



# Street Stories

## Edwards Street

GPS: [49.1574794,-122.2526932](https://www.google.com/maps/place/49.1574794,-122.2526932)



Josephine and Pat Edwards. Josephine lived on their homestead until her death at age 90.

*Mission Community Archives GPC-702-20-EDW-001*

Long before the Europeans came to Mission, Aborigines, fleeing from wars with other tribes, sheltered in a gully just east of where Hatzic Cemetery is today.

Henry and Pat Edwards and their sister Mary homesteaded immediately above this gully in the 1880s. They employed Indigenous people to help clear the land in exchange for music lessons from the talented Henry. Life wasn't easy, but the land provided ample resources.

"Money did not have the importance then that it does now," recalled Pat's wife, Josephine. "We built our house from the logs my husband felled. Our land provided us with vegetables, we had a cow and a few chickens, the lake was full of fish, and game was plentiful. From our sheep, we cut the wool, which we washed, teased, spun, and knit into garments, and there was not much we needed from the store."

The land also provided Henry with dried crab-apple wood from which he made a violin. Henry also played the flute and was the leader of a band.

"You have no idea of the delight in living here," Josephine recalled, "particularly back in the old days when our land was full of wildlife. The deer were everywhere and it was a com-

mon sight to see a mother bear with her cubs lumbering by."

The only serious nuisance from Mother Nature were the great swarms of mosquitoes every summer. These pests were so bad that the Edwards were driven out onto the lake to seek relief.

The Edwards homesteaded on the hill to avoid the floods that struck the lowlands around Hatzic Lake. This hill provides a beautiful view of the lake, which you may see from Neilson Park.

Josephine came to Mission as a girl in 1874 and once won a horse race by riding side-saddle down Horne Avenue. Respected and loved, she lived to the age of 90 and never left the homestead. "We are off the beaten track up here, but I have never been lonely," she said. "Hatzic is a lovely place to live!" This out-of-the-way place continued to give shelter.

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any questions or further information on the Edwards family, please call us at 604-820-2621 or send an email to the Community Archivist: [manager@missionarchives.com](mailto:manager@missionarchives.com).

*David Buss*