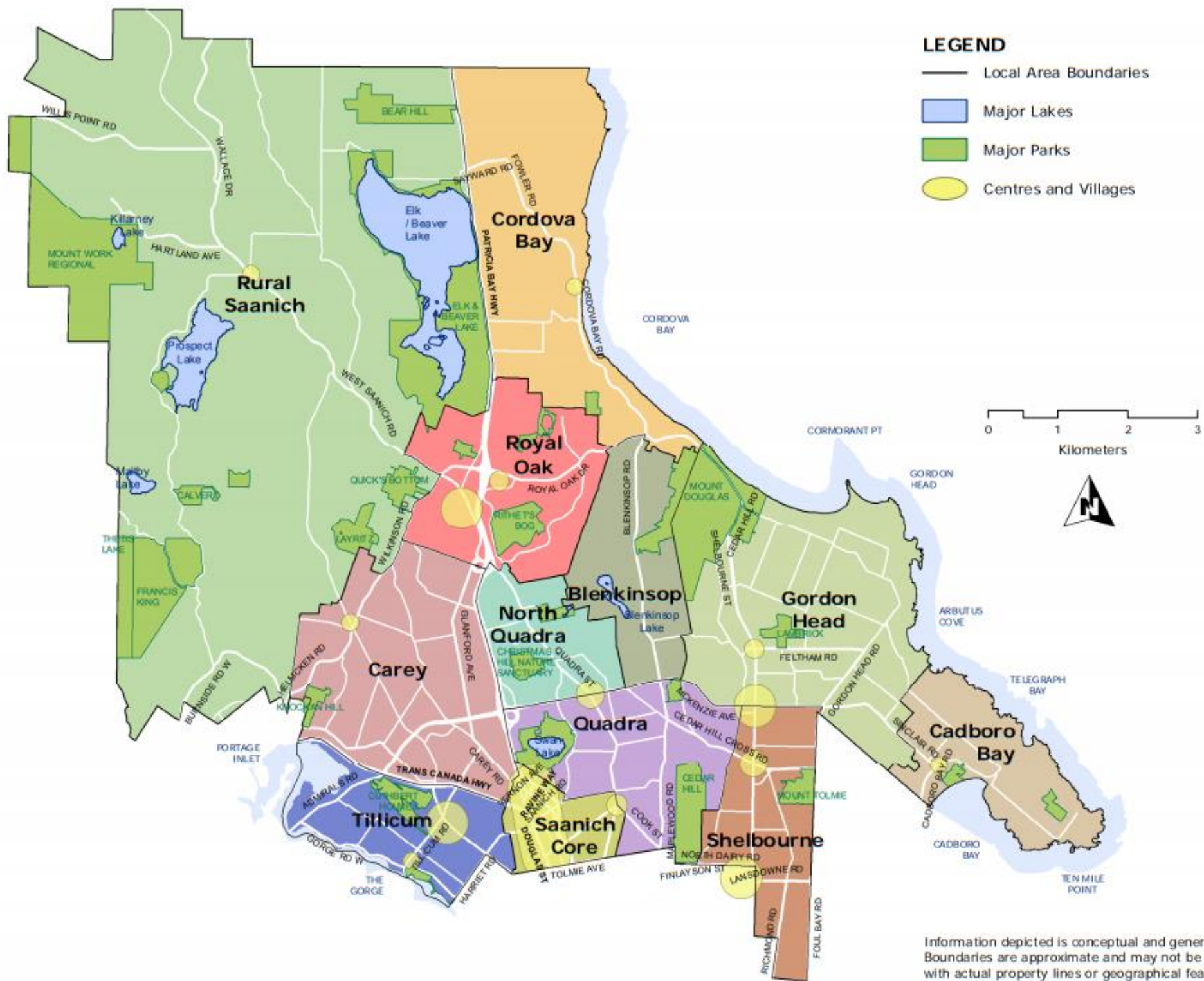


Neighbourhood History Tillicum



View of Gorge Bridge with bathing house in the distance, 1915 (2010-050-824)

Prior to European contact, what we now call the Tillicum neighbourhood of Saanich provided both shelter and food to First Nations people. During colonial times, it was developed as an agricultural region. Surrounded by the Portage Inlet to the west, the Gorge Waterway to the south, the Trans-Canada Highway to the north and the City of Victoria to the east, Tillicum became one of Saanich's earliest residential areas. During the housing boom prior to the First World War, Victoria's water services were extended to the area. The Gorge was a popular summertime recreational destination from the 1890s to the 1940s. Portage Inlet and Gorge Waterway provided substantial fishing and marine recreational opportunities, and in 1923 these areas were designated as part of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Over time, the dramatic rise in the recreational use of automobiles created a demand for roadside tourist facilities such as motels, guest houses and service stations. Until the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway, Gorge Road was the primary access route to other parts of Vancouver Island.



Information depicted is conceptual and generalized. Boundaries are approximate and may not be consistent with actual property lines or geographical features. For clarification and interpretation, please consult with the Saanich Planning Department.



