

**COWICHAN VALLEY HISTORIC SCHOOLS (CVSHS)
SCHOOL REMEMBRANCE PROJECT**

**PHASES I – IV
2012 – 2022**



© COWICHAN VALLEY SCHOOLS HERITAGE SOCIETY

201- 394 Duncan Street

Duncan, BC V9L 3X3

<https://www.cowichanvalleyschoolsheritagesociety.com>

9 November 2022

HISTORIC SCHOOLS OF THE COWICHAN VALLEY



The following 56 former schools are included to date (November 2022) in the heritage school signage remembrance project, Phases I, II, III and IV of the Cowichan Valley Schools Heritage Society. Some of the former school buildings are still standing while others have been moved, burned to the ground, demolished or replaced. We invite you to visit these sites on a self-directed driving tour starting and finishing in Duncan, BC.

Look for the gold school-bell shaped signs!



York Road School, c. 1972

1. York Road Primary One room structure built in 1914 on former York Road as primary annex to Duncan Elementary School. Closed 1971 and property sold. Schoolhouse was moved in 1972 to 820 Wharncliffe Road, Duncan where it now serves as day care facility. School-bell sign posted at original location: Log building, 460 TransCanada Highway, Duncan.

2. Miss Clack's Kindergarten Beginning in 1908 Miss Lillian M. Clack ran a kindergarten as well as provided classes in music and art for 25 years on the top floor of a former wooden building in downtown Duncan. Living on Ingram Street she was highly regarded as a teacher by the local community. Original structure gone. Location: 70 Government Street, Duncan.



Duncan Public School (aka Alderlea), c. 1900

3. Alderlea School Two-room wooden schoolhouse built in 1891 on one acre of land. Richard John Hawkey taught the first four months after this public school opened and Miss Alice M. Haldon completed the year. Later renamed Duncan Public School. Closed 1912. Property owned by the City of Duncan since 1920. Building used by high school students under the name “Zenith Club” beginning in the 1930s for sports and gymnastics, later becoming the Duncan Zenith Gyro Club in November 1949. Used again as a public school in the 1950’s under the name, Zenith School. Renovations to original structure. Property now leased to Arcadian Day Care. Location: 5650 Club Road, Duncan (behind the Round Building).



Girl Guide Hall, c. 2015

4. Girl Guide Hall Heritage designated building built in 1922. Used as classroom after December 1944 fire at St. John’s Church Hall destroyed the classroom space rented there by School District 65. Next, rented as emergency gymnasium after Duncan High School burned to the ground in March 1946 and the school’s own gym in a separate building had been converted into emergency classrooms. Location: 321 Cairnsmore Street, Duncan.



Cairnsmore Primary School, c. 1940

5. Cairnsmore Primary School Designed by architect, Douglas James. Built 1925 as primary school. Became a junior high school in 1936, then later returned to being a primary grade school. In 1992 became the Cowichan Valley Open Learning Co-op (CVOLC) providing alternate education programming to students in School District 65. Closed 2016. Now rented by public school district to Adage Dance Studio. Location: 540 Cairnsmore Street, Duncan.



St. Christopher's Kindergarten, c. 1970

6. St. Christopher's Kindergarten Private kindergarten in Mrs. Margaret Mitchell's home for 37 years, finally closing 1996. Location: 1063 Nagle Street, Duncan.

7. First Duncan High School While property was sought for a proper high school building, the first high school classes in Duncan were taught at Alderlea School and then in this private home known as the Philpot House during 1909-1911 with principal, Victor Woodworth in charge. Location: 1045 Nagle Street, Duncan.



Duncan High School on the right, c. 1942 (Duncan Elementary School in background)

8. Duncan High School First public high school built 1911 by Henry English for \$4875 on the same property where current Duncan Elementary School is located. First principal Victor Woodworth. Enlarged for \$15,550 in 1937 based on plans by architect Douglas James. Totally burned to the ground in March 1946. No original structure remains. Location: Corner, Cairnsmore & Nagle Streets, Duncan.



Queen Margaret's School, 1921

9. First Queen Margaret's School In 1921 QMS founders, Norah Creina Denny and Dorothy Rachel Geoghegan rented their first joint school premises at "Holmesdale", a house built by pioneer Anglican minister, Rev. David Holmes, before purchasing their own property for their school. Location: 1058 Holmesdale Street, Duncan.

10. Duncan Grammar School Opened in 1926 by Headmaster Robert Honour as a private school for boys. Former student, Charles Ferguson Hoey, awarded Victoria Cross in 1944. Closed 1950. Later rented by Queen Margaret's School for a short period. No original structure remains. Location: West side of Cowichan District Hospital, public parking lot area, 3045 Gibbins Road, Duncan.



Gibbins Road School, c. 1962

11. Gibbins Road School Opened 1962 as three-room annex of Duncan Elementary School for students in grades 1-7. Later used for grade 4 only. Closed permanently 1983. Property now owned by the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Squadron 744. Location: 3790 Gibbins Road, Duncan.



