

1926 – Hebbert Road

Hebbert Road was named after Commander William Hebbert who bought property at the end of the road in 1921 (miner). It was established in September, 1926. The road's initial point is Oyama Road and it is a dead end road situated in Subdivision Plan B3161, 1001, B769.

Source: Trehwitt, Arnold.

Lake Country Road Registry: Hebbert Road extends east from Oyama Road next to Gallacher property. The location has been altered according to the Allinghams who reside nearby. Mr. Hebbert said that his family had lived in the teacherage on Trask Road next to Jack Butterworth. Mr. Hebbert now lives in Vernon.

Source: Young, Joyce. 2006.

January 1926 – Weather Recording Station Established

The original location for the Stevenson Shield was Latitude 55°30'5 N and 119°30'28 W at an elevation of 1155 feet above sea level. The first recorder was G. Russell Venables.

Register of Rain, Snow, Weather, Miscellaneous Phenomena, and Extremes of Temperature													
For the month of <u>January</u> 19 <u>26</u>													
Station Name or Number		Station Name		Station Number		Station Location		Station Elevation		Station Latitude		Station Longitude	
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1927 – Winfield General Store

The Winfield General Store was built by Mr. Lawley after his first store at the corner of Berry Road and Highway 97 was burned.

When the store opened, it was considered ultra modern with an indoor bathroom complete with flush toilets, electric lights and other modern conveniences almost unheard of in those days. Gas was sold in front of the store by the old fashioned hand-powered gas pump. In those early years,

a good share of the business of the store was conducted by phone with free deliveries to customers being offered twice a week.

Mr. Lawley operated the store until 1931. Winnie and Wilfred May ran it for awhile, then Ted Winchombe operated it. In 1934, it was purchased by Ernest Clement of Ellison. For the next 23 years Ernest, his son Leslie, and daughter Wilma, ran the store.

The Greyhound bus stopped at the store until 1948. There was a small sub-post office in the store in 1948 and by 1951, the Winfield Post Office took over the rural route that had previously been serviced out of Kelowna. An addition to the store was built to accommodate the Post Office. That Post Office served the Winfield district until it was replaced by the present Post Office on Berry Road in 1963.

In 1957, the Clements sold the store to Ernie Oxenham who in turn sold to Howard Ransom a couple of years later. Les Clement continued to run the Post Office and when the new Post Office was built, he was the Postmaster there until he retired in 1974.

The old store was eventually demolished during the widening of Highway 97 in 1987.

Source: *The Calendar*, August 5, 1987.



2007.019.009 Clements' Store



1929 – Okanagan Lake Frozen Over

Okanagan Lake froze over in 1929. This meant that the paddlewheelers had to break their way through the ice to reach their docking points. Local inhabitants took the opportunity to cut blocks of ice to store for preservation of food.



1929-1930 - Holtom's Service Station

Sid Holtom built Winfield's first service station from lumber salvaged from the Duke House.

1930 – Gold Trails in Fir Valley

It was during the depression years of the 1930s that mining for gold commenced, and then ceased for the most part sometime in the mid 1940s. Records show only 75 ounces were accounted for during this time frame. The majority of mining was on the mountain to the east of Wood Lake but there was one small mining venture at another location. Just south of Jack Seaton Park, close to the top of a ridge, are the remains of mining activity.

Mr. Donald MacLennan of Okanagan Centre followed a quartz vein down into the surrounding hard rock. The July 1934 assay report wasn't encouraging; it gave a gold content of .04 ounces and .3 ounces of silver per ton with a combined value of \$1.51 per ton of ore. Not exactly a profitable operation and the development ceased.

East of Wood Lake there were several locations where gold was sought. The geology here was very different from the Seaton Park occurrence. An ancient river channel containing placer gold lay buried under volcanic rock until eventually it was exposed by glacial action thousands of years ago.

Two fellows from Alberta by the names of Ely & Hall staked a claim and began an operation that lasted for nine years. They dug tunnels, sank shafts and recovered sufficient gold to sustain their quest for the shiny yellow metal. To the North of the Ely and Hall lease was the Stuart lease where a group of men from Kelowna dug a 100 foot tunnel as well as a few exploratory trenches, but all indications are that no gold was recovered.

