



British Home Children: A talk by Lois Thompson

In 1826, the London Police Magistrate suggested that the children who “cluttered” the streets of London be shipped to Canada. Forty-three years later, that suggestion became a reality.

Between 1869 and into the late 1940s, fifty church and charitable organizations sent over 100,000 children to Canadian farms from Nova Scotia to Cobble Hill, British Columbia.

Many home children never told their descendants of their history as there was a stigma attached to being a home child. Because of this misguided notion, there are millions of Canadians who have a home child as a relative and many are unaware of their history.

The legacy of home children is particularly important to the Cowichan Valley, as a large institution for home children, The Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School, operated at Cowichan Station for over two decades starting in 1935.

Lois looks at how a “roll of the dice” could land a child into a loving home or a hellish existence. Why did the British Home Child Program last over 70 years? She offers a unique perspective as her grandmother was a home child who came to Canada at the age of 13.

When: September 20, 2022 at 7pm

Where: Mill Bay Community Hall 1035
Shawnigan Lake-Mill Bay Rd

Sponsored by: The Mill Bay-Malahat Historical Society, the Shawnigan Lake Museum, and the Mill Bay Community League.

To register: Email
museum@shawniganlakemuseum.com



Lois Thompson is a Director of The Victoria Genealogical Society. As a Victoria Genealogical Society member, she is actively involved in discovering her ancestor's stories and in helping people find their family roots and their history.

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