Vimy Hall, c. 2015

12. Vimy Hall The loss of Duncan High School to fire in 1946 put school accommodation in School District 65 (Cowichan) in crisis. Vimy Hall was rented 1947-1951 and 1954-1958, with the school district putting in \$1000 in repairs, and building a partition to make 2 classrooms inside the hall. Playground repaired by Vimy Hall PTA in 1949. Andrew McMorland served as principal 1947-1951. Location: 3969 Gibbins Road, Duncan.



Mt. Prevost Hillcrest School, 1934

13. Mt. Prevost Hillcrest School Public school built 1932 by Hillcrest Lumber Company owner, Carlton Stone. Opened with 37 students of many nationalities, including East Indian, Japanese and Chinese. First teacher James Edward Somerled MacDonald. Closed 1943 due to dwindling enrollment due to move of Hillcrest Lumber Company to Mesachie Lake. No original structure remains. Property sold. Now private residence. Location: 4350 Pollock Road, Duncan.



2nd Sahtlam School, 1919

14. Sahtlam Schools Schooling in Sahtlam area began in 1890 in a rent-free empty house on Menzies Road owned by John Blair, the architect credited with landscaping Beacon Hill Park in Victoria. First teacher was his daughter, Jeannie Wallace Blair. In the same year a log schoolhouse was constructed nearby on property belonging to Daniel Currie and the class moved into the new schoolhouse. This site became location of two more schoolhouses. Permanently closed in 2002. Property sold in 2008. Last school building absorbed into private residence building of the new owners, who recognized desire of the community to commemorate their school history and agreed to installation of four signs about the former Sahtlam Schools on fence enclosing their property. Location: 4410 Old Lake Cowichan Road, Duncan.



Mayo School, 1938

15. Mayo/Paldi Schools Public school built 1920 by the Mayo Siding Company. First teacher Margaret Winifred Evans (later Bishop). Replaced with new two room school 1937. Last used as a school about 1986. Burnt to the ground 1997 by unknown arsonist. No original structure remains. Property sold. Now private residence. Location: 5972 Paldi Road, Duncan.



First Yount School. c. 1935

16. First Yount School Opened 1925 as a public school at Mile 65 on the CNR line between Duncan and Youbou. School was former loggers' bunkhouse with classroom at one end and dance hall at the other! First teacher was Eleanor Redhead. Increasing enrollment saw school replaced in 1935. No original structure remains. Property sold. Now private residential strata. Location: Adeline Road (west side, lower end), Youbou, BC.



Nitinat School, April 1967

17. Nitinat School Camp 3 was a thriving logging community when the three-room public school was built in 1937. One of its long-time teachers was Mrs. Emily Garnett. School dismantled in 1976. No original structure remains. Location: Kissinger Lake Campsite, west of Youbou, BC.



Caycuse School, 1943

18. Caycuse School Previously known as Camp 6 School, then Nixon Creek School. Opened as a public school 1927 in a converted logging company bunkhouse. First teacher was Mabel Estelle Jones. New one-room school opened in 1928 with 28 students. Closed 1989 after school population dwindled to 8 students. School building dismantled. No original structure remains. Sign location: Inside Community Hall, Caycuse, BC.

19. Honeymoon Bay School Opened as public school in 1956 in busy mill town. Closed 2002 and site sold. Schoolhouse building now integral part of Honeymoon Bay Lodge and Retreat on original school grounds. Location: 10028 Park Drive, Honeymoon Bay.



Mesachie Lake Elementary School, 1964

20. Mesachie Lake School Opened 1956 as one-room school for grades 1-3. First teacher Mrs. Trudie Allen. Addition built in 1962 to accommodate grades 4-6. Schoolhouse moved in 1968 to Lake Cowichan Secondary School to serve as added classroom for that school. In 1996 schoolhouse was split in two; one half moved to site beside Kaatza Museum and one half given to Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 210. Sign erected at original school location beside Mesachie Community Hall, 9315 South Shore Road, Lake Cowichan.



Stanley Gordon School, c. 1970

21. Stanley Gordon Elementary School Built on hillside above Lake Cowichan Secondary School. Opened September 1949 with ten classrooms, grades 1-7 under principal Campbell Kennedy. Renovations completed in 1988 to make the school accessible to disabled. Closed 2003 due to declining enrollment. Structure to be demolished once provincial funding in place. Location: 70 South Shore Road, Lake Cowichan.



Beech Hall, c. 1913

22. Beech Hall Built by Robert and Catherine Beech as centre for social and community events. Used as first school in Lake Cowichan area, 1913-1915. Converted to private home by Robert and Catherine Beech in 1920 and where they lived for many years before it burned to the ground. No original structure remains. Location: 78 Cowichan Avenue West, Lake Cowichan.