First Nations canoe race on the Gorge, "The Free" bathing house in the background, 1932 (2015-017-065)

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



The Gorge, 1929 (2007-196-274)

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 **Tillicum** was signed by the Kosampson, and encompassed an area which included *“the whole of the lands situated and lying between the Island of the Dead, in the Arm or Inlet of Camoson, and the head of the said Inlet, embracing the lands on the west side and north of [the] line to Esquimalt, beyond the Inlet three miles of the Coliquitz Valley, and the land on the east side of the arm, enclosing Christmas Hill and Lake and the lands west of those objects.”*

The condition of the treaties state: *“The conditions of our understanding of this sale is this, 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 online through Indigenous Services Canada)

Gorge Bridge

The **Gorge Bridge** crosses at the narrowest part of the Gorge Waterway and is one of only two connectors from Saanich into Esquimalt. The first record of any bridge over the Gorge was in 1848, when a bridge was created by simply laying down several logs over the narrows. In 1867, the logs were replaced by a new bridge which opened just a few hours before the first Queen's Birthday Regatta. It was immediately used by spectators eager for a better view of the celebration. The next replacement came in 1872, and this time the bridge was built with thicker lumber and placed higher up the bank. Fourth and fifth versions were constructed in 1882 and 1899. In 1933, the wooden bridge was replaced with a steel-framed structure. Finally, the current and seventh bridge, built in 1967, was reinforced with concrete and widened to 38 feet, providing space for a pedestrian sidewalk.



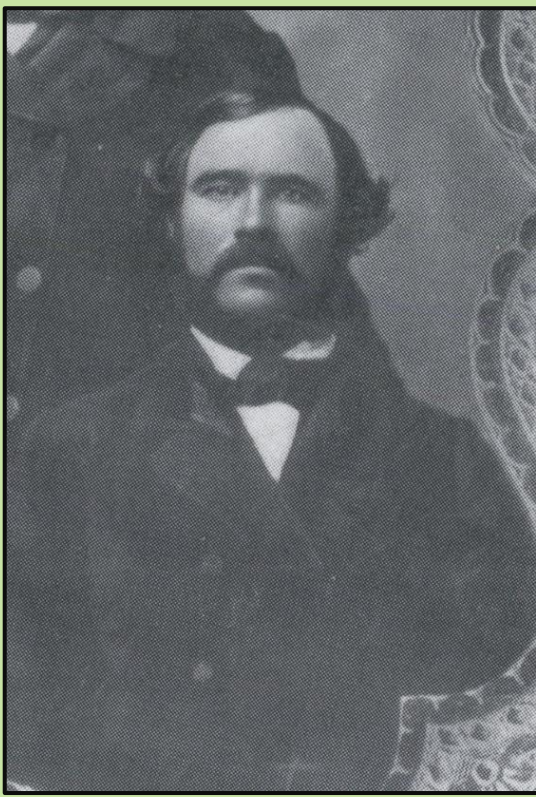
Above: Early log bridge over the Gorge between 1848 and 1867 (1984-019-001)

Below: Gorge Bridge ca. 1920 (2006-005-003)



The story of the site under the Gorge Bridge, as told by Songhees elder Jimmy Fraser to anthropologist Wilson Duff in the 1950s, relates that the Transformer, Haals, saw a girl, **Camossung**, crying beside her grandfather at the narrows in the Gorge because she was hungry. After asking her about what she liked to eat, Haals stocked the inlet with her favourite foods and then turned the two into large boulders, creating the rapid and reversing falls. Embedded in the stones was some of the Transformer's power, so young teens would dive into the rapids and swim down to touch the rocks. By this feat, they would absorb some of that power, show their bravery, and prepare themselves for the journey to adulthood. The stones of Camossung and her grandfather protected the resources of the Gorge because they made it impossible for pleasure and commercial fishing craft to pass beyond the narrows. That protection lasted until June 1960, when the proprietor of the Gorge Boathouse dynamited the rocks to allow passage.

Statue of Camossung by Frank Dobbs located in Gorge Waterway Park



1849

James Yates, a Scottish ship's carpenter, and his wife, Mary, came to Victoria in 1849. A year later, their first child was born in Fort Victoria. By 1859, the couple had six more children. Yates was originally hired on a three-year contract with HBC; later, he became a private wine merchant. In January 1851, he secured the colony's first retail liquor license and established a successful business, *Ship Inn Tavern* on Wharf Street. He and Mary purchased more than 300 acres of land along the Gorge, but they transferred the estate to local agents when the family returned to Scotland in 1864.

*James Yates, 1856
(detail of photo in:
The Gorge of
Summers Gone.
D. Minaker, 1998.
p.14)*

1855

In 1853, the first Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island voted to build two schools, one in Fort Victoria and the other near Craigflower Farm. **Craigflower School** was completed in 1855 at a cost of \$4300. The two-story building had a single classroom and included living quarters for the teacher and the children from outlying areas who boarded there. The total cost also covered equipment like maps, slates, desks, a blackboard, a wall clock, and a globe.

The school opened on March 5, 1855, the first class consisting of eight boys and six girls with Charles Clark as their teacher. The schoolhouse was also used for church services and for events like social evenings, meetings and lectures.



Craigflower School, 1860s (2019-014-070)

1856

A version of the **Craigflower Bridge** on Admirals Road has been in place since about 1856. In 1933, the bridge was rebuilt with creosoted timber and concrete at the cost of \$15,000. Reports from 2010 and 2011 found that the bridge carried roughly 18,000 cars every day, and that 42% of that traffic was not local to either Saanich or View Royal. In 2013, a new project was launched to increase load bearing capabilities and address structural issues with the bridge. The replacement bridge cost \$16.8 million and was completed in 2014.



Building Craigflower Bridge, ca 1933 (1982-010-006b)

1867

On May 21, 1867, the first **Queen's Birthday Regatta** was held. It featured a variety of races, including one specifically for Chinese men. In recognition of the event, a civic holiday was called, and thousands of spectators gathered around the Gorge for boat racing, picnics and other entertainment. In 1886, the first illuminated boat parade was held as boats proceeded slowly down the Arm. This event later included paper lanterns on the bridges, boathouses and homes along the route, and culminated in a huge bonfire. Fireworks were added to the celebration in the 1890s. Music was a big part of the regatta with barges full of musicians, and bands filling the local bandstands. Competitions at the regatta included service men, First Nations, and club oarsmen. First Nations canoe races, in which local bands raced against each other for prize money, began in 1870.



