

ROBINSON/GREAVES ROAD STORY

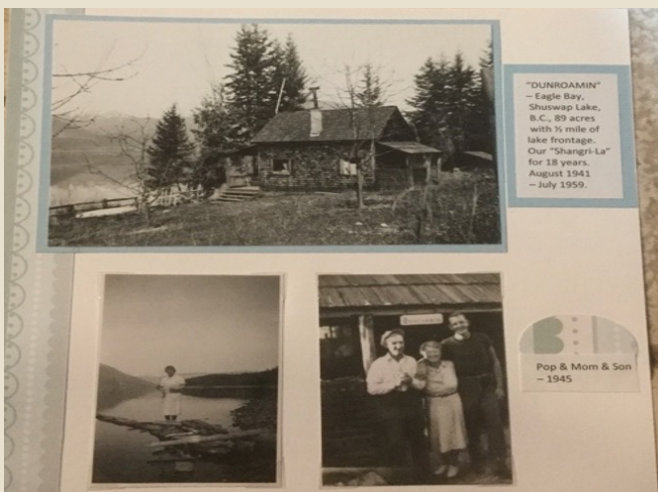
submitted by Karen Loerke with permission from Shelagh Baldwin and the Houstons

Shelagh Baldwin from Calgary contacted Eagle Bay Hall to inquire about the location of her grandparents' summer home, which belonged to Ernie and Mabel Robinson. Shelagh's parents had many fond memories of their time at Shuswap Lake. However, over the years, the Robinson family couldn't recall the exact location of the cabin in Eagle Bay. After some research, the property's location was determined, but some questions remain unanswered. By tapping into the collective knowledge of the residents in Eagle Bay, more information can potentially be uncovered.

Ernie Robinson (1896 - 1990) sailed from England and arrived in Canada on March 16, 1912. At 15, he went to Tappen, BC, to join his family, who had settled in the Shuswap area. Mabel Stephenson (1889 - 1969) sailed from England and arrived in Canada in May 1922, with her destination being Kamloops, BC. Somewhere along the way, she met Ernie Robinson, and they were married on January 22, 1926, in Tappen at the home of Ernie's parents, Alfred & Nellie. Ernie was hired by the CN Railway in 1926/27 and worked for the company until he retired. Mabel owned a laundry business, sold her shares, and bought property at Eagle Bay. Ernie and Mabel Robinson were early members of the Eagle Bay Hall, and their names appear in the minutes dating back to the early 1950s.

*My E. Robinson - 1331 St. Paul St. Kelowna - Hon. resident
Mrs. E. Robinson - 1331 St. Paul St. Kelowna*

Newspaper articles revealed that the Robinsons purchased 89.7 acres of land with ½ mile of lake-frontage on August 9, 1941. The land reportedly included a 16 by 18 shingled schoolhouse, approximately 6 cleared acres, and several fruit trees (including four cherry trees). Additionally, there was a barn, an alfalfa field and a running spring on the property. Newspaper clippings mentioned two advertisements related to the property: one for \$500 with a note that the owner would consider trading the land for a good used car and another for \$400. The unknown is who the Robinsons bought the land from or the exact price they paid.



The Robinsons cherished their Shuswap summer home for 18 years, affectionately naming it "Dunroamin" or their "Shangri-La." They ultimately sold the property on July 28, 1959, to Jim Grieve, confirmed by his son in a telephone discussion in August 2024. Interestingly, property owners in the area continue to use puns to name their properties, with signs referring to them as "Leisure Lee," "We're Laking it," etc.

Robinson Greaves Road Story con't

Jim Grieve, whose family is involved in the real estate business and resides in Salmon Arm, subdivided the lakeshore into lots for about 10 homes/cabins on the lakeside, a condo project, a large acreage, and a subdivision of about 20 homes on acreages on the high side/south of Eagle Bay Road. Jim worked with Les Greaves from Vancouver and developed the subdivision, including public water access to the residents from the acreages. Throughout their business together, Jim Grieve and Les Greaves remained amiable partners – Grieve and Greaves had no grievances.