Cowichan Lake Superior School on the left, 1945

23. Cowichan Lake Superior School Two room public school built 1937, grades 7-12. First teachers were John Ferdinand Tupper Saywell and Charles Henry Robinson Pillar. First high school graduation was 1940. Last used as a school in 1969; then became administration offices of School District #66 (Lake Cowichan). In 2022, home of Lisa's Fit Stop. Location: 29 Renfrew Road, Lake Cowichan.



2nd Somenos School, c. 1910

24. Second Somenos School Pioneer William Drinkwater donated a half acre of land for a public school. Opened 1885 with Edward Stuart Wood as first teacher. In 1901 with permission of teacher, Emily Jane Taylor, students held a dance to raise funds to put up a flag and flagpole. Closed 1914. Property sold. Now private residence. No original structure remains. Location: Drinkwater Road opposite entrance into Mountain View Cemetery, just east of the traffic circle at Drinkwater & Somenos Roads.



Third Somenos School. c. 1950

25. Third Somenos School Opened in January 1914 as Somenos Station School with Arthur Henry Thomas as teacher. Used as a community hall in the 1930's and 1940's but brought back to use as a school in 1947 after Duncan High School burned to the ground. Closed as a school July 1960 and returned to use as a community hall which it continues to be today. Location: 3248 Cowichan Valley Highway, Duncan.



Oyster School, c. 1906 (later called Saltair School, then Mount Brenton School)

26. Mount Brenton Elementary School Opened 1885 as Oyster School. Later called Oyster Bay School. New schoolhouse was built 1905. Closed 1934. Re-opened 1948 as Saltair School. In 1950 re-named Mount Brenton Elementary School. Closed in 2002. Property sold 2004. Now last schoolhouse on site serves as Mount Brenton Community Centre. Location: 3850 Oyster School Road, Saltair.



Chemainus Superior School, c. 1937

27. Chemainus Superior School Opened in 1911 as two-room public school for grades 2 -10 on Lots 93-95 & 99-101 in Chemainus. Schoolhouse dismantled 1938 and the property lots were sold for residential housing. Last principal, Percy Edward Wilkinson. No original structure remains. Location: 2920 Pine Street, Chemainus.



Fourth Chemainus School, c. 1938

28. Fourth Chemainus School Two storey building designed by architect Douglas James. Opened September 1938. First principal George Ferguson. In 1942 teachers led students down hill to dock in sad and tearful procession to wave goodbye to former classmates heading to Japanese internment camps on the BC mainland. After Kuper Island Residential School closed 1974, Penelekaut, Chemainus and Halalt Tribes' children began to attend school re-named Chemainus Elementary School. Closed 2001. School building and property returned to Municipality of North Cowichan in 2013. School building demolished 2017. No original structure remains. Location: Western terminus, Severne Street, Chemainus.



First Thetis Island School. c. 1920

29. First Thetis Island School Opened in 1920 with fifteen students on the shore of Telegraph Harbour on Thetis Island. First teacher was Mr. A. Tomlinson. Operated for two years before new premises found on Forbes Road. No original structure remains. Location: 62 North Cove property, off Marine Drive, Thetis Island.



Crozier Road School, 1966

30. Crozier Road School Built as a two-room school in 1961. First teachers were Don Fitch, Principal, and Molly Stringer. Closed 1984. Sold in 2003 for \$300,000 to Mount Brenton Golf Course. Original structure absorbed into golf course maintenance building. Location: north side Crozier Road 50m west from Crozier Road-Chemainus Road intersection.



Second Westholme School, 1927

31. Westholme Schools One room public school built 1909 on land donated by pioneer Alfred Richards. School burnt to the ground September 1, 1918. Second school erected 1923 on same site with addition in 1956. Closed 1973. Original structure still standing. Now under the care of the Westholme School Society and Municipality of North Cowichan. Location: 2558 Mount Sicker Road, Westholme.



First Crofton School, 1907

32. First Crofton School Built 1905 as one-room public schoolhouse. First teacher, Mr. Rhynois Offerhaus, died three months after school opened. Miss Olive Randle taught remainder of first school year. Closed 1950. Schoolhouse later moved to the eastern end of Joan Street where it now serves as Crofton Old School Museum. Original site, 1658 Roberts Street, Crofton. CVSHS school-bell sign held by Crofton Old School Museum, Joan Street, Crofton.



Second Crofton School, 1950 (First Crofton School on the right)

33. Second Crofton School Opened as two-room schoolhouse September 1950 at 1658 Roberts Street, Crofton with teachers Mrs. Ruth Elizabeth Price, Principal, and Mrs. Sydney Catherine McNulty. Closed 2007. Demolished 2020. Property sold 2022. CVSHS school-bell sign held by Crofton Old School Museum, Joan Street, Crofton.