To the north again was the Atkins and Staples lease. Several tunnels were dug, some hitting the river gravel and others not. A large well-constructed log cabin stood at this location until time and the elements of weather reduced it to a pile of rotten and disintegrating wood.

The fourth and final site is known as the Ribbleworth lease. At this location, a tunnel was dug into a material known as breccias, consisting of a very fine matrix mixed with sharp angled volcanic rocks. No river gravel, let alone gold, was found in this location and nature over the decades has reclaimed the area. A.S. Underhill, a prominent doctor from Kelowna, and John Sommerville partnered in 1938. A tunnel was blasted through granite bedrock but to my knowledge the grave containing gold was not located.

From the late 1950s to the present, more individuals have spent time digging for gold including locals Shorty Meyers, Fife Sommerville, as well as a fellow by the name of Campbell. The Union Oil Company of Canada in the late 1970s drilled test holes for uranium in the Fir Valley area. At the time, uranium exploration was taking place between Big White Mountain and Beaverdell. Results from those holes are unknown but information obtained elsewhere indicated that water with trace levels of radioactivity was exiting from some of the old Ely and Hall tunnels.

Mining has played a small role in Lake Country's history but there is much to admire in those who pursued the dream of 'striking it rich' and while not achieving financial wealth they certainly left Lake Country with a facet of colourful and interesting history.

Source: Moody, Jim. Published in *The View in Lake Country*, December 7, 2006.

Approx. 1930 – Sunnywold School

Sunnywold School was the third school in the Commonage and was built close to Carr’s Landing on a hill overlooking Okanagan Lake, 3/4 mile from the wharf where the S. S. Sicamous stopped. It was closed for lack of pupils.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. 1996 Challenge Grant.

January 1931 – Weather Station Moved

When Mr. Venables died, the weather was not recorded for a couple of months.

In January 1931, the weather station was moved to the Sundial Ranch where Mr. Northcote Caesar started recording the weather. He was the official recorder until his son-in-law, Hugh Bernau, took over recording the weather at the same site.

Month	TEMPERATURES						MEASUREMENTS OF PRECIPITATION				KIND OF PRECIPITATION		
	Max. in F.	Max. in C.	Min. in F.	Min. in C.	Mean in F.	Mean in C.	Rain in In.	Snow in In.	Hail in In.	Other	Wind	Clouds	Other
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1932 – Okanagan Centre School

The “new” Okanagan Centre School was built in 1932 by contractor Teddy Hare. It was located between 5th and 6th Streets on land donated by Okanagan Land Company. It had two outhouses. Grades one to eight were taught here.

It is now the south room of the Lake Country Museum.



1935 – Oyama School Renovations

In 1935 power lines came to Oyama and all the schoolrooms were wired for electricity. Mr. Crawford did the job at a cost of \$125.

In 1938 the School Board decided to install flush toilets finally making the outhouse obsolete.

In November 1939 the teachers of the school recommended to the Board of Trustees that a radio be purchased so that the students could listen to the Department of Education's programs that were on air every morning.

In 1938-1939 the Board decided to change the ping-pong room in the basement into another high school classroom. Miss Fulton was hired to teach French and Math there.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. *The Histories of Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre and the Commonage Schools*.

See also: 1905, 1910, 1915, 1920, 1945, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1975, 2000.

1939 - The Winfield General Store



Les Clement's store on Highway 97 was the shopping hub of Winfield and its population of perhaps five hundred or so. The store was acquired by Les and Iris Clement in 1939 and operated as a general merchandiser by Les until 1957. Groceries, meats and produce as well as every type of staple could be purchased at the store. School supplies, paint, a new pair of gum boots, a fishing license and lures, toys, comic books confections and ice cream treats were just some of the items carried at the store.

The staff at the store were local people and included George King, Dorothy Dehnke, Helen Hein, Pearl Coller and Mona Holitzki as well as others.

Most local residents were allowed to keep an 'account' at Winfield General Store. The cash register receipt was added to the family account which was paid, without interest, on payday or whenever.

