



COBBLE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT
FOR 2025 FISCAL YEAR

FEBRUARY 2026
JANINE REED

COBBLE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT

In 2025, the Cobble Hill Historical Society continued to hold general meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the Youth Hall at 3565 Watson Avenue in Cobble Hill.

Activities of the CHHS during 2025:

THE HERITAGE MUSEUM The Cobble Hill Historical Society is one of three historical societies that form the Heritage Museum Partnership. The Heritage Museum Partnership provides direction to the Museum, and the Cobble Hill Historical Society members are very active on this Board. While the Mill Bay Malahat Historical Society provides the day to day volunteers to staff the Museum, the Cobble Hill Historical Society volunteers provide the maintenance services to keep the Museum functioning.

The continuing/updated exhibit – “The Times They Are A Changing” – has been well received by the public during regular hours, and groups have frequently reserved private tours.

THE HISTORY WALL Required maintenance was done. Clear sealer was applied to the wood, and general cleanup was carried out. The society has purchased a laser printer appropriate for producing the unique engraved wall plaques that make the history wall so appealing. This was not our first choice at solving our difficulties at finding someone who could produce our plaques, but given that we either had to fundamentally change the way history is presented on the wall, or produce the plaques ourselves, we opted to do our own production. A huge thanks is owed to Neil Bonner who took on the printer, printer storage and learning how to use it. The History Wall is important to the community, and remains a significant point of interest, especially during the Cobble Hill Fair.

THE HISTORICAL LANDOWNERSHIP MAP In 2025, the land ownership map continued to be a hit on our website, and created a considerable buzz at the Cobble Hill Fair, where fair goers could interact with the electronic mapping system. In 2025, work continued to be done to ensure the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) program and its' interface with the data loaded into the program by the Historical Society was as user friendly as we could make it. This year, the specialized laptop used to upload our data in a GIS format died. As all hardware has a limited useful life, we had budgeted for its' replacement. The 2025 fiscal year was the year a new laptop was required. The new laptop is performing well, and has been a big help in fixing glitches in the ESRI interface. The map (available to the public through the CHHS website), provides the curious and those looking to do detailed research into Cowichan Valley landholdings to find individual properties, and trace ownership from first pre-emption to the 1950s. We know that many people are drawn to our website as a result of this map.

NAMES DATABASE The “Names database” is a growing data base of all references of people that are mentioned in the CHHS archive reference sources, public records, cemetery records primarily through the years 1860 - 1950. It includes Cobble Hill and its neighbouring communities. The “names database” is now live on our website. Between the land ownership map and the names database, our website is becoming very popular for those interested in

Cobble Hill History. being used to help those who contact the CHHS enquiring about forebears who once lived in Cobble Hill and area.

AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL This fascinating, personal memoir, originally published by Adelaide (Barry) Ellis in 1982, has been out of print for many years, and the CHHS has been negotiating to republish it. The book is being reviewed, and photographs are being refreshed, or in some cases, replaced. This has become a long, difficult process for the volunteers who have taken it on. There have been difficult constrictions in dealing with the appropriateness of the narrative, and in finding quality pictures for inclusion. In 2025 significant progress was made in the editing of the book. We have recruited “fresh eyes” to find things we have missed. Work continued to occur searching for the needed pictures for the revised edition of the book.

WEBSITE Many years ago, the Cobble Hill Historical Society chose to take an electronic archive approach to preserving Cobble Hill History. While this seemed “easier” than trying to maintain a physical archive, we have since learned that nothing is “easy”. We have learned that there are amazing digital developers and website services in our community. We now have a website that allows access to our names data base and the historical land ownership in our area. Next to go “public” is our actual digital archive, and work continued on getting this ready to be available to the public.

FACEBOOK The CHHS maintains a Facebook page that is frequently updated with ongoing information. At present there are 250 followers.

RESEARCHING OUR PAST The CHHS continues to research people and their enterprises that developed the South Cowichan area. The Dougan Family became a focal point for our members and their research. Once completed, it is likely that a “Glimpse” will be added to our collection, and then added to our web page.

THE COBBLE HILL FAIR The Fair continues to be the major venue for the public to interact with the CHHS. People who attend the society’s site can learn about the ownership history of the actual lot where they live. As well, both local and visiting Fair patrons can learn where their forebears lived in the South Cowichan area. There were many entries in the “Guess the mystery item.” contest, with the fabulous prize for the correct guess.

MEETINGS AND VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION The CHHS meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month in the Youth Hall in Cobble Hill. Our members contributed over 5,300 hours to historical matters over this past year. We also had a shared gathering with those that help out at the Museum to thank the volunteers, and to create more integration between volunteers. We remain grateful for the opportunity to present our work to the public and welcome inquiries regarding local history.

COBBLE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Balance Sheet
as at December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Bank Account - Savings	\$3.54
Bank Account - Chequing	43,363.63
Prepaid Expenses	-
Total Current Assets	<hr/> \$43,367.17

Capital Assets:

nil

Long-Term Assets:

nil

TOTAL ASSETS

\$43,367.17

LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS EQUITY

Current Liabilities:

nil

Members Equity:

Retained Earnings - Previous Year	\$37,412.60
Current Earnings	5,954.57
Total Current Assets	<hr/> \$43,367.17

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS EQUITY

\$43,367.17

COBBLE HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Statement of Income
12 Months Ended
December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

REVENUE

Funding:

Grants	10,000.00
Less Shared Grant Distributed to Partners	-
Net Grants	\$10,000.00
Donations	\$-
Membership	-
Total Funding	\$10,000.00

Sales Revenue

Plaque Sales	\$-
Total Sales	\$-

TOTAL REVENUE

\$10,000.00

EXPENSE

General and Administrative Expense

Insurance	\$880.00
Equipment	-
Interest and Bank Charges	158.31
Office Supplies	10.92
Rent	409.50
Total General and Administrative Expense	\$1,458.73

Promotion, Event, Website, and Museum Expense

Heritage Museum	\$962.19
Advertising and Promotion	\$400.00
Computer Equipment & Website	1,052.56
Storage Expense	-
Research	103.95
History Wall	-
Plaque	-
Total Other Expense	\$2,518.70

TOTAL EXPENSE

\$3,977.43

Fiscal Year 2026 Draft Budget

	Estimated Costs	Comments
Hall Rental	\$400.00	
Cobble Hill Fair display	\$1,000.00	(insurance, printing)
Historical Wall -maintenance	\$2,000.00	(replace and repair)
Historical Wall Plaques	\$400.00	(new costs associated with Laser Printer/engraver)
Website work/software liscences	\$5,000.00	(Website maintenance, data storage, ESRI, GIS software, archive software)
Heritage Museum	\$760.00	(Proposed Partnership Draw – Heritage Museum)
Transportation Expenses	\$200.00	(Jim not traveling as much to Land Titles Office)
Research expenses	\$500.00	
Insurance	\$1,800.00	(increase likely)
Banking Fees	\$200.00	
AGM costs	\$250.00	
GIS hardware	\$4,000.00	
Total	\$16,510.00	

Income

Plaque sales	\$250.00
Membership dues	\$220.00
Donations	\$100.00
CVRD	\$10,000.00
Total	\$10,570.00

Commitments from \$40K

At the Foot of the Hill
Replace Audio Video equipment
Set aside money to replace GIS Hardware - useful
life 6 years