34. First Somenos School The log building built in 1863 on the west side of Somenos Lake served as a meeting hall, Anglican church and first public school in the Cowichan Valley. Classes began September 1864 with eleven students ranging in age from 4 to 15 years under teacher, William Henry Lomas. Mr. Lomas' duties including rowing some of his students from the east side of Somenos Lake before the opening of school each morning and returning them after school ended. Ceased operations as a school in 1872 with the opening of the first Maple Bay School. Sign location: beside Cairn in picnic area, BC Forest Discovery Center, 2892 Drinkwater Road, Duncan.



First Maple Bay School, 1905

35. First Maple Bay School First publicly constructed school in the Cowichan Valley. Built 1870. Opened as North Cowichan School and later renamed Maple Bay School. Replaced with new building on same site in 1895. Closed 1918. No original structure remains. Property sold. Now private residence. Location: Directly opposite the north end of Lakes Road at 1959 Herd Road, Duncan.

36. Maple Bay Agricultural Hall Used as a school alternatively with the first Maple Bay School between 1877-1881 under teacher Archibald Dodds. Closed as a school in October 1881 due to lack of attendance. No original structure remains. Location: 1033 Herd Road, Duncan.



Maple Bay School, 1962

37. Second Maple Bay School Four-room public school opened 1961 with 161 students in grades 1-7. Two more classrooms and a gymnasium added in 1963. Closed in 2000. Property sold. School building now serving as private museum. Location: 6759 Considine Road in Maple Bay.



Former St. Peter's Church Hall as private home, 2012 (since demolished and replaced)

38. Anglican Church Hall Originally built 1957 as an Anglican Mission Chapel. Rented by School District #65 (Cowichan) 1966-1978 for use as a kindergarten annexed to the Second Maple Bay School. Property sold. Hall absorbed into private residence which was later demolished. No original structure remains. Location: 6692 Chisholm Trail, Maple Bay.



Genoa School, 1920

39. Genoa School Also known as Genoa Bay School. Tiny one room public school operated intermittently 1891- 1928 for children in the vicinity. Nineteen students attended in 1892-1893, one of whom, Ethel May Weismillar (later McKelvie) made Provincial Roll of Honour and went on to become a long time and well-respected teacher in the Cowichan Valley. Property sold. Schoolhouse remains on private residential lot. Location: 689 Saltspring Road, Genoa Bay.

40. Quamichan Lake School Private boys' school opened 1905 by Percy Truscott Skrimshire. Many of his students gained distinction serving as military officers during WWI. Closed in 1924 when Mr. Skrimshire accepted a teacher's appointment at Shawnigan Lake School. No original structure remains. Location: 1876 Maple Bay Road, Duncan.



Quamichan School. C. 1907

41. Quamichan School Mrs. Annie Monk was first teacher at this public one room school built 1885 on land purchased by the Bishop of British Columbia with money donated by Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts. Closed 1918. Purchased by Quamichan Boy Scouts in 1950. Burned to the ground 1980. No original structure remains. Property sold. Now private residence. Location: 5847 Indian Road, Duncan (off Maple Bay Road).



St. Ann's Convent School, 1921

42. St. Ann's Convent School Opened 1864 as school for First Nations girls on land pre-empted by the Sisters of St. Ann at the foot of Mount Tzouhalem. Became boys' school 1904. Original schoolhouse replaced 1921. Girls readmitted as day students in 1950 and boarding school for boys was discontinued in 1956. Closed permanently in June 1964. Location: 1843 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan.



3rd Bench School, c. 1949

43. Third Bench School Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson donated land for the third Bench School built 1885 with Eli Joseph Campbell as first teacher. Closed 1950 when the fourth (and current) Bench School replaced it on same property. Used as a community hall for a short time before being dismantled. No original structure remains. Location: Playground area, 1501 Cowichan Bay Road, Cowichan Bay.



Cobble Hill High School, c. 1953

44. Cobble Hill High School First public high school at south end of Cowichan Valley opened 1931 as extension of Cobble Hill Elementary. The 1914 schoolhouse was renovated for grades 9-12 with Miss Iola Worthington as first principal. Closed as high school 1950. Carried on as elementary school until replaced by new Cobble Hill Elementary School about 2001. Property sold 2008. Now Evergreen Independent School. Location: 3515 Watson Avenue, Cobble Hill.



4th Mill Bay School, c. 1950

45. Fourth Mill Bay School Built 1914 for \$2975 on land donated by pioneer Barry family. Two previous public schools on same site. First called Shawnigan School until 1918 when provincial decree changed name. Additions made 1958, 1969 and 1980's. Closed 2013. Re-opened 2018 as Mill Bay Nature School. Location: 3175 Cobble Hill Road, Mill Bay.