From the late 1940s, Clement also operated the Post Office and in 1952 he added space to permit full postal service with Art Arnold as the rural carrier. Les continued to be the Postmaster until his retirement in 1974. The store was also the initial location of the Okanagan Regional Library under the watchful eye of Mrs. Kennerly.

The store was located just south of the Winfield Motel and on today's landscape, it was in the general vicinity of the present Medical Clinic.

Les sold the business in 1957.

Source: Gibbons, Richard. Published in *The View*, November 2006.

1940 - Kalwood Ranch



Pictured above are “Bo Bo” the 1961 Grand Champion Hereford Bull with herdsman Harold Somerset, left, and owner Vern Ellison.

From the 1940s through to the late 1960s the cattle from the late Vern Ellison's Kalwood Ranch in Oyama were recognized as among the best Herefords in the country. At its peak, the Kalwood herd included 200 registered cows calving on the ranch. In a newspaper clipping of the day chronicling the success of the Kalwood herd, owner Ellison always gave much of the credit to his herdsman, Harold Somerset.

The last year of showing Kalwood animals was 1969 when the main herd of Herefords was sold, as well as part of the ranch. The final dispersal sale was in 1973.

1940 - Pollard's Pond – Trap Shooting and Rifle Range

Pollard's Pond, as it was known to the locals, is now the upscale, quiet subdivision known grandly as “The Lakes.”

Pollard's Pond was the original site for trap shooting and a rifle range. In that era, shooting was literally a family affair. Trap shooting was very popular and one of the first activities to put this area on the map, with sportsmen from other communities coming to test their skills against those of the locals.

Art Pollard*, (well known to this community as a sportsman, businessman and ardent community supporter), along with other family members, purchased the original 160 acres of the pond around 1940. They subsequently purchased a further 160 acres in the mid 1960s. The date when organized trap shooting equipment was installed is somewhat hazy but likely in the late 1950s.

The site overlooking the pond itself included an area for shooters and the 'bunker' which housed the actual trap equipment. To the West, a backstop was utilized for the firing of big rifles. Some of the prominent local trap marksmen included Art Pollard, Bryan Cooney, Vergil Willett, Murray Sherritt, Cliff Gunn, Reg Moody and Matt Kobayashi, as well as many others. Vernon's Art Salt and Kelowna's Gordon Finch (Finch Road) were regulars. Lore suggests that Art Pollard was hard to beat.

This writer remembers sitting in the bunker with such childhood friends as Ken Witzke and Dan Pretty, loading the clay pigeons on the thrower in a random pattern hoping to catch the waiting shooter off balance. The shooter would call 'Pull' and the handle was pulled near the shooter's box releasing the pigeon. Occasionally we'd hear bird shot striking behind our heads.

The hill beyond the pond must surely contain enough lead to fill a truck. To test the abilities of big rifle shooters, targets on a moving clothesline were used to simulate a running deer (very high tech for the time). These events were very popular with the shooters, their families and spectators who came to both watch the competitions and to enjoy the social opportunity.

The property was sold to the Trethewey family around the mid-1970s and the Ocoala Fish & Game Club acquired a new facility on McGowan Road.

Source: Gibbons, Richard. Published in *The View*, November 2006.

*Art Pollard died on October 8, 2008.

1945 - Oyama School loses Upper Classes



Walter Hall and the first Oyama school bus around 1945

By 1945, attendance at Oyama School reached 106 students, elementary and high school, so in September of 1945, students from grade nine to twelve were bussed to Rutland. The first bus driver was Walter Hall.

At this time, the local School Board amalgamated to form School District No. 23 which extended from Oyama to Peachland.

In 1946, the grade seven and eight students were also taken to Rutland.

1946 – Winfield Elementary School—First Addition

The first addition to Winfield Elementary School was built in 1946. One more classroom was built on the west end (back) of the school which made it a three room school and added another basement room. The second stairwell opposite the office of the current school was also built at this time. The bathrooms were at the bottom of these stairs.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. “The Histories of Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre and the Commonage Schools.”

