



HERITAGE DESIGNATION, REGISTER, CANDIDATES & POINTS OF INTEREST ELECTORAL AREA E – COWICHAN KOKSILAH/QUW’UTSUN XWULQW’SERU

Heritage Designation

Electoral area E contains one designated heritage property: Fairbridge Chapel and School (Bylaw No. 599).

The Fairbridge Farm Schoolhouse is a one-storey wood frame building, with a full-width covered porch entrance. The schoolhouse is located in the historic Fairbridge Farm park-style subdivision, in Cowichan Station.

The Fairbridge Farm Chapel is a two-storey and half basement wood frame Arts and Crafts style chapel with red cedar shingles, white stucco façade, and a two-storey clock turret.

Community Heritage Register

1. *Carlton Stone House*: The Carlton Stone House is a two-storey early 20th century Arts and Crafts style residence. This house is surrounded by sprawling gardens and mature trees, situated on a large lot at 5372 Miller Road. This historic place includes the building and grounds.
2. *Cowichan Station Flag Stop*: The railway stop at Cowichan Station was established in 1886 with the northward expansion of the E&N railroad. Local property owner Donald McPherson became the railway foreman and when a station was built, it became “McPherson Station.” In 1896, Canada Post asked the community to choose a new name because there was a McPherson post in Nova Scotia. “Cowichan Station” was the new chosen name and the railroad schedules changed to reflect the new name.
3. *E&N Railroad Stone Trestle*: The E&N Stone Trestle is nestled in the heart of Cowichan Station. The 2.9 m tall bridge was constructed in approximately 1908 out of stone from the nearby Koksilah Quarry. The bridge remains today as it was built. It is owned by the Island Corridor Foundation.
4. *Hillcrest Cemetery*: The Hillcrest Chinese Cemetery is of profound historical and cultural significance to the Cowichan Valley and broader communities in British Columbia. It stands as a rare and enduring testament to the lives and labour of Chinese sawmill workers who played an essential yet often overlooked role in British Columbia’s economic and social development. The cemetery has a direct association with a historically marginalized group, Chinese labourers, who were instrumental to the forestry industry in the Cowichan Valley and throughout BC. It was formally established in 1945.



5. *5241 Koksilah Road House*: Also known as the McLay House, the 5241 Koksilah Road House is a three-storey gabled-roofed residence with a stone foundation and a covered front porch. The formal recognition is limited to the building footprint.
6. *Koksilah River Truss Bridge*: The Koksilah River Truss Bridge is a one-lane, rare timber bridge with a Howe truss configuration located at Koksilah Road near Riverside Road. The current bridge was erected in 1939. It replaced the original bridge, built in 1876, which was extensively damaged from a major winter flood in 1934.
7. *Sahtlam Fire Hall*: The Sahtlam Fire Hall is a two-storey white, stucco utilitarian building located on a large lot at 4384 Cowichan Lake Road in Sahtlam. On one end, this building has a small, elevated entrance hall, and on the other end it has a covered porch and a large water cistern. This historic place includes the building, the free-standing sign and the site of the hall. A significant aspect of the Sahtlam Fire Hall's heritage value is its continuous use as a community gathering place. The hall provides a place for community members to socialize and interact, which is of immense value in a rural area.

Candidates

The area E local plan recognizes that a significant number of cultural or natural heritage sites are present in the plan area and highlights the following for consideration in the CVRD Community Heritage Registry (CHR):

1. *Cowichan Station School*: To be defined.
2. *Fairburn Farm*: Established by Mary and John Jackson in 1896, the 80 ha Fairburn Farm has had a checkered career as a farm, hunting lodge, dairy farm, organic cooperative and pioneer of farm stay vacations and water buffalo farming in North America.
3. *Glenora Community Hall*: Managed by the Glenora Community Association, the Glenora Hall is the site of numerous social events throughout the year. It was built in 1924 on property donated by Mary Waldon and has been extensively rebuilt and upgraded under the hand and guidance of Frank McCorkell. It is located at 3660 Glenora Road.
4. *Glenora Store and Café*: In operation since 1950, originally as a garage for fuelling and maintaining cars, Glenora Store and Café has since evolved through a variety of types of businesses, including incubating the very successful Community Farm Store. Now owned by the Ita Wegman Association, it sells produce and products from the Glenora Farm, as well as providing café services... and it still sells gas!
5. *Keating Farm*: This 13 ha farm property contains a number of heritage structures, the most significant of which is the main farmhouse. This 1880s-era house contains a unique Great



Hall designed and built by architect John Tiarks in 1894. It was owned by the Land Conservancy until 2014 when it was sold to private individuals who are continuing to operate it as a working farm, with its heritage orchards.

6. *Sahtlam School House*: Now a private residence, this location at 4410 Old Cowichan Lake Road was used as a school from 1922 to 2002. There is interpretive signage outside of the property.
7. *St. Andrews Church, Cowichan Station*: St. Andrew's Church was consecrated on February 8, 1906, and deconsecrated in 2011. It is architecturally compelling, with many features of interest, including the incorporation of relics into the church architecture. These include the base and stem of a lectern rescued from the shelled ruins of Ypres Cathedral in Belgium, and fragments of stained glass from a bombed church in Rheims, France, which are incorporated in the windows to the north and south side of the nave.
8. *St. Andrews Church Cemetery, Cowichan Station*: St. Andrew Cemetery is a historic, consecrated burial ground associated with the former St. Andrew's Church, consecrated in 1906. Located on Koksilah Road, this rustic cemetery remains active and includes a Commonwealth war grave from World War II.

Points of Interest

Sites of noteworthy local interest.

1. *Currie Park*: Daniel Currie arrived in Canada from Scotland in 1878, followed by his son John in 1884. Daniel lived on the property and farmed the land where Currie Park is now located. Both Daniel and John Currie were active in the Sahtlam community, sat on the Sahtlam School Board and volunteered their time with the school for many years. When Daniel died in 1918 at the age of 78 his son John took over the farm until his own passing in 1931 at the age of 57. As John Currie never married, he left the property to his sister. Both father and son were buried on the property.
2. *Koksilah Road*: To be defined.
3. *Sh-hwuykwselu* (Busy Place Creek): Sh-hwuykwselu (Busy Place translated from Hul'q'umi'num) is an important tributary to the Koksilah River. The creek is at the confluence of Koksilah River and the former main channel of the Cowichan River. It was traditionally the site of a large village and meeting place for people traveling up and down both rivers. Recent restoration work is returning healthy riparian habitat within an industrial area. The Busy Place Creek interpretive trail and salmon fry release platform acknowledge the efforts of different volunteer groups, including Koksilah Elementary school students, teachers and staff, that have worked hard on the restoration.