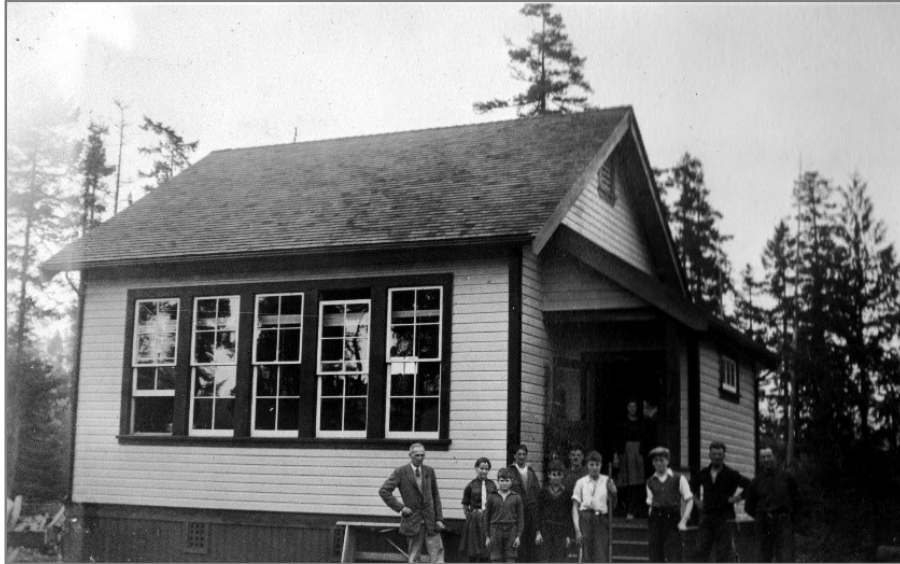
Bayview School, c. 1951

46. Bayview School Opened 1950 as one room public school, grades 1-6. First teacher Mrs. Alexandra Jessie Embree. Second room added 1961. Closed 1991. Property sold. No original structure remains. Location: Behind Tim Hortons, 825 Deloume Road, Mill Bay.



Bamberton School. c. 1933

47. Bamberton School Miss Irma Glyde Trowsse taught children of BC Cement Company employees from 1924 until school closure in 1961. Schoolhouse, built 1927, sold and moved off site in 1977 to private farm in Cobble Hill. Original location: Top of main street of former Bamberton townsite, now owned by Malahat Tribes. No public access. CVSHS schoolbell sign held by Mill Bay Heritage Museum, 2851 Church Way, Mill Bay.



West Shawnigan Lake School, c. 1933

48. West Shawnigan Lake School Operated as one-room school, grades 1-8, between 1933-1941 under teacher Elsie Annie Gertrude Miles, who went on to become a highly esteemed principal in School District 65. Enrollment numbers ranged from 9 to 14. No original structure remains. Location: 2021 Mable Road, Shawnigan Lake.



Sylvania School, 1953

49. Sylvania School Two-room public school built 1919 on land donated by Franklin Albert Judson Copley. School named after Sylvania Dairy and Sylvania Logging Works owned by the Copley family. Closed 1961. Property sold. Original structure still standing. Now home of Mill Bay Lions Club and Cobble Hill Boy Scouts. Location: Corner, Cameron-Taggart and Shawnigan Lake Roads, Shawnigan Lake.



Shawnigan School, c. 1930

50. Shawnigan School Public school built 1893 by Arthur Rogers of Cobble Hill for \$620. Addition added 1914. First called Malahat School until 1918 when name changed by provincial decree. Closed 1950. Property sold 1951 and school buildings renovated to become Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic Church. Old schoolhouse was still discernable in renovated church structure. Sold again 2015 to private ownership and then demolished. No original structure remains. Location: 2900 Shawnigan Lake Road, Cobble Hill.



Elsie Miles School, c. 1975

51. Elsie Miles School Opened as Shawnigan Lake Elementary in 1951. Renamed Elsie A. Miles School in 1974 after Elsie Annie Gertrude Miles who had just retired after teaching in the area for 43 years, including serving as principal of the school for 32 of those years. Closed in 2006. Schoolhouse and property now owned by Cowichan Valley Regional District. Location: 1801 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road, Shawnigan Lake.



Cowichan Station School, c. 1960

52. Fourth Cowichan Station School Two room public school built in 1914 for \$5746 on one acre of land. Described at the time as one of the finest rural school buildings in BC. First principal, George Bowyer. Gym added 1964. Closed 2007. School house still stands. Now under care of Cowichan Station Area Association and used as an arts and recreation centre known as “The Hub”. Location: 2375 Koksilah Road, Cowichan Station.

53. Third Cowichan Station School Opened as McPherson’s School in 1895 in the bar and dining room of the Jones Building/Hotel across the road from the Cowichan Station train station until the new schoolhouse was built September 1896 by William Herd of Somenos for \$389. School name changed to Cowichan Public in May 1897. Closed 1914. Schoolhouse moved that year to become annex to Mrs. Heywood’s cottage 100 yards south of its original location. Schoolhouse now integral part of private home on property. Location: 2465 Koksilah Road, Cowichan Station.



