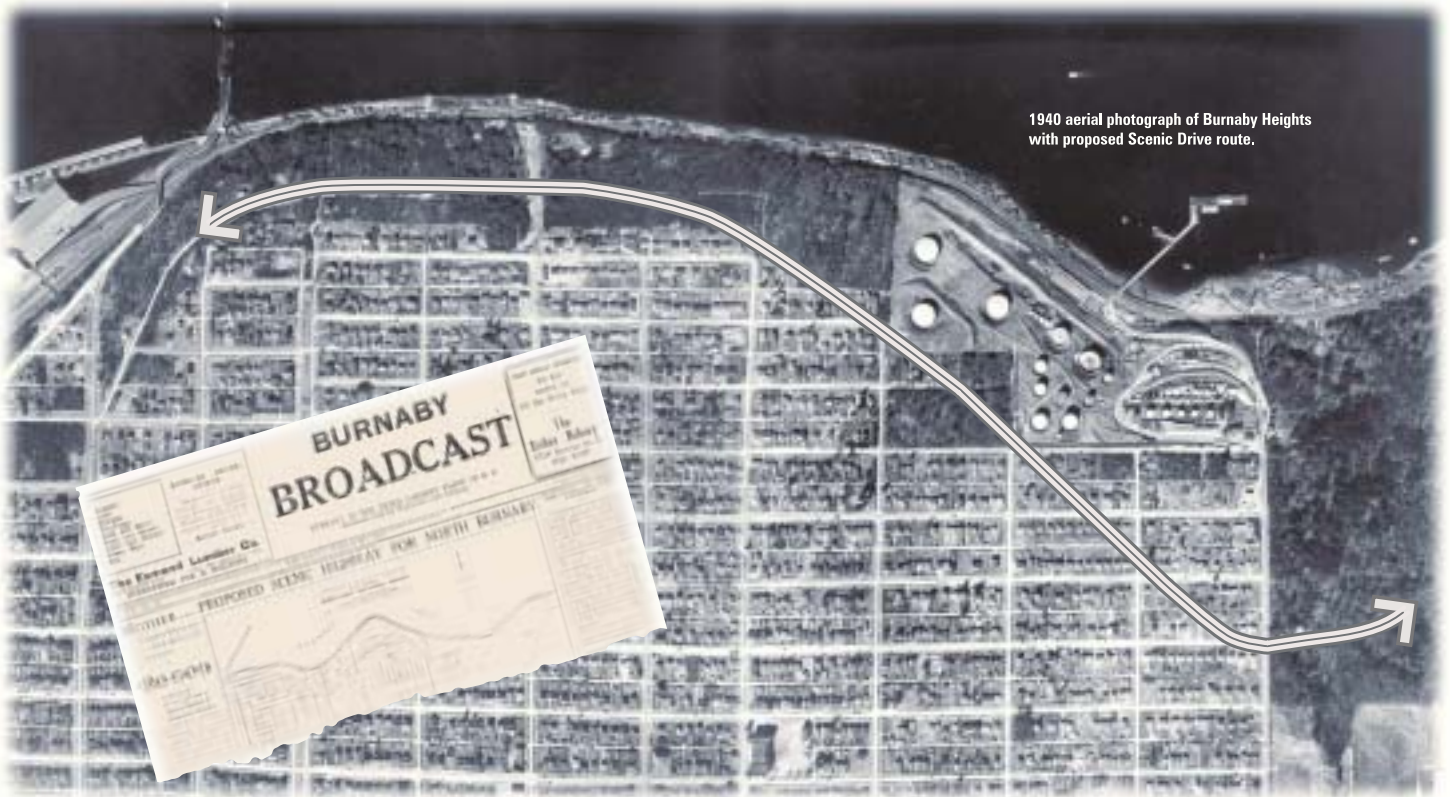


# scenic drive

Trans-Canada Trail



1940 aerial photograph of Burnaby Heights with proposed Scenic Drive route.

Newspaper article from "Burnaby Broadcast" announcing the proposed Scenic Highway, March 6, 1930.

This beautiful parkway and the Helights Trail are the legacy of the an idea to create a tourist road for Greater Vancouver known as Scenic Drive. The idea was born in 1930 at a special meeting of the Vancouver Parks Board by Mr. Jonathan Rogers who had brought together all the mayors of the Burrard Peninsula to outline his proposal. The concept of a scenic highway was based on designs executed in other American cities which linked parks and beautiful views together for the pleasure of the automobile tourist.

Burnaby's Mayor, W.A. Pritchard, was an ardent supporter of the scheme and directed staff to begin consolidating municipal lands and private properties for Scenic Drive.

The Great Depression and World War II put on hold any further development, although land continued to be acquired. The concept was kept alive in the minds of municipal planners and council, but the original intention of automobile leisure had been replaced by the need to accommodate commuting traffic.

In 1972 a new transportation study outlining the future of Burnaby's roads system included a reference to a "Scenic Drive Freeway" which would relieve the already heavily overloaded Hastings Street and Trans-Canada Highway. Burnaby Helights residents reacted almost immediately to the report and began to lobby Council to protect the right-of-way for park trail use. Finally in 1976, Burnaby Council dedicated the alignment for recreational use.