See also: 1920, 1950, 2000.

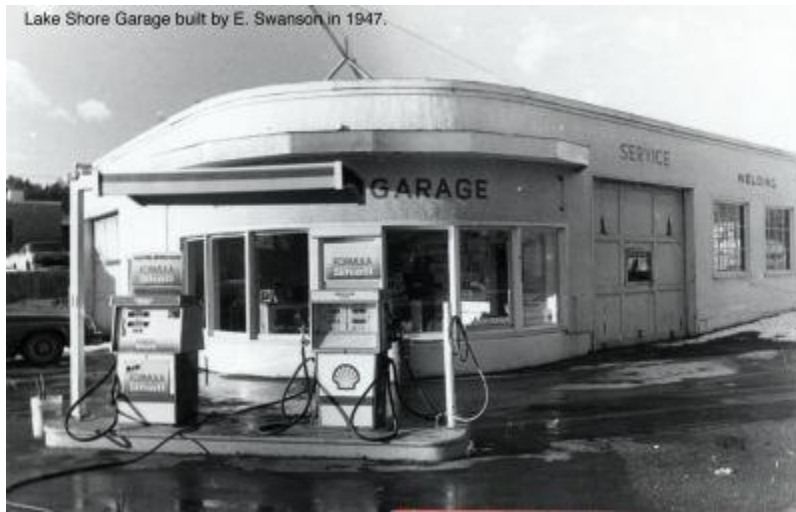
1947 - Broadbent of Rainbow Ranche

Around 1947, an English barrister, Mr. Robert Broadbent, bought the Rainbow Ranche and brought his wife and three children, Paul, Robin and Margaret, to live there. Unfortunately, a very cold winter killed all their fruit trees and they had to return to England.

Source: E. Robin Broadbent

1947 – The Lake Shore Garage

The Lake Shore Garage was built by E. Swanson in 1947. It was later owned by Al Nagel and taken over by his son, Randy, in the 1970s. After that the building was leased to Alvin Meyer. The last gas was pumped on December 19, 1987. The garage was demolished when the highway was widened.



1947 – Willett Road

Willett Road was first established around 1947 and paved in 1968.

Earl and Minerva Willett were married in 1914. They moved around quite a lot before settling in Winfield in 1938 where they bought a lakeshore lot at the south end of Wood Lake for the incredible sum of \$75. They purchased the lot from another well known pioneer, George Reiswig.

Lloyd Willett was an American artist, well known for his scenic paintings, one of which is a painting of the rocky mountains with an elk in the foreground and it had a prominent place in the Earl's and Minerva's bedroom. Earl was a house painter although his passion was painting realistic paintings of nature.

Earl and Minerva had two children, Laurine in 1918 and Virgil in 1920. Earl passed away in 1969 while Minerva lived on to celebrate her 100th birthday in 1994.

Source: *The Calendar*, November 2, 1994; and Lake Country Museum archives.



Gordie Willet, nephew Jayden and Virgil Willet fishing on Wood Lake, February, 2004



1947-1949 – Reiswig Road Established

Reiswig Road was first established in 1947. The road started at Woodsdale Road and terminated in a dead end. It was not paved until 1962.

Reiswig Road is named after early pioneers Dan and Lucy Reiswig. Dan, who came from South Dakota, arrived in Armstrong with his family when he was only six years old. Lucy, a native of Winnipeg, moved to the Armstrong area with her family at age sixteen. Dan and Lucy met in school and after they married, they moved to Alberta where Dan found employment in grain farming. It was there that Dan built the first of ten sawmills that he owned and operated over many years.

Dan and Lucy moved back to the Okanagan and set up a home in Winfield. Dan continued to operate sawmills in the China Valley, Falkland, Chase Creek, Grinrod and Malakwa.

The Reiwigs had six children, three boys and three girls, and most of their descendants still live in the Winfield area. The Reiwigs were well-known members of the Winfield Seventh-day Adventist congregation and Lucy taught children's classes in the church.

Even in his retirement, Dan still kept busy. He built cedar chests for each of his children and grandchildren. Lucy was a very active member of the Dorcas Society, a group that met once a week to make quilts.