2nd Cowichan Station School, 2013

53. Second Cowichan Station School Built in 1885 for \$385 on land donated by pioneer James Mearns beside Koksilah Road close to the entrance of the current Fairbridge residential subdivision. Also known as Koksilah School. First teacher was Eli Joseph Campbell who lived in a two-room lean-to erected on the schoolhouse. Closed 1895. Land reverted to original homestead with schoolhouse used as home for farm manager. Schoolhouse moved in 1977 to current site beside Fairbridge Chapel. Location: 4791 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan.



Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School, c. 1946

54. Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Opened 1935 for underprivileged boys and girls from Britain. First teachers Arthur Howard Plows, Principal, and John James Alexander (“Jock) Gillatt. New schoolhouse completed 1937 with four classrooms, a gymnasium, manual training and domestic science workshops, library, and cloakrooms. Closed in 1949 but rented for classroom use by School District 65 between 1949-1965. Schoolhouse demolished 1977. Location: Fairbridge Park off Koksilah Road, Duncan.



Glenora School, c. 1949

55. Glenora Schools Four public schools on same site, first one built 1910; second burned to the ground September 1930. Third school completed November 1930. New two room school built 1950. Closed 1982. Property sold. No original structure remains. Now private residence. Location: 5020 Elliot Road, Duncan.



Koksilah School, c. 1960

56. Fourth Koksilah School Built summer 1914 to replace three-year-old public schoolhouse that burnt down on same site in January 1914. First teacher Mona Favoretta Macdonald (later East). Closed 1972 when replaced by new school on other side of TransCanada Highway. Original structure remains. Now rented by School District 79 to the Cowichan Valley Metis organization. Location: Corner, Chaster & Charlotte Roads, Duncan.

**COWICHAN VALLEY SCHOOLS HERITAGE SOCIETY
PHASE I, II, III & IV SCHOOLS
INDEX**

Alderlea School (aka Duncan Public School and Zenith School)	Page 3
Anglican Church Hall (aka St. Peter’s Church Hall)	Page 18
Arcadian School (aka Alderlea School)	Page 3
Bamberton School	Page 22
Bayview School	Page 22
Beech Hall (aka 1 st Lake Cowichan School)	Page 11
3 rd Bench School	Page 20
Cairnsmore Primary School (aka Duncan Junior High School)	Page 4
Camp 3 School (aka Nitinat School)	Page 9
Camp 6 School (aka Caycuse School)	Page 9
Caycuse School (aka Camp 6 School and Nixon Creek School)	Page 9
Chemainus Elementary School (aka 4 th Chemainus School)	Page 14
4 th Chemainus School (aka Chemainus Elementary School)	Page 14
Chemainus Superior School	Page 13
Cobble Hill High School (also known as Cobble Hill II)	Page 21
Cowichan Lake Superior School (aka Lake Cowichan Elementary/High School)	Page 11
2 nd Cowichan Station School	Page 25
3 rd Cowichan Station School (aka McPherson’s School)	Page 25
4 th Cowichan Station School	Page 25
1 st Crofton School	Page 16
2 nd Crofton School	Page 16
Crozier Road School	Page 15
Duncan Grammar School	Page 6
Duncan Junior High School (aka Cairnsmore Primary School)	Page 4
1 st Duncan High School (aka Philpot Home)	Page 4
Duncan High School	Page 5
Duncan Public School (aka Alderlea School)	Page 3
Elsie A. Miles School (aka Shawnigan Lake Elementary School)	Page 24
Genoa School (aka Genoa Bay School)	Page 19
Gibbins Road School	Page 6
Girl Guide Hall	Page 3
Glenora Schools	Page 26
Honeymoon Bay School	Page 9
4 th Koksilah School	Page 27
1 st Lake Cowichan School (aka Beech Hall)	Page 11
Malahat School (aka Shawnigan School)	Page 24
Maple Bay Agricultural Hall	Page 17
1 st Maple Bay School (aka North Cowichan School)	Page 17
2 nd Maple Bay School (aka Maple Bay Elementary School)	Page 18
Mayo School (aka Paldi School)	Page 8
McPherson’s School (aka 3 rd Cowichan Station School)	Page 25
Mesachie Lake School	Page 10
4 th Mill Bay School	Page 21
Miss Clack’s Kindergarten	Page 2