Gorge Regatta, First Nations canoe races, 1910 (1981-013-004)



Above: Water parade, Queen's Birthday Regatta on the Gorge, 1947 (2010-028-008)

Left: Regatta at the Gorge, ca. 1910 (2011-051-001)

Regatta at the Gorge, Victoria, B.C.

GRAND REGATTA
ON THE
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

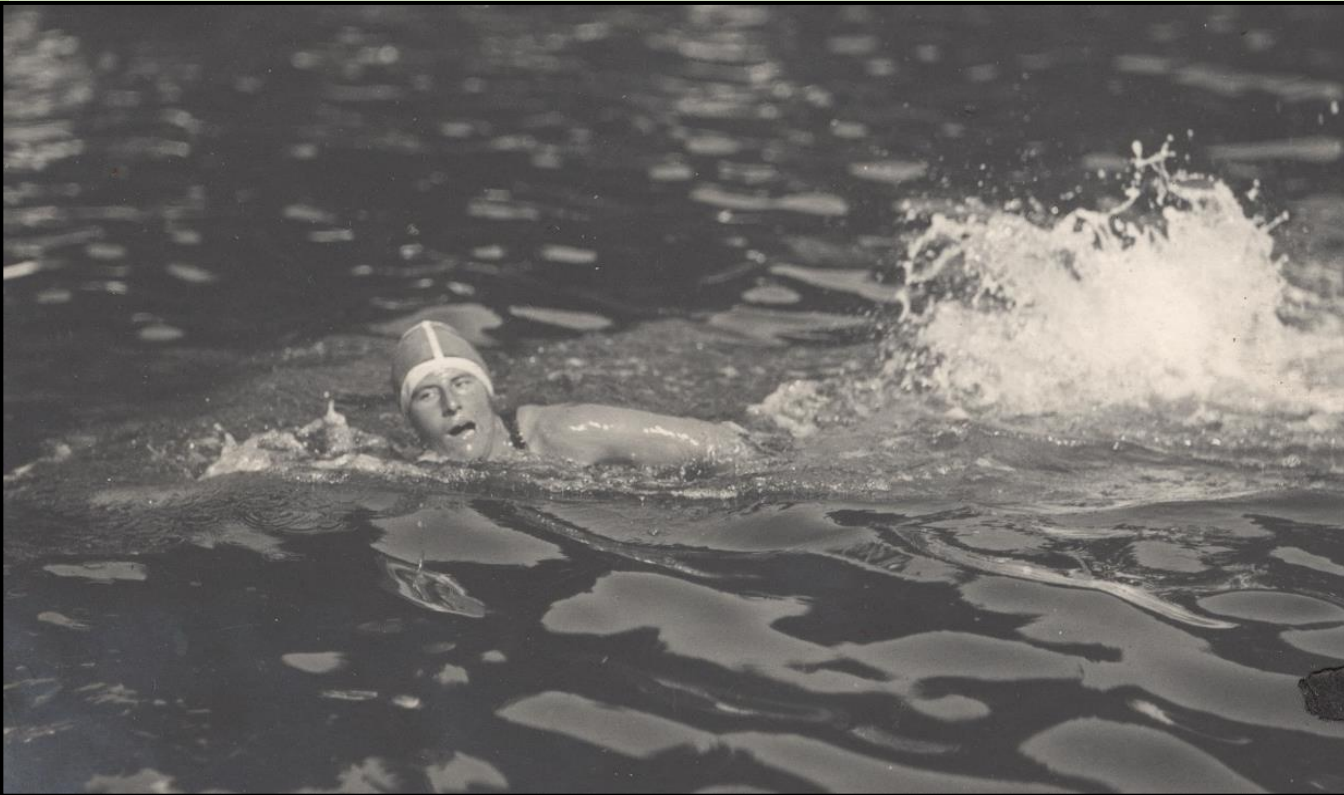
*Advertisement for the first regatta
Daily Colonist, May 21, 1867*

The Gorge

The **Gorge Waterway** is characterised by a narrow tidal channel that connects the Victoria harbour with the shallow, landlocked basin of Portage Inlet. From the 1890s to the 1940s, the Gorge was a popular local destination, providing abundant fishing and recreational opportunities.

Swimming competitions on the Gorge began in July of 1908, with two men from the YMCA competing against one another. The most consistently successful competitor in local swims was national champion **Audrey Griffin**. She used a steady trudgen stroke (a forerunner of the front crawl) to win every race held between 1915 and 1923.