Daniel died on August 22, 1988 and Lucy died on January 15, 2002.

Source: *The Calendar*, November 1985.



1948 - Al's Cafe



Al and Ida Vecchio open Al's Cafe in Winfield which they operated for forty years. It became a center of community activity for both children and adults.

1948 – Ida Arbuckle Camp

Prior to 1948 local Guide groups from Kelowna and the surrounding area had camped at Cedar Creek or on property which was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gibson. This property was just to the north of the present camp.

Source: "Camp Arbuckle Then and Now and in Between 1948-1998."
PB 004.20

When the Gibsons sold part of their land, Guides could no longer camp on that property. It was at this time that Mrs. H. W. Arbuckle, District Commissioner for Kelowna, . . . found out that the five acre property to the south of the Gibson property was for sale for \$1,525.00. This five acre

property, which had belonged to the late Mr. McNair, had a long lake frontage and a one room cabin. Guide bake sales and, more importantly, donation solicitation by the Guides' fathers raised the funds to purchase the property.

Mrs. Arbuckle retired as District Commissioner and was appointed Camp Adviser in 1950. In 1957, she moved to Ontario and the Cottonwood Flats Camp was renamed the Ida Arbuckle Camp in her honour.

See also: 1965, 1985, 1990, 1995.

1949 – Dorenberg Orchards, the van Roechoudt family

Louis and Suzanne van Roechoudt emigrated to Canada from Belgium with their three children in 1949. Louis had studied agronomy at the University of Leuven in Belgium and had owned orchards in France near the border with Switzerland. Louis had heard of the Okanagan's ideal climate for growing tree fruits; as a result, the van Roechoudts came straight to British Columbia after emigrating and settled quickly in Okanagan Centre. They purchased land from James Goldie, Manager of the Rainbow Ranche.

The 1950s were marked by a series of harsh winters and extremely low temperatures which severely damaged and even destroyed many fruit trees. The resulting poor income prospects obliged Louis van Roechoudt to take on additional work as a Farm Manager at Vernon Orchards, while Suzanne van Roechoudt contributed to crop thinning on the orchard and sorting fruit for several harvest seasons at the Vernon Fruit Union Packing house on Woodsdale Road. The children (Marc, Anne and Eric) spent their summers and evenings after school working on the orchard. Originally planted with peaches, apricots and old varieties of apples all at a standard spacing (20' x 20'). Louis used his knowledge of European high-density fruit growing systems to replant the orchard, thereby being the first to plant high density in the Okanagan. They planted varieties more in demand and used dwarf rootstocks, which could be planted at higher densities and come into production earlier. The planting system would become known as the "van Roechoudt trellis". The first planting was Golden Delicious on M9 rootstock planted at 6' x 11' in 1956. This remained a highly productive block until it was replanted in 1992 by Marc van Roechoudt. It was replanted to Gala on M9 in a 4' x 12' spacing.

Marc van Roechoudt took over from his father in 1969 when Louis retired. At that time the orchard consisted of apples, cherries, pears and apricots. Marc grew many different crops but eventually specialized in apples (Sunrise, Gala and Ambrosia). A good relationship with the Summerland Research and Development Centre was developed. Dorenberg Orchards often conducted trials of new varieties as they were tested for commercialization. Marc was always interested in new varieties and this relationship allowed him to be a very early adopter of new varieties!

In 1976 Marc married Tessa McDonnell, granddaughter of James Goldie. Marc and Tessa's daughter Madeleine completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of British Columbia in

2004 and returned to work on the orchard with Marc in 2006. Madeleine took over the management of the orchard after Marc's death in 2015.

The van Roechoudt family have been recognized leaders in the Okanagan's tree fruit industry for decades. The BC Fruit Growers' Association (BCFGA) inaugural Compact Tree Fruit Award was presented to Louis van Roechoudt in 1967. Marc and Madeleine won the BCFGAs Golden Apple Award in 2009 recognizing excellence in tree fruit production practices. Marc and Madeleine have been very involved in the industry and in the community sitting on various different committees ranging from the BCFGAs Executive, BCFGAs committees, New Variety Development Council, District of Lake Country Water Advisory Committee and the District of Lake Country Agriculture Advisory Committee."

