



HERITAGE DESIGNATION, REGISTER AND CANDIDATES ELECTORAL AREA B – SHAWNIGAN LAKE

Heritage Designation

At the time of adoption of the CVRD Official Community Plan, there is one heritage designation in electoral area B—Kingzett Lime Kiln (north of the village).

Community Heritage Register

Included in the CVRD Community Heritage Register (CHR) are the following:

1. *The Kinsol Trestle*: The trestle is a part of the original CNR right-of-way, spanning the Koksilah River just west of Shawnigan Lake. It is said to be the highest existing wooden railway trestle in the British Commonwealth, standing 48.5 metres (m) high, and has been sensitively rehabilitated by the CVRD under the Regional Parks and Trails Program for re-use as a key link in the Cowichan Valley Trail, which is part of the Trans-Canada Trail.
2. *The Kingzett Line Kiln and Ceramic Well*: Located directly off a wide trail near Kingzett Lake in Shawnigan Lake, this site contains the well-preserved remnants of a large vertical periodic kiln and a ceramic brick-lined well covered with a concrete slab, both claimed by forest growth. This historic place includes the lime kiln, ceramic well and the surrounding site.
3. *The Last Spike Stone Cairn*: This six-foot-tall stone cairn, embossed with two plaques, is located on the old Cliffside Station site of the E&N Railway, at the top of Cliffside Road in Shawnigan Lake. The historic site includes the stone cairn, the railroad section where the last spike was driven and the land upon which the site is located.
4. *Old Mill Park*: Old Mill Park is a municipally owned 17.5-acre (ac) lakefront nature park located off Recreation Road in Shawnigan Lake. This historic park consists of forested areas and features lookouts, bridges, trails, lake access points, picnic areas, a playground and a small beach.
5. *The Shawnigan Lake Museum*: This small, one-storey, wood-framed building is green with red and cream painted framing, and has a protruding entryway topped with a small hipped roof. This historic place is limited to the building footprint and is located on a small park in Shawnigan Lake.

Candidates

Other heritage resources that may have significant heritage value and will be considered for inclusion on the CHR include but are not limited to the following:

1. *The Lion*: The Shawnigan lion is a concrete, life-size replica of the lions that are posed to guard the steps of the B.C. legislature. The Shawnigan lion was built to face north along the eastern shoreline of Shawnigan Lake at what was then Rockvale Estates, home to Chief Justice Gordon Hunter, famous for ruling against a discriminatory immigration law that barred



entry to East Indian migrants, despite their British citizenship. His ruling was controversial at the time and was in turn overruled by the B.C. Supreme Court. To illustrate his chagrin, he stated that politics in Victoria “make an ass of justice,” and he commissioned George S. Gibson, an architectural carver from Shawnigan Lake, to create and position the lion to face north, in order that its other end point directly toward the parliament buildings in Victoria. That the lion was created by George Gibson may be sufficient to warrant heritage status, as his work is incorporated into many significant historic structures in Canada. Rockvale Estates briefly operated as a hotel, then as Cliffside Preparatory School from 1959-1977 (Cliffside accommodated about 110 international students and adopted the lion as their crest) and more recently as the Lions Easter Seal site. The lion has been maintained over the years, in 1986 receiving restoration by the famous rock sculptor, Gus Galbraith.

2. *Riverside House*: Located at 1845 Renfrew Road, Riverside House was built in 1922. The first resident was an early pioneer woman, Mrs. Bloomquist, whose husband was a river pilot who died in 1918. In the 1930s she rented out Riverside to a succession of tenants that included Mr. & Mrs. P.G. Cudlip and Constable Bobby Ross. In 1952 the property was sold to the United Church and used as a manse. Riverside has changed ownership several times since. It has been used as a dwelling and art studio, where many Shawnigan residents learned to paint, and many architectural features of the 1920s still exist. A commercial restaurant that would showcase the building and the history of Shawnigan Lake is currently proposed on the site.
3. *Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park, Shawnigan Lake*: This property was used as a log dump for the Shawnigan Lake Lumber Company, beginning in about 1890. A massive wooden rail trestle, built on piles in the lake, extended well beyond the shoreline of the park. Locomotives dragged logs across the top of the trestle. The logs were dumped into the lake and towed by a steamboat to the mill on the east side. A small number of piles from the trestle can still be seen in the vicinity of the park.
4. *Marifield Manor at Shawnigan Lake*: The Marifield Manor was developed in 1910 by Colonel Eardley-Wilmot. The estate was a popular retreat for the colonel’s friends. It included wooden tennis courts, a tea pavilion and impressive lake views. The main house, which he named Knockdrin after his estate in Ireland, is now a bed and breakfast.
5. *The Heald Road House*: Located along Heald Road, this little blue house was built in about 1900 as a cottage for the Shawnigan Lake Hotel and was the only building on the waterfront to escape the interface fire of 1930.
6. *Burnt Bridge*: The first bridge at this site, built in the late 1860s, was erected to access the Robertson silver mine and was part of the Silver Mine Trail. The original bridge was lost in a large forest fire, and this current bridge is the third bridge on site.



7. *Shawnigan Garage*: Alexander's Garage opened in 1925 on the same site that Shawnigan Garage operates today (on the corner of Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road and Shawnigan Lake Road). This garage offers fuel sales and automobile services on site. A collection of used bunkhouses makes up part of the buildings that are still in use today.
8. *All Saints Anglican Church*: The church was built in 1913 on a hill overlooking Shawnigan Lake, on Hipwood Road, where parishioners would attend services. In 1938, the church was sawn in half and moved to a more convenient location, at the corner of Wilmot and Wallbank Roads. It was de-consecrated in 1976 and for many years was home to the successful Auld Kirk Gallery. Beautifully upgraded, the building has apparent heritage value. The original parish house, still located at the top of Hipwood Road, also has potential heritage value.
9. *Mary Queen of the World Catholic Church*: The first public school at Shawnigan Lake opened on this site in 1893. When another school opened in the village in 1951, the old buildings were considered redundant. The Catholic church bought the property and fashioned the two original school buildings into a church. The first service was held in December 1955 and continues today.
10. *The Galley*: Early in the 20th century, if not before, the property on the south end of Strathcona Bay was the site of a boat rental business. In 1946, new owners added a popular snack bar called The Galley, and the boat rental morphed into a marina with an official water base airport, which is still in use. The Galley has recently re-opened as a restaurant.
11. *Thain Road House*: Built by early pioneers, the house may have architectural heritage value and was the setting for part of the movie *Little Women*, filmed in 1994.