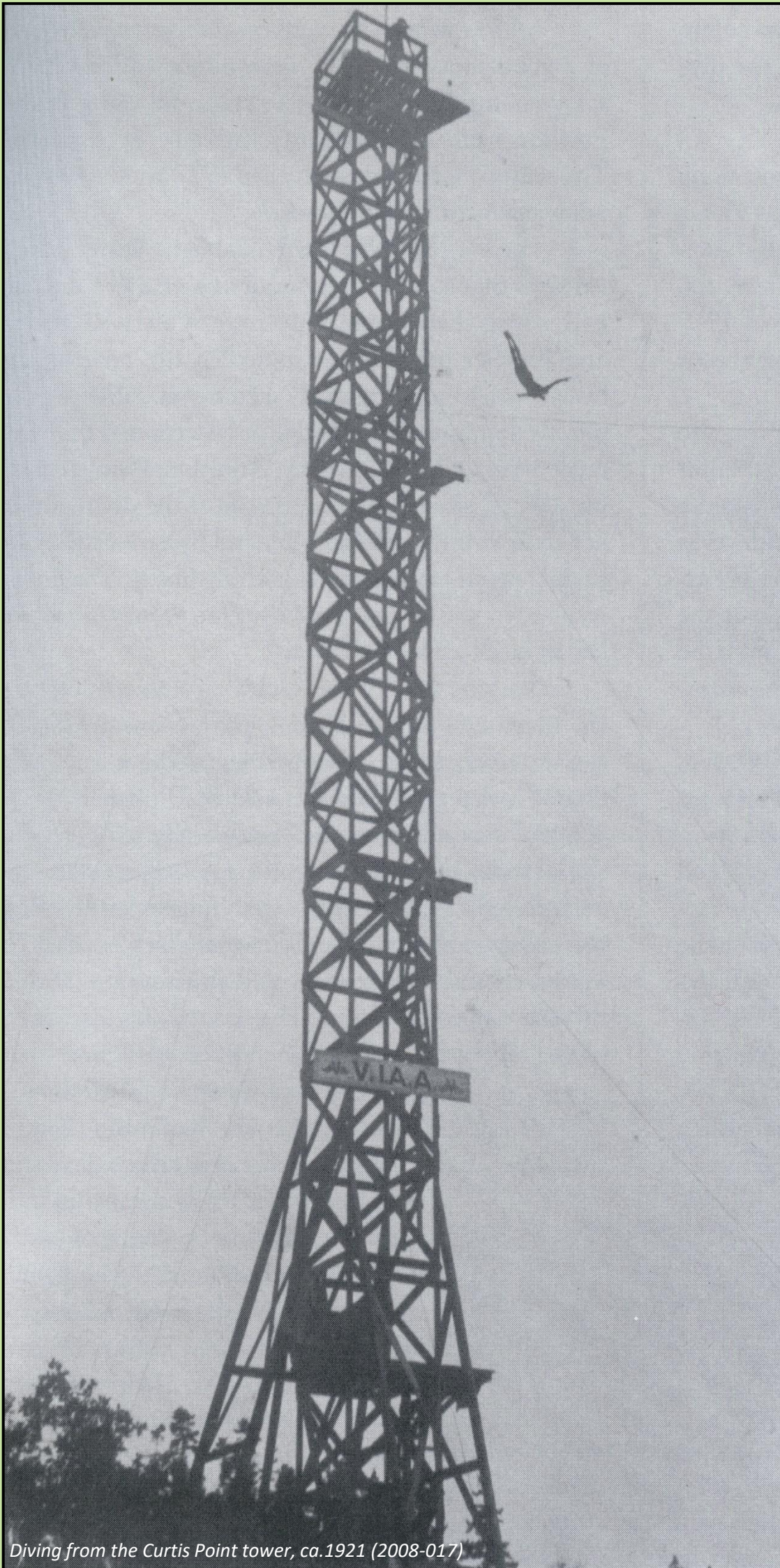
The Gorge began to fall out of favour in the 1940s when it earned a reputation as an unpleasant place to swim because of problems like muddiness and sewage from leaking septic tanks. In 1966, Saanich acquired 9.9 acres along the waterfront for \$14,850, and in the same year, the land along the Gorge was officially dedicated as parkland in perpetuity. A beautification project, launched in 1967 and completed in 1973, resulted in **Gorge Waterway Park**. The mid-1970s and 1980s saw focus shift toward improving water quality along the treasured waterway. This effort was largely successful, and in 2012 the first annual **Gorge Swim Fest** was held.



Audrey Griffin finishing 3-mile swim on the Gorge, 1923 (2012-034-015)



Gorge Waterway, 1973 (2015-014-093)



Diving from the Curtis Point tower, ca.1921 (2008-017)

Diving competitions and exhibitions were a feature of the many swimming galas held on the Gorge in the early 1900s. Huge crowds witnessed spectacular dives from structures with heights that frightened even the most experienced of divers. At 110 feet above the water, the diving tower at Curtis Point was the tallest. Only two young men, **Billy Muir** and **Buck Calder**, dared to risk diving from the tower into fifteen feet of water.

On August 5, 1922, tragedy struck when nineteen-year-old Billy took his final dive of the day from the tower. Though the dive looked successful, it quickly became apparent that he was struggling to keep himself afloat in the water. He was pulled to shore and taken to hospital, where it was confirmed that his spinal cord had been crushed. Confined to a wheelchair, Billy Muir died at the age of twenty-three.

Because of the accident, the diving tower was cut down to twenty-five feet.



Daily Colonist, August 6, 1922

World War 1

During World War 1, **George and Beatrice Woodward** lived at **590 Gorge Road West**. Starting in the early days of the war, Beatrice and her little Spitz dog **Muggins** were active in fundraising for the war effort. Muggins sat on a special stand near the BC Parliament Buildings or walked the streets of downtown Victoria with donation boxes harnessed to his sides. By the end of the war, Muggins had raised over \$21,000, roughly \$360,000 in today's currency.

For his efforts, Muggins became an international celebrity. He was photographed with important public figures like the Prince of Wales and General Sir Arthur Currie. Postcards bearing the little dog's image were sent around the world, war service medals were awarded to him from several countries, and fan mail was received from many parts of the globe. Muggins continued post-war fundraising until his death in 1920.