Sources:

Letter from James Goldie to Louis L. van Roechoudt, September 10, 1954

<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/rainbow/items/1.0355522#p0z-4r0f>:

Letter from James Goldie to Mrs. Susanne M.A.H. van Roechoudt, September 10, 1954

<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/rainbow/items/1.0355514#p0z-4r0f>:

1949 – Redecopp Road

Redecopp Road was first established in January 1949. Its starting point is at Rolyat Road and it is a dead end street. It was first paved in 1968. Henry and Myrtle Redecopp left not only a street named after them but also a legacy of awards and achievements.

Henry was born in Saskatchewan in 1914 and in the spring of 1941 moved to Winfield where he later worked for Alex Beasley. Henry had a pen pal, Myrtle Hanson, who he married on December 4th, 1941 in the Winfield Anglican Church.

After the birth of their first son, Donald, in 1942 Henry retained a "wood limit" which was located close to Postill Lake, where he began his own business. It was here that he built a small cabin which was his family home until 1948, after which he moved back into Winfield so that Donald could attend school. The Redecoppes also had another son, Douglas.

Henry went on to buy an acre of land known as "The Flats" which is on the road now named after him and this is where he built his home.

In 1949 Henry took up employment with the Ministry of Highways where he remained in the position of foreman until 1975. It was during this time that Henry was presented with a plaque in recognition of his 25 years service with the Highways Department which was presented to him by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

Four years earlier, in 1971, he was also given the Citizen of the Year Award by the residents of Winfield. Henry was heavily involved in the community as a charter member of the Winfield Fire Department and with the Winfield Lions Club. Added to this he was a member of the Order

of Foresters in 1948 as well as a member of the Centennial Hall Board in 1951. No matter what was happening, Henry was always there ready to give a helping hand no matter what the cause. Both Henry and Myrtle were great supporters of the Canadian Red Cross for which they received awards.

Source: Lake Country Road Registry; *The Calendar*; and the Lake Country Museum archives.

1949 – Riemche Road

Reimche Road was established in 1949 starting at Bottom Wood Lake Road and it was, and is, a dead end road. Reimche Road was first paved in 1982.

Herb and Dorthea Riemche began married life living in a small house in Winfield. In 1941 they purchased property close to Wood Lake at Woodsdale Road and later in 1946 they built Winfield Farm on that property. Here they raised their family and Herb started his own dairy.

Herb and his brother, along with the Brummett family, bought more land across Vernon Creek where they built a road as well as a bridge across the creek leading to their new property. The road they built is named Reimche Road, which is west of Winfield Seventh-day Adventist Church, a church which Herb helped build and where both he and Dorthea were very active members.

During the fall months Herb worked for Sun Rype's Woodsdale plant, where he worked the press for making apple juice. As well as these two jobs he also worked part-time for Lloyd Duggan, driving the milk truck. During the 1960's Herb saw a drastic turn in terms of downsizing in the dairy industry. As a result he sold his dairy cows and milk quota.

It was at this time that Riemche decided to work in the health sector and he spent two years training to become a nursing orderly in Vancouver. On his return to the Okanagan he went to work at the Kelowna General Hospital where he worked for the next eighteen years.

In 1980 Herb and Dorthea built a new home on their Winfield farm property. Herb retired in 1982 but still worked at KGH as a volunteer.

Source: *The Calendar*, November 1, 2000; Lake Country Road Registry; Lake Country Museum archives.

1949 - St. Edward's Catholic Church

St. Edward's Catholic Church was built in 1949. It was named for St. Edward the Confessor.

1949 – Winfield Memorial Hall

Construction of the Winfield Memorial Hall was begun in 1947 and the Hall was opened in 1948. It was built as a memorial to those who served and those who died in WWI and WWII. The former school, built in 1910, that had served as a community hall until 1948 was torn down in 1951.

Source: *The Calendar*, November 5, 2003.

