

Answers to Saanich Peninsula History Quiz

1. What was Brentwood Drive first called?

Beach Drive was the original name for this shoreline road along Brentwood Bay.

2. When and why was the Victoria Airport built?

The Canadian government built the airport for the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1939, planning in 1936, during the build-up to World War Two.

3. Where was the Deep Cove Community meeting hall? When was it built? When and why did it come down?

The Deep Cove Hall was at the corner of Wain and West Saanich Roads. It was built in 1921 and taken down about 1990 to make way for the new fire hall.

4. When was Central Saanich created? What was the District called before?

District of Central Saanich was created in 1950 from Ward 6 of Saanich, with the first meeting in 1951.

5. What is the former name of Oldfield Road?

The original name was Giles Road. It was renamed for John Oldfield, who built the manor-like home, Norfolk Lodge, which still overlooks the valley near Elk Lake.

6. What was Keating X Road called on the 1895 map?

It was called Butler Cross Road, for the Butler family who owned land and a store there.

7. What was NOT grown or raised commercially on Peninsula farms?

Hops – Yes. Mr. Downey was one of several farmers in North Saanich who grew and cured hops for beer.

Flowers for florists – Yes. Robinsons had flower and bulb farms on Brookleigh and near Keating, on Bryn Road.

Chinchillas – No, but Mink were. Percy and Carol Lazarz had a farm in Saanichton near Cultra. Blackgama, Azurene and Pastel are streets named for mink pelt colours.

Foxglove plants – Yes. Several farmers in Saanich grew this crop for the digitalis that could be refined from it. Though foxgloves seem to be wild here, they are not native. They were brought from Europe as both a garden flower and medicinal plant.

Sisal for rope – No

8. What was the former name of Brentwood?

Brentwood was originally named Sluggetts, after the family who owned land in the area. They had a store, Interurban train stop and post office, so Sluggetts was the natural name.

9. What did Brentwood residents call Wallace Drive?

It was called “the Track” from the Interurban railway that ran where Wallace Drive is now.

10. What was Verdier Ave. originally used for?

Verdier Ave. was a skid road used to get logs down to Saanich Inlet.