

Shawnigan Lake Museum

Box 331 – 1775 Shawnigan Mill Bay Road, Shawnigan Lake, BC
www.shawniganlakemuseum.com T: 250-743-8675

Dear Members,

Born May 1st of 1900, to David and Mary Laverock, David Johnston Laverock was a long-time resident of Shawnigan Lake. His father initially purchased their family's property from the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway in 1893 and it was officially known as Lot 40 of the Malahat District (several kilometers south-west of Burnt Bridge), although this 95 acre plot of land was affectionately known as Glensilah by the family and some locals. Although the property was purchased before his birth, Laverock did not live there until well into his adulthood as the family soon moved back to Vancouver, finding the city better suited to their lifestyle.

As per the last will and testament of his mother in 1928, Laverock became joint owner of the family properties along with his older sister Lily. During the war he was faced with what would become the fight of his life. In 1943, the Kapoor Lumber Company served Lily Laverock, in her capacity as the executrix of her mother's estate, with a notice of expropriation for the building of a right of way through Lot 40. They offered five hundred dollars as means of compensation but this was not enough to tempt either sibling, both of whom were not interested in a busy logging road bisecting their property. They were not interested in this project because they wanted to maintain the peaceful retreat their father had carved out in Shawnigan as well as the fact that they already had a road to access their property. Additionally, David hoped to open a hunting and fishing lodge on the property, aspirations that would be dashed by the presence of heavy industry.

Early in 1944, Lily was called to appear before a court in Vancouver in the matter of her refusal to grant the Kapoor Lumber Company a right of way through her family property. Upon agreeing to go to binding arbitration, three men were appointed as arbiters, James Bruce Boyd, Ole Andrew Buck, and James Alexander Paton, a judge, logger, and journalist respectively. Paton, with the agreement of the other two, decided that the Kapoors should in fact be given a right of way



Upcoming Events

July 22

The Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS) is currently working on a foreshore inventory. As the society works towards a watershed management plan, one component to water quality is the health and integrity of riparian vegetation along the foreshore. Through human interactions around the lake over the last 100 years a spectrum of shoreline impacts is evident. The SBS would like to support homeowners by providing information how to mitigate landscape impacts around the lake. This includes homeowner best practices; examining lakefront restoration initiatives with the restorative approach of 'soft shore' lines. Presented by Jenny Berg. Jenny is a Junior Biologist working with the Shawnigan Basin Society this summer. She has worked at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria for the last four years supporting research in ecological disturbances.

through the Laverock property but that the compensation due should be \$8910, rather than the initial \$500. The Laverocks appealed this ruling in a last ditch effort to divert the road through their property and were denied by a judge named C. H. O'Halloran. O'Halloran believed that the Kapoor Lumber Company's right of way was just and that Laverock's class should not place him above the law.

Over the next two decades Laverock resigned himself to having the road built through his property and made the most of the situation by charging an annual rent for his mile and a quarter of road of two hundred and fifty dollars. This once again became a legal issue when, in 1969, Laverock had to take British Columbia Forest Products Limited to court over their usage of his road. Refusing to pay Laverock's fee as they had acquired the right of way through Lot 40 from the then defunct Kapoor Lumber Company. Laverock believed that the right of way was non-transferable and as such had been illegally acquired by British Columbia Forest Products. B.C.F.P. denied such claims and were backed up when, in 1971, Justice Dohm ruled in favour of the lumber company and their right to use Laverock's property.

Then retired, he spent the 1970s harassing British Columbia Forest Products, to the point where the company actually threatened him with legal action in 1977 if he continued to bar access to the right of way that they had been awarded.

Now that old logging road will be very familiar to any modern resident of Shawnigan Lake as Renfrew Road, which still passes through the Laverock property at Lot 40, although the property was divided following his death and now has multiple owners.

Owen



Facebook - [Shawnigan Lake Museum](#)

Twitter - [Shawnigan Museum](#)



David Laverock circa 1938

Support the Museum

The Smile Card Program returns.

We would like to thank everyone who uses their museum-dedicated Thrifty Foods Smile Card. If you have a Smile Card from the museum, please continue to use it to raise funds for more historical photos for the outside gallery at the Shawnigan Lake Museum.

Stop by and have a look.

If you would like to help, drop by the museum and we will be more than happy to organize a dedicated Smile Card for you. (It is essential to obtain your card through the museum. The Smile Cards that you buy at Thrifty's are not part of the fundraising program). By purchasing your groceries with at Thriftys with a Shawnigan Lake Museum Smile Card, you are helping us to improve the museum!