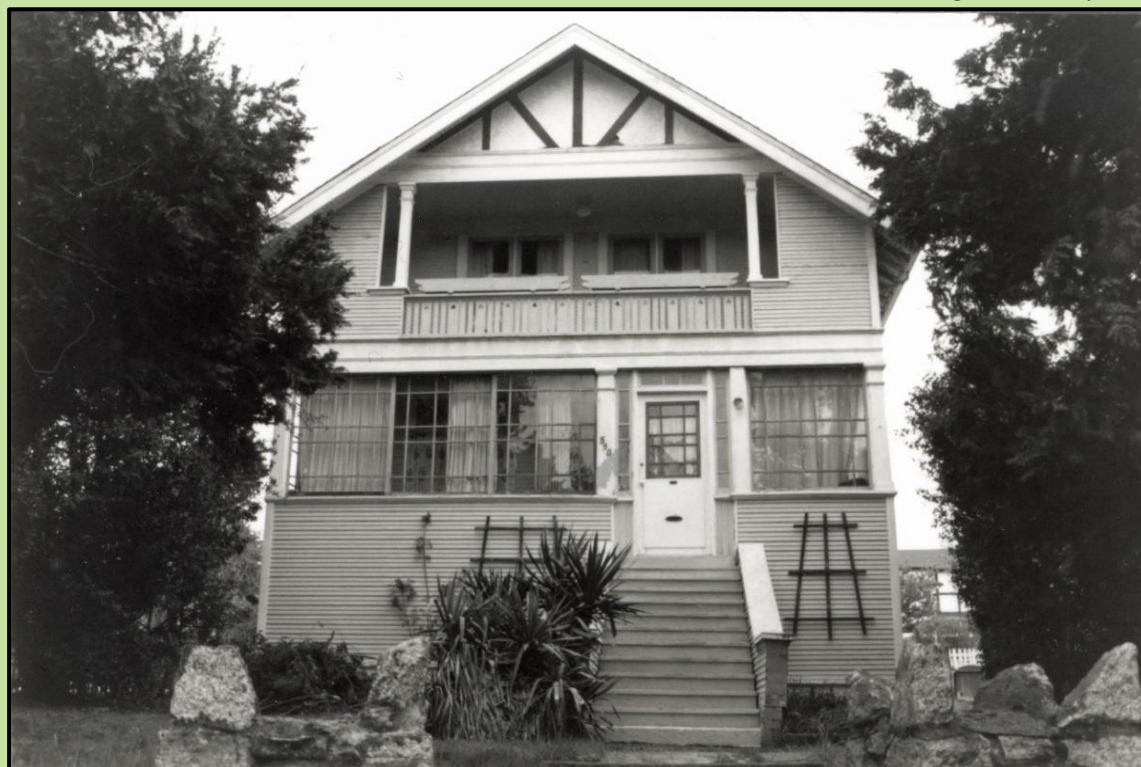
Medals, Muggins (Red Cross dog) collection, Saanich Archives



Muggins at his portable collection stand for the Red Cross, 1918 (2015-028-009)

590, Gorge Road West, ca. 1987 (2006-015-278a)

The Woodward home is listed on the Saanich Heritage Inventory.





Above: Esquimalt Military Hospital medal
Right: Canadian Red Cross Society medal

“MUGGINS” Victoria, B. C.
 COLLECTED OVER \$1,000

Postcard of Muggins the Red Cross Dog, ca. 1915 (2018-019-001)



Muggins with General Sir Arthur Currie, 1919 (2015-028-005)

“My dad survived the kill gas of Ypres, the bloody battles of Passchendaele and Vimy Ridge right up to the Hindenburg line. We all went to the CPR docks to welcome him home in 1919. My dad leaving, his returning, the bad news of his wound are all a blur in my memory, but in my mind, I still see that little white dog Muggins, tail waving jauntily, going proudly on his rounds collecting money for the Red Cross.”

*-- Jim Ferguson, age 94
 Times Colonist, 9 November 2003.*



Muggins with injured soldier, Esquimalt Military Hospital, 1918 (2015-028-009)

1914

St Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church was originally called St. Jude's when it was built in 1914. In 1923, the name was changed to St. Martin's and in 1926 a new, larger church was built for the congregation. The older building remained as a parish hall. The newer church was designed by architect J.C.M. Keith, who designed numerous churches including Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria, and the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer in Calgary.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church, 550 Obed Avenue, ca. 1940. (2018-024-001)



Harold Diggon, 1916 (detail of 1981-004-007)



DIGGONISMS—"It requires no explanation when your wife goes to an auction sale and pays \$4.00 for a fifty-cent sofa cushion. Auctions speak louder than words."—Diggon Printing Co., 706 Yates St. Buy your personal Xmas Cards in Victoria—We have the largest stock.

Daily Colonist, October 26, 1917

1916

Harold Montague Diggon was born in England, coming to Canada in the early 1900s. In 1910, he moved to Victoria and began working for the Daily Colonist, where he worked in the advertisement department for a time, before opening his own business, the Diggon Printing Company. There, he was known for the 'Diggonisms' in his ads, little witticisms to catch the reader's eye. During the war years, Diggon was the second half of a magic-comedy duo which performed for local fundraising events. From 1916 to 1918, Diggon represented Ward 7, the Gorge-Tillicum area, on Saanich Council. He served on the local school board and police commission into the 1920s. In 1919, he ran unsuccessfully for Reeve of Saanich. He and his wife Lucy Hallat, and their daughter Ethel, lived at 2863 Parkview Drive from 1915 until 1940. Harold Diggon died at the age of 73 in April 1955. Saanich Archives holds the Harold M. Diggon fonds (2007-015) which includes documents from his time on Council, and miscellaneous correspondence.



Tillicum School, ca. 1920s (1983-004-001)

Tillicum School on Albina Street was first planned in 1914, but WWI caused a delay in its construction. It was finally connected to water in 1916, and construction was completed the same year. The building was designed by C. Elwood Watkins, who also designed Victoria High School. In 1921 and 1929, Hubert Savage designed additions for the building, which remains open as a school to this day.

