



HERITAGE DESIGNATION, REGISTER AND CANDIDATES ELECTORAL AREA D – COWICHAN BAY

Heritage Designation

There is currently one heritage designation in area D—the South Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club:

Established in 1887, the club holds the distinction of being one of the oldest lawn tennis clubs in the world and is the oldest in Canada to still play on grass courts. The South Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club is a tennis club with a wooden two-storey clubhouse, nine tennis courts, and herbaceous gardens all overlooking Cowichan Bay. The property is located on the scenic Cowichan Bay Road. This historic place is specific to the club site, the grass courts, and the herbaceous gardens.

Community Heritage Register

There are four sites in the CVRD Community Heritage Register (CHR):

1. *Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre*: The Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre is a large ocean-front converted warehouse and pier, located at 1761 Cowichan Bay Road. This historic place is specific to the original warehouse and the pier. The Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre's heritage value can be found in its educational use and location. This historic place also represents the shift in cultural and economic development of the community.
2. *The Masthead*: The Masthead is a four-storey wood framed building, with symmetrical wood-framed windows and a gable roof. This building is located at 1705 Cowichan Bay Road. Heritage value can be found in the Masthead's association with Giovanni Baptiste Ordano and the early development of Cowichan Bay. There is also significant value in the preserved character and materials of this historic building.
3. *Old Koksilah School*: The Old Koksilah School, a two-storey gable-roofed building from 1914, symbolizes the shift from farming to education in the Cowichan Valley. Initially a one-room schoolhouse, it represents the early public education movement in the region. Closed in 1964, it was later restored and reopened in 1995 as a museum, preserving artifacts and the original architecture of the era.
4. *Robert Service Memorial*: The Robert Service Memorial Park is a small nature park with one stone cairn and two stone benches. The stone cairn is centrally located, with the benches on either side, all facing Cowichan Bay. This park is located on the west side of Cowichan Bay Road, at the intersection on Cowichan Bay Road and Bench Road. The historic site is limited to the stone cairn and two stone benches.



Candidates

1. *Cowichan Bay Fisherman's Wharf*: This active working pier provides 900 feet of dock space, accommodating a mix of commercial fishing vessels and pleasure craft.

Heritage River Designation

The Cowichan River is designated a British Columbia Heritage River (1996) and a Canadian Heritage River (2003) recognized for outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values including importance for salmon, trout and Indigenous heritage. It is one of only ten Heritage Rivers in the Country.

Its estuary is globally acknowledged for its critical ecological role, serving as a vital habitat for a diverse array of fish, waterfowl and wildlife. This area is particularly crucial for species like Chinook salmon, shellfish, water birds and eelgrass. Despite its significance, the estuary faces threats from various land and water-based activities, endangering these dependent species. In response to this challenge, the Cowichan Bay local area plan supports the restoration, protection and enhancement of the Cowichan Estuary. This initiative aims to ensure the safe and sustainable harvesting of fish and shellfish, while preserving the estuary's rich coastal environment for the enjoyment and benefit of the community in social, cultural and recreational aspects.