

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Listings Added to the Community Heritage Register

Duncan, B.C. - The Cowichan Valley Regional District has added five new listings to the Community Heritage Register which is the official record of important heritage sites in the electoral areas. These include the South Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club, the Fairbridge Chapel and Schoolhouse, the Robert Service Memorial Park, and the Last Spike Stone Cairn.

The South Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club, located in Cowichan Bay, is the oldest lawn tennis club operating in Canada and one of the oldest in the world. The Fairbridge Chapel and Schoolhouse reside on Cowichan Station's first farmstead, while the 130 year old schoolhouse is reported to be one of the oldest timber frame buildings north of the Malahat. Early settlers, pioneer women and famed poet, Robert Service, are recognized at Robert Service Memorial Park in Cowichan Bay. The Last Spike Stone Cairn located at Cliffside Station in Shawnigan Lake, commemorates the completion of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway and site of the last spike driven by Sir John A. MacDonald in 1886. According to Board Chair Jon Lefebure, "Each of these sites preserves a unique and inspiring part of our history."

Planning staff are continuing to discover and document significant heritage sites and a second group of potential listings are expected to be brought forward later this summer. Included in this group are a number of community halls, which are recognized for their historic and enduring importance as community gathering places.

To learn more about the regional district's Heritage program or to nominate a historic place to the Community Heritage Register, visit www.cvrld.bc.ca/heritage.

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