1917

Richard Redwell Fenn Sewell was born in 1883 in Yarmouth, England. He came to Canada in 1889 with his father, E.B. Sewell, a sail maker. He married **Harriett Eva Towne** in 1913, and around 1920 they moved to **Obed Avenue** in the Tillicum neighbourhood. Sewell worked as a bookkeeper, and in 1917 he was employed as Assessor for the District of Saanich. He later became the Municipal Clerk and remained on staff until 1938. After leaving Saanich he held several different roles including Secretary of the Union of BC Municipalities. Richard Redwell Fenn Sewell died on September 10, 1961. The Sewell home at 576 Obed, which is on the Saanich Heritage Inventory, remained in the family until about 1991.

*Richard Redwell Fenn Sewell
(Detail of 2017-013-001)*

1923

In 1912, **Hector Spencer Cowper** arrived in Victoria with his wife, **Henrietta Elizabeth Hood**, and their children. By 1914, Cowper was employed as the Municipal Clerk for Saanich. Later, he also served as Comptroller and Treasurer for the municipality, and Secretary to the Saanich School Board. In January 1923, auditors discovered that Cowper had been embezzling funds from the municipality over a period of about seven years -- in total ten to eleven thousand dollars (roughly \$264,000 in today's dollars). He claimed that he considered the theft to be merely a loan and insisted he had always intended to pay the money back. He pleaded guilty on all charges, and it took only eight days from the discovery of the theft to his arrest, trial and conviction. Cowper was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. The relatively lenient sentence could be attributed to glowing character references provided by Reeve Watson, other Council members and staff. The Cowpers' house at 523 Davida Ave (now on the Saanich Heritage Inventory) was forfeited as partial restitution. After his release from jail, Cowper and his family moved to Vancouver, where he worked as a city accountant until his retirement in 1945. Cowper died in 1966 at the age of 89.

BIG SHORTAGE FOUND IN SAANICH ACCOUNTS

**Clerk Hector S. Cowper Said to Have Admitted
Embezzlement and Offered Restitution—Pecula-
tions Alleged to Have Occurred Over Consider-
able Period—Auditors Make Discovery**

*Hector Spencer Cowper, 1921 (Detail of 1983-003-046)
Daily Colonist 12 Jan 1923*

1923

Originally designed as a family home by local architect Samuel Maclure, 355 Gorge Road West was called home by **Richard “Eric” and Alice Stewart Hamilton**. Since its construction in 1923, the property was the site of a succession of boating-related businesses and organizations. Eric’s father was the proprietor of the Causeway Boat House, which ran a water-taxi from Wharf Street to Gorge Park. The family also ran a bus along Gorge Road to carry even more visitors. The Hamiltons sold the house in 1924 to **Richard Gilman Lyster Rodd**. Richard’s five sons were boat builders and cabinetmakers who built motor yachts and sailing vessels. The Rodd family owned the property until 1947. Today, the building is the home of the **Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club**.



355 Gorge Road West
Saanich Heritage Register (2008)

WANTED—MISCELLANEOUS
BOATS wanted—If you have a canoe, row-boat, launch, or yacht for sale, list them with us; we can sell them for you. Causeway Boathouse, below P.O., tel. 2370; P.O. Box 919.

Wanted ad, Daily Colonist, November 3, 1912



Gorge Municipal Bus, ca. 1925
(1984-018-001)

1923

George Vallance was born in England in 1871. He and his wife **Elsie Frances Collis** immigrated to Chicago in 1906, but by 1913, they had moved to Saanich. They purchased seven lots on Hampton Road and made their home at 286 Hampton Road. Today, the site of their former home is the location of the Les Passmore Centre for seniors.



Above: Men bowling on the greens, Burnside Lawn Bowling Club, ca. 1930 (2015-003-010)

Below: Burnside Ladies Lawn Bowling Club, 1937 (2015-003-087)

The Burnside Lawn Bowling Club was first organized 1922, incorporating a year later in 1923. The club was formed to “promote, foster and safeguard the game of lawn bowling and to encourage and maintain friendship amongst the members”. In 1923, George Vallance donated land on Hampton Road for the creation of a green and clubhouse. The clubhouse, called Hampton Hall, was completed in 1927. Outdoor lights were added in 1930 to allow for evening games. The club continues its activities to this day, and Hampton Hall, a designated heritage building, is used for a variety of community events.



George Vallance, 1922 (Detail of 2015-003-057)

1929

The original **Brookman Store**, also called the **Craigflower Bridge Store**, was built in 1929 by **Arthur Brookman, Sr.** The Brookman family lived above the store, which was located on Gorge Road at Admirals Road. **Arthur Jr.** attended Craigflower and Mount View schools, then served in the navy for the duration of WWII. Upon his return, he worked with the Pacific Meat Company for a short time, then took over running the store in 1947. The store remained virtually unchanged until 1949 when Arthur Jr. built an addition to the property. The renovation added apartments, a gas station, a barbershop, a bakery, a dry goods store and a butcher shop. The Brookman family kept the store until 1971, when it was leased to **Maurice and Kileasa Wong**. The store closed in 2011.



