

Westgyle Rd: A bit of old Edinburgh on the south end of Gabriola.

By Ivan Bulic and Joyce White

One hundred years ago, Robert Law and his wife Ruby concluded a deal with John Silva for the purchase some 70 acres of prime waterfront at the north end of Silva Bay. Law knew of Gabriola from his older brother Alec who had earlier pre-empted land near where Page's Marina stands today.

The Laws soon built a house overlooking Silva Bay and the tip of land that would be called Law Point. A short gravel spur road off the end of South Road led to their property. Law called the road West Gyle - in memory of Ruby's birthplace of South Gyle, near Edinburgh, Scotland. At the time North Road ended at Peterson, and wasn't extended to join South Road until the 1950s.

Gyle is an old Scots word thought to derive from *kyle*, meaning an area of standing water. Originally the Laws wrote the name of their road with two words, *West Gyle*, but subsequent signage shortened it to today's *Westgyle*.

Robert and Ruby raised a family of two sets of twins - three daughters and a son. Their son, Henry Law, joined the RAF in World War II where he became a pilot with Bomber Command. He was killed when his aircraft was shot down during a raid over Germany.

Robert, however, had already predeceased his son in 1939. Ruby lived on until 1962, when the family decided to sell the house and lands. Although the Laws no longer live at the end of Westgyle Rd, the old Scots name is a reminder of the time when it was home to a vibrant and lively Gabriola family.

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