Mount Brenton Elementary School (aka Oyster School and Saltair School)	Page 13
Mount Prevost Hillcrest School	Page 7
Nitinat School (aka Camp 3 School)	Page 9
Nixon Creek School (aka Caycuse School)	Page 9
North Cowichan School (aka 1 st Maple Bay School)	Page 17
Oyster School (aka Mount Brenton Elementary School)	Page 13
Paldi School (aka Mayo School)	Page 8
Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School	Page 26
Quamichan School	Page 19
Quamichan Lake School	Page 19
1 st Queen Margaret’s School	Page 5
Sahtlam Schools	Page 7
Saltair School (aka Mount Brenton Elementary School)	Page 13
Shawnigan Lake Elementary School (aka Elsie A. Miles School)	Page 24
Shawnigan School (aka Malahat School)	Page 24
1 st Somenos School	Page 17
2 nd Somenos School	Page 12
3 rd Somenos School	Page 12
St. Ann’s Convent School	Page 20
St. Christopher’s Kindergarten	Page 4
St. Peter’s Church Hall (aka Anglican Church Hall)	Page 18
Stanley Gordon School	Page 10
Sylvania School	Page 23
1 st Thetis Island School	Page 14
Vimy Hall	Page 6
West Shawnigan Lake School	Page 23
Westholme Schools	Page 15
York Road School	Page 2
1 st Yount School	Page 8
Zenith School (aka Alderlea School)	Page 3
 Appendix 1 – List of Other Former Schools in the Cowichan Valley	 Page 30
Appendix 2 – List of Schools in Operation in the Cowichan Valley as of October 2022	Page 35
Cowichan Valley Schools Heritage Society	Page 37
List of Supporters	Page 38

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF OTHER FORMER SCHOOLS IN THE COWICHAN VALLEY

A. B. Greenwall Elementary School (1969-2008)
 109 Hammond, Lake Cowichan, BC

Agricultural Hall (1888)
 Near the former Cowichan Mound, and SW of
 the current Trunk Road-Canada Avenue
 intersection

Anglican Mission Chapel School (1867-1888)
 Corner Maple Bay & Tzouhalem Roads where
 Cowichan Lodge is currently located

Armoury Buildings (1949-1950)
 Near the former Cowichan Mound, and SW of
 the current Trunk Road-Canada Avenue
 intersection

Bear Creek School (c.1939 - c.1958))
 Bear Creek, Port Renfrew, BC

Bell Tower School (aka Bridge School) (1925-
 1969)
 Corner King George Street and Renfrew
 Avenue, Lake Cowichan, BC

1st Bench School (aka Cowichan South School)
 (1869-1881)
 Near 1615 Koksilah Road, Cowichan Bay, BC

2nd Bench School (aka Cowichan South School)
 (1881-1886)
 On part of the current Norie Farm between
 Old Koksilah Road and the TransCanada
 Highway

Benallack School (aka Palmer School) (1925-
 1934)
 Mile 65.4 on the old CNR Railway line to Lake
 Cowichan, ½ mile south of the Cowichan
 River, and 450 feet from the former railway
 station

Cedar Lodge Boys' School (aka Cedar Centre)
 (1965-1986)
 South side of Cobble Hill Road, about one mile
 west of TransCanada Highway-Cobble Hill
 Road-Cowichan Bay Road intersection, Cobble
 Hill, BC

Charles Hoey, VC, School (later, Cowichan
 Adult Learning Centre) (1968-1992)
 756 Castle Place, Duncan, BC

Chemainus Primary Annex (c. 1930's)
 2909 Esplanade Street, Chemainus, BC

Chemainus Landing School (aka 2nd
 Chemainus School) (1901-1911)
 West side of railway tracks on property
 adjacent to current St. Joseph's Catholic
 Church, Elm Street, Chemainus, BC

Chemainus River School (aka 1st Chemainus
 School) (1883-1901)
 Near Chemainus River Bridge and Chemainus
 River Church on north side of Chemainus
 River in Westholme area

1st Chemainus School (aka Chemainus River
 School) (1883-1901)
 Near Chemainus River Bridge and Chemainus
 River Church on north side of Chemainus
 River in Westholme area

2nd Chemainus School (aka Chemainus
 Landing School) (1901-1911)
 West side of railway tracks on property
 adjacent to current St. Joseph's Catholic
 Church, Elm Street, Chemainus, BC

Cliffside Preparatory School (1959-1977)
 2180 East Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan
 Lake, BC

Cobble Hill Elementary (aka Cobble Hill I)
(1944- c. 2008)
3515 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill, BC

Cobble Hill II School (formerly Cobble Hill
School; then Cobble Hill High School) (1913-
2003)
3515 Watson Road, Cobble Hill, BC

Comiaken Hill School (1859-1864)
Near Comiaken Hill, Tzouhalem Road,
Duncan, BC

1st Courthouse (1872-1874)
Right side, Tzouhalem Road, 200 yards past the
former Tzouhalem store, and 30 yards from
the former second courthouse on the left side
of the road in Cowichan flats, Cowichan Bay,
BC

Cowichan Adult Learning Centre (formerly
Charles Hoey, VC, School) (1995-2013)
756 Castle Place, Duncan BC

Cowichan Alternate Middle Program (late 1990's
– c. 2015)
1033 Nagle Street, Duncan, BC

Cowichan Consolidated Indian Day School
(aka St. Catherine's Indian School) (1940-1973)
1802 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan, BC

Cowichan Indian Day School (aka Comiaken
School; Quamichan Comeaken School; and
Comeakin Quamichan School) (c. 1896 – 1939)
On Tzouhalem Road at Comiaken Reserve,
near current Stone/Butter Church, Cowichan
Tribes, Duncan, BC