*Brookman Store and Garage, 1949
(1982-010-002b)*



*Left: Brookman family with 1929 Cadillac, 1930s
(1982-010-014)*



Left: Jack Horspool with his mother Matilda in the formal garden at 321 Gorge Road West (2007-179-003)

Right: 321 Gorge Road West (2006-015-273c)

1933

Matilda Horspool (nee Gadd) came to Saanich with husband Caleb and their two sons in 1912. After Caleb's death in 1932, her son **Caleb Henry 'Jack' Horspool** built the house at 321 Gorge Road West for his mother. The house, which was completed in 1933, is one of the rare brick-clad residential heritage buildings in Saanich. It featured formal gardens and landscaping that extended to the water's edge on the Gorge. The Horspool house received heritage designation in 2015.





1940

Joseph William Casey was born in Victoria in 1894. He worked as a mechanic before entering the political arena in 1932, when he won the presidency of the Liberal Association of Canada. Carey and his wife, **Irene Mary Pridham**, built their Moderne-style house at **900 Gorge Road West** in 1940. The house is listed on the Saanich Heritage Register. Prior to his election as Saanich Reeve in 1950, he served as a Council member for several years. During his time as Reeve, Casey presided over the secession of Ward Six (which became the District of Central Saanich) and oversaw the connection of the Gorge area sewer system to that of Victoria. After leaving municipal politics, he became a superintendent for the B.C. Electric Company. Joseph Casey died in 1974 at the age of 79.



**Long-Range Program for Drainage
Vital to Saanich, Says New Reeve**

Daily Colonist. January 4, 1950

World War 2

Ernest Brownlow Underwood was born in 1873 in London. At the age of 15, he joined the Coldstream Guards as a drummer and remained in military service, reaching the rank of Major. In 1909, he and his wife Alice immigrated to Canada. He served overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War, and eventually retired from military service in 1932. The couple had eight children, five sons and three daughters. The family moved to the Victoria area in 1922 and lived on **Gorge Road West**.

Sons **Leslie (Buster)**, **Ghazi**, and **Ernest (Ernie)** all saw action in the Second World War. Leslie and Ernie left for England in 1941 and fought with the gun crew that was recognized as the first Canadian crew to destroy a German bomber during the Battle of Britain. Both took part in the raid at Dieppe, but while Leslie returned, Ernie was wounded on the beach and taken prisoner. He remained a prisoner of war for the duration and wrote a series of letters home from the POW camp. Ghazi joined the Army in 1943 at age 18 and saw action in Italy and other parts of Europe. Leslie fought at D-Day and served in Northern Europe until the end of the war. When the war ended, the three brothers returned home to Victoria. **Leslie Underwood** and his wife **Emily** lived at **3060 Wascana Street**, and later at **3097 Millgrove Street** in the Tillicum neighbourhood of Saanich.

Ghazi and Leslie Underwood, 1945 (2018-005-029)



*E.B. Underwood,
ca. 1918
(2018-011-016)*



*Ernie and Leslie Underwood, 1940s
(2017-027-245)*



Ghazi Underwood, 1940s (2018-011-009)

Below: Aya and Toyo Ono, 1940 (2010-024-001)

Right: Case file for Rinzo Ono 1942-1947 (Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property fonds, Library & Archives Canada)

FORM "J-1"

Victoria BC

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

FILE No. 651

JAPANESE SECTION

To be completed by persons of the Japanese race having property in any protected area. The proper administration of this property requires such persons to give full particulars as requested in this form.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: Ono, Rinzo

HOME ADDRESS: 275 Grease Ave., Victoria, B.C.

REGISTRATION NUMBER 10018 SEX: Male AGE: 56

OCCUPATION: Farmer - doing business under name of Tillicum Dairy



1942

From the 1920s until 1942, **Rinzo Ono** operated the Tillicum Dairy with his wife **Tora** and two daughters, **Aya and Toyo**, on land that they leased near Tillicum and Burnside Roads. In 1942, the federal government passed an order calling for the removal of all Japanese Canadians from BC coastal areas. The Ono family were among the 22,000 Japanese-Canadians forcibly removed from their homes and sent to internment camps in the interior of BC for the remainder of WW2. After their expulsion from Victoria, the Onos' land and home were leased to another farmer, and like many others who were taken to internment camps, they had no home to return to after the war. While Rinzo was eventually given some compensation from the sale of their cattle, equipment and household goods, the sum was significantly less than expected. The Ono family relocated to Montreal and never returned to Saanich.

1943

Martha Newton Starkey Rudd was born in England in 1850. In 1876, Martha married **John Rudd** and, the couple immigrated to Australia. In 1884, the family, which now included 5 children, sailed to San Francisco, then moved to British Columbia in 1890. Over the years, John had become physically abusive. He was often away from home for long periods looking for work, and by 1900, Martha was tired of following him from place to place on the promise of a fresh start. She decided to start over by herself in Victoria.

Once in Victoria, Martha supported the family by cleaning houses and sewing. By 1906, the children had rejoined their mother in a house she was renting on Rock Bay Avenue. John visited a few times, but when he wanted to return to England, Martha refused to go with him.

In 1906, Martha used her savings to buy a plot of land on Burnside Road in Saanich. Her son George built her a house that she called "Buena Vista", and Martha and the four youngest children moved in. She bought a herd of dairy cattle, planted a vegetable garden and an orchard, and with help from the Department of Agriculture, built Victoria's first grain silo.

After Martha's death in 1928, her youngest daughter **Dorothy** and her husband lived in the family home for another 42 years. Martha bequeathed part of her land to her son **Fred**, who continued to run the dairy farm until his death in 1965. She left another piece of land to her son **George Rudd**. George served on Saanich Council and was a member of the Saanich Parks and Recreation Committee. Around **1943**, George donated five acres to the District of Saanich for a park which became known as **Rudd Park**.



*Martha Rudd ca.1910
(photo from
Among my Souvenirs:
Martha's Story.
F. Howey,1992)*



Children's playground group at Rudd Park, ca. 1946 (2012-008-007)

31

W. BURNSIDE RD.

TILlicum RD.

