



HERITAGE DESIGNATION, REGISTER, CANDIDATES & POINTS OF INTEREST 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 and Ceramic Well (north of the village).

Community Heritage Register

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

1. *Kinsol Trestle*: The Kinsol Trestle (also known as the Koksilah River Trestle), is a large timber crossing over the Koksilah River that was built by the Canadian National Railway. The historic place includes the trestle structure, its concrete foundations, the river banks beneath it and nearby, and the two approaches at the top of the banks. A trestle first spanned the river at this location in 1920. It is said to be the highest existing wooden railway trestle in the British Commonwealth, standing 48.5 metres 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. *Last Spike Stone Cairn*: The Last Spike Stone Cairn is a six-foot-tall stone cairn embossed with two plaques. It is located on the old Cliffside Station site of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) Railway, at the top of Cliffside Road. The historic site includes the stone cairn, the railroad section where the last spike was driven, and the land the site is located on.
3. *Old Mill Park*: This 17.5-acre lakefront park, owned by the CVRD, once had a large mill on site that was established in 1890. The park offers forested trails, picnic areas and access to Shawnigan Lake. The park reflects the area's natural and recreational heritage.
4. *Shawnigan Lake Museum*: The Shawnigan Lake Museum is a small one-storey wood-framed building with a hipped roof. The building, built in 1950, was the original firehall for Shawnigan Lake. This historic place is limited to the building's footprint. It is located on a small park in Shawnigan Lake and is a focal point of the community.

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. *Halhed House*: In 1886, the Raymond family built the first house on the lake, and it is still standing. The Halhed family had the property as a summer house for generations.
2. *Heald Road House*: Built around 1900, this blue cottage was part of a hotel and the only waterfront building to survive a 1930 fire. It remains a historical treasure in Shawnigan Lake, although it is currently undergoing significant changes to the original.
3. *Shawnigan Garage*: Originally opened in 1925, the current garage still operates in its original location, with some of the original structures still in use after 100 years in operation.
4. *Shawnigan Lake School*: Shawnigan Lake School was founded in 1916 in a house that had been built by the Ravenhill family. Alice Ravenhill was an educational pioneer, a developer of Women's Institutes, and one of the first authors to propound Indigenous rights in BC.

Points of Interest

Sites of noteworthy local interest.

1. *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 1751 Wilmot Avenue. 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. It is now privately owned.
2. *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.
3. *Camp Pringle Cabin*: To be defined.
4. *Easter Seals Water Tower*: To be defined, noting the water tower has been deconstructed.
5. *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 currently operates as a restaurant and marina.



6. *Home of EJ Hughes*: To be defined.
7. *The Lion*: The Shawnigan lion was a concrete, life-size replica of the lions that are posed to guard the steps of the BC 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 South Asian migrants, despite their British citizenship. His ruling was controversial at the time and was in turn overruled by the BC 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 had been maintained over the years, in 1986 receiving restoration by the famous rock sculptor, Gus Galbraith, but has since been removed.
8. *Malahat Legion Branch*: Founded in 1934, the Legion’s hall has served as a community gathering place for veterans and local residents through its nearly 90 years of history.
9. *Marifield Manor at Shawnigan Lake*: Built as a house for a British Colonel who, with several other Colonels, came to Shawnigan after serving in the wars in India and China. They lived their upper-class lives in Shawnigan houses with tennis courts and tea pavilions. The estate previously operated as a bed and breakfast.
10. *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. The church building is no longer standing.
11. *Memory Island, which includes Memory Island Provincial Park*: this day-use only park provides quiet nature viewing and picnicking on one of the only protected park islands found in a major destination lake. Because of Memory Island’s isolation from the mainland, the park protects nesting waterfowl during the spring. Resident breeding birds include Common mergansers, Belted kingfishers and Common snipe. This tiny island also provides sanctuary and habitat for a variety of small mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, plants and fungi.



12. *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.
13. *Shawnigan Lake Provincial Park*: 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.
14. *St John's Academy Gymnasium*: This is the only building that is left from the Strathcona Girls School that opened in 1927.
15. *Thain Road House*: Located at 1860 Thain Road, this early pioneer-built house, noted for its architecture and connection to Shawnigan Lake's history, served as a filming location for the 1994 movie *Little Women*.