I: OK. Good morning Lyn.

W: Good morning, Judy.

I: Thanks so much for coming in to share your story. I'm Judy Baxter and I am going to ask Lyn Wisnia, who is a long-time resident of the Mill Bay area, to share a story with us as part of the oral history Canada 150 project. So, thanks so much for coming in. So Lyn, I'm gonna just hand it over to you to share your story.

W: OK. Well my grandfather, Colonel Stanley Worsley, was a surveyor for many years. In 1945, he and my grandmother moved to Kilmalu Road in Mill Bay. At that time, the road curved around a large Douglas fir tree. In 1961, the powers that be decided to straighten the little country road, and arranged to remove the tree. My grandfather heard of the plan and went to speak to the foreman, explaining that the tree was likely used by early surveyors as a reference point for taking bearings because of its size and position near the crest of the hill, and thus would be called a Bearing Tree and be marked as such. He estimated where on the trunk the bearing marks would have been carved although there was no longer any sign of them. The foreman agreed to give him the section of the trunk that he was interested in. When my grandfather carefully split it open, there were the marks, B 10, B.T. 10, clearly carved on one side of the split and shown in relief on the other side where the tree had grown over the scar. Local historian Adelaide Ellis nee Barry wrote a rather whimsical account of the event from the point of view of the tree in the preface to her book At The Foot of the Hill. She also took a photograph of the tree as it stood in place. Mrs. Ellis likely heard about the tree and its bearing marks from my grandfather as she often helped my grandmother with household work. That section of the tree with its bearing marks was kept by my grandfather, and later my father who eventually donated both halves to the BC Provincial Museum, which became the Royal British Columbia Museum. Sometime after 1990, the RBCM apparently passed them on to the Association of BC Land Surveyors. I'm still waiting to hear whether they have them.

I: Thank you Lyn. That's such a great story about how, and the fact that you're trying to track down the piece now to figure out where it is located. And you said that you just had a great tip from somebody who might have information.

W: I did. I chased around a lot. I couldn't find anybody at the provincial, or the Royal BC Museum who knew about it or knew if there was a photograph taken while they had it. But I did find the historian for the Association of BC Land Surveyors, and he is trying to track it down for me, or at least a photograph. Because the pieces were probably about 18 inches long at least, or maybe 2 feet long, and then you know around the whole tree. So, quite a big piece, or quite a big 2 pieces. So I'm hoping somebody took photographs I have actually seen it, but my husband's very interested and I know there'll be other people interested to see a photograph of those bearing marks.

I: Right. We would too, so I hope you keep us posted.

W: I'll do that.
I: Right. Thank for sharing your story, Lyn.

W: You're welcome.