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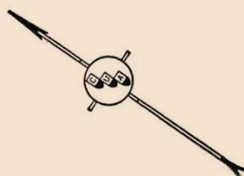
3180
TILlicum RD.

3180
Furnace
Room
Rest
Room
P
180A
Projector

TILlicum DRIVE-IN
THEATRE

Screen

150



Canopy
GEORGE
PEARKES
MEMORIAL
ARENA.
11-3 1/2 X P

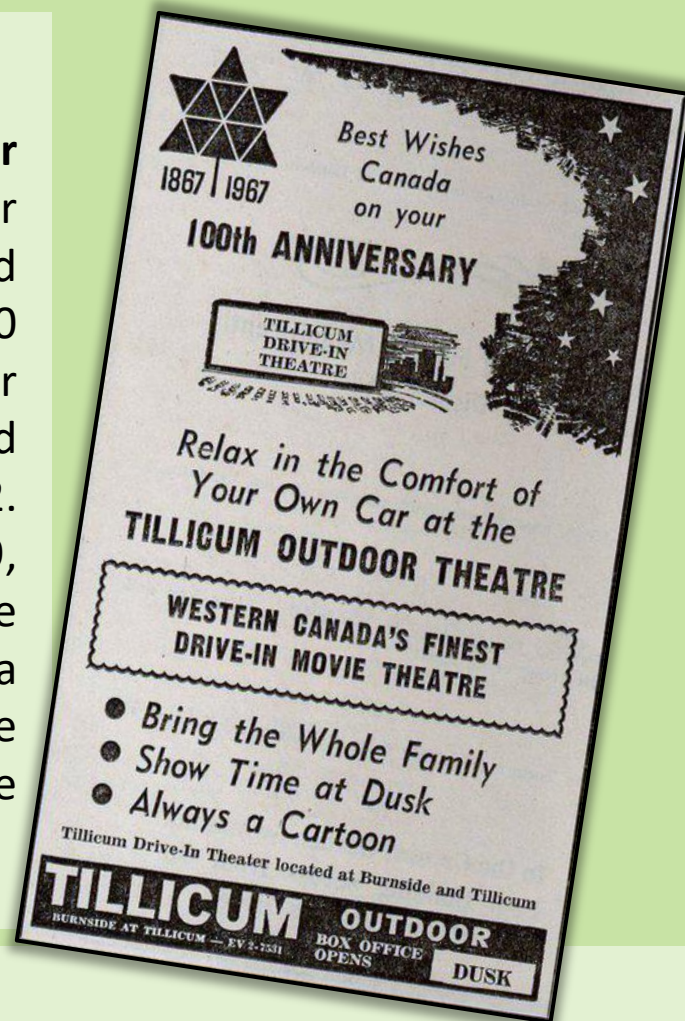
KER AVE.

Fire Insurance Plans, 1968.

1951

The **Tillicum Outdoor Theatre**, which was built for around \$150,000, opened June 1, 1951. It featured 620 car-speakers, some outdoor seating, and an enclosed viewing area which sat 132. The theatre closed in 1979, and Tillicum Shopping Centre opened in 1982. Today, a modern multi-screen movie theatre sits roughly on the site of the drive-in.

Daily Colonist, 30 June 1967



1968

The **George R. Pearkes Arena**, constructed after consultation with community groups, opened October 6, 1968. The arena is named for **Lieutenant Governor George Randolph Pearkes**, a soldier and politician who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his courage and skillful handling of troops during WW1. Pearkes was a champion for sports activities involving youth. Pearkes Arena hosted several homegrown teams, including the Saanich Junior Braves hockey team founded in 1967. The Saanich Skating Club was formed in 1977. A girls' hockey team was founded in 2014 and won their first championship in 2018. In 1998, a major expansion added a new rink, dressing rooms and lobby to the facility.



George R. Pearkes Arena, 1968 (1982-001-017)

Right: George R. Pearkes Arena, 1980 (1993-004-222)



1968

The **Les Passmore Centre** hosts programmes and services for seniors and is run by the Silver Threads Service. It opened in 1968, and major renovations were completed in 1976 and 1994. The centre is named for Saanich Reeve Les Passmore. **Leslie (Les) Henry Passmore** came to Canada from England around 1906, and then to Victoria in 1912. In 1936, he was elected to Saanich Council. In total, he served 34 years on Council, including his time as Reeve in 1941. During that time, Passmore served on over 66 committees, projects, and boards. After his retirement, he became an active member of the Saanich Silver Threads Services for Seniors. He was chosen to be a Freeman of Saanich in 1975. Les Passmore died in 1986 at the age of 87.



Les Passmore playing pool at the seniors centre, 1975 (1981-004-037)



L.H. Passmore, 1941 (1981-004-018)

1990

The first plans for **Cuthbert Holmes Park** were formed in the 1970s. The goal was to restore and preserve the natural features of the site along the Colquitz River. The name was chosen in honour of **Major H. Cuthbert Holmes**, who was a Justice of the Peace and a Freeman of the City of Victoria. Creating the park involved securing land not already owned by Saanich. Land acquisition was completed in 1986, and in 1990, the 67.7 acre park was opened. Today, this large urban natural area features ecosystems ranging from tidal marshes to Douglas fir forests and is home to many species of animals and plants.



Colquitz River at Admirals Road, 1931. Future Cuthbert Holmes Park on left (2007-053-005)



View of the Gorge from Gorge Bridge, 1989 (2006-005-008)

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archives@saanich.ca
250 475 5494 ext. 3478