For quite some time, Greaves Road did not have an official name. Locals in the area called it Asay Road because the Asay family lived near the road's entrance. Phyllis and John Asay retired to Eagle Bay in the early 1980s. A retired teacher, Phyllis, helped start the Eagle Bay Hamsters drama group, and John was involved in building in the area. It wasn't until around 2010 that the unofficial Asay Road was officially named Greaves Road.

Eagle Bay Road was relocated sometime before the Greaves Road subdivision was created. The former road travelled along the back of the present-day condos and cabins, parallel but below the current Eagle Bay Road.

If one closely observes the Robinson property from pictures taken in the 1940s and 1950s, it was situated across from Crowfoot Mountain and near a small bay, with the dock on a small point overlooking the location of present-day cabins and condos, near 4003 Eagle Bay Road.



Despite rumours of schoolhouses in Eagle Bay, with one noted in historical records situated off Galligan Road and another on the Whitehead property eventually barged and moved across to Magna Bay, further evidence is needed to support the location of a school located north of Greaves Road. Research regarding the Eagle Bay School sites continues as a subject of further investigation.

Greaves Road is not just a small side road off Eagle Bay Road. It is a place where numerous volunteers have and continue to contribute immensely to the Eagle Bay community, including great people like Pat and Al Houston. It might surprise some to learn that Pat and Al are moving to Calgary on October 1, 2024. They have been part of the area for about forty years, having purchased a small cabin on Greaves Road in the early 1980s. After spending many summers in Eagle Bay with their teenage kids, the Houstons decided to build a permanent home and retire in the community. Initially, the Houstons planned to live in Eagle Bay for only five years. However, their fondness for the community led them to stay an additional 25 years. They have witnessed numerous changes in the area.

the Hampsters, which held yearly dinner theatres at Eagle Bay Hall. Although Pat and Al are moving back to Calgary, they plan to make Eagle Bay their home in the summer.

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As active members of the Eagle Bay community, Pat and Al play a crucial role in maintaining the operations of the Bottle Depot, a vital fundraiser for Eagle Bay Hall. They are also dedicated members of the Eagle Bay Community Church. Al worked for five years in fire suppression at the local Fire Hall, while Pat is involved in Craft Mondays at the Hall. Al served as president of Eagle Bay Hall from 2016 to 2020. He has been praised as an exceptional actor with the amateur drama group, the Hampsters, which held yearly dinner theatres at Eagle Bay Hall. Although Pat and Al are moving back to Calgary, they plan to make Eagle Bay their home in the summer.



We look forward to your return in the Spring of 2025! Thank you for all your volunteer work in the community. You have helped to make Eagle Bay such a great place to live.

Eagle Bay Community is collecting and organizing archival documents. If you have any historical stories, collections of papers, photographs and other records to add to our current archives, please submit originals or copies at the Eagle Bay Community Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help sort and organize archives. No experience is required. If you have a few hours and are interested in helping, contact Karen Loerke at kloerke@telus.net

OBITUARY - RENEE HESTER

With deep sadness, residents of Eagle Bay learned of the passing of Renee Hester (Jeannette Kathryn), mom, wife, author and community-minded citizen. In her early years, Renee (Jeanette) settled in North Vancouver in 1957, raised three children, and taught preschool for many years. In 1986, Renee and her husband Norman retired and moved to Eagle Bay, where they embraced the community, joined various clubs, and taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Renee was the secretary to Eagle Bay Community Church and became a weekly columnist for the Shuswap Market News. Although I never met Renee, I have read most of her stories and greatly appreciate that she took the time to organize articles on local citizens, make copies of pictures, and record critical events in binders in Eagle Bay Hall. Over the years, Renee wrote about 100 articles. Her accounts were well-written and full of humour, capturing the voices of those she interviewed. In 2002, Renee and her husband Norman moved to Qualicum Beach, where they enjoyed new friends and many happy years. With declining health, Renee was moved into long-term care in Parksville. She died on July 5th, 2024. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with her family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know Renee.