1st Cowichan Lake School (1913-1919)
Lake Cowichan, BC

2nd Cowichan Lake School (1919-1925)
North side, South Shore Road, opposite
current Field Store (where maintenance
building of School District No. 66 later stood),
Lake Cowichan, BC

1st Cowichan Station School (aka Kokasailah
School) (1870-1884)
On north bank of Kelvin Creek, about 100
yards from current bridge, Koksilah Road,
Duncan, BC

2nd Cowichan Station School (aka 2nd Koksilah
School and then McPherson's School) (1885-
1910)
Close to entrance of current Fairbridge
residential subdivision, Koksilah Road,
Duncan, BC

Cowichan Valley Alternative School (CVAS)
(1975 – c. 2018)
1842 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan, BC

1st Crofton School (1902-1905)
In vacant store in the former Croft Block
adjacent to the former Hotel Osborne, Joan
Avenue, Crofton, BC

Duncan Chinese School (former Japanese
School) (1942 – 1960's)
239 Second Street, Duncan, BC

Duncan Elementary School (formerly
Duncan Consolidated School; École Duncan
Elementary) (1913-2013)
1033 Nagle Street, Duncan, BC

Duncan Japanese School (later Duncan
Chinese School) (1938-1942)
239 Second Street, Duncan, BC

Duncan Nursery School & Kindergarten (c.
1942)
College Street, Duncan, BC

Dwight International School (2009-2019)
(later Dwight Canada School; then Brookes
Shawnigan School)
2371 Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan Lake,
BC

École Duncan Elementary (2007-2013)
1033 Nagle Street, Duncan, BC

École Mill Bay (formerly 4th Mill Bay School)
(2011-2013)
3175 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill, BC

Fairbridge School (formerly Prince of Wales
Fairbridge Farm School) (1946-1961)
South side, current Fairbridge subdivision,
Koksilah Road, Cowichan Station, BC

Franklin River School District (1936)
Franklin River, BC

George E. Bonner High School (1957-1960)
3060 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill, BC

George E. Bonner Junior Secondary (then
George Bonner Middle School) (1957-2013)
3060 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill, BC

Gordon River School (1947-1948; 1950-1964)
Gordon River Logging Camp, inland and west
of Honeymoon Bay, BC

Green Point Indian School (c. 1849-1852)
Green Point, Tzouhalem Mountain, BC

Henry Road School (1945)
Henry Road, Chemainus, BC

Hill School (1919-1920)
Gibbons Road, Duncan, BC

Indian Chapel School (1867)
Corner Indian & Tzouhalem Roads, Duncan,
BC

Island Oak High School (1995-2017)
5814 Banks Road, Duncan, BC

J. H. Boyd Primary School (1962-1983)
21 Oak Lane, Lake Cowichan, BC

Kilninta Private School (1905)
Current site of Ramada by Wyndham (former
Silver Bridge Inn), 140 TransCanada Highway,
Duncan, BC

Kokasilah School (aka 1st Cowichan Station
School) (1870-1884)
On north bank Kelvin Creek, about 100 yards
from current bridge, Koksilah Road, Duncan,
BC

Koksilah Indian Day School (1899-1953)
Near current municipal waterworks, south side,
Mission Road, Duncan, BC

Koksilah Orientation School (later absorbed
into 5th Koksilah School) (1971-1972)
5262 Boal Road, Duncan, BC

2nd Koksilah School (aka 2nd Cowichan Station
School and McPherson's School) (1885-1910)
Close to entrance of current Fairbridge
residential subdivision, Koksilah Road,
Cowichan Station, BC

3rd Koksilah School (1910-1914)
Corner, Chaster and Charlotte Roads,
Duncan, BC

5th Koksilah School (1958-2013)
5265 Boal Road, Duncan, BC

Kuper Island Indian Day School (1968-1987)
Penelekaut Tribes Reserve, Penelekaut Island,
BC

Kuper Island Indian Residential School (1890-
1975)
Penelekaut Island, BC

Lakeside Preparatory Academy (aka Lakeside
High School) (1996)
2180 East Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan
Lake, BC

Lakeshaw School (1930-1932)
At mile 53.9 on the CNR railway line between
Kinsol at 51.9 and Deerholme at 58.0

Leinster Preparatory School/Academy (c.
1922-c. 1928)
Old house, intersection of Shawnigan and
Cobble Hill Roads, Shawnigan Lake, BC

MacKirdy Centre (1985, +/- 10 years)
Corner, Cairnsmore and Nagle Streets,
Duncan, BC

Malahat Station School (1929-1941)
690 Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan Lake,
BC

Maxwell International Baha'i School (1988-
2008)
2371 Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan Lake,
BC

McPherson's School (aka 1st, Koksilah School,
then 2nd Cowichan Station School) (1885-
1910)
Close to entrance of current Fairbridge
residential subdivision, Koksilah Road,
Duncan, BC

1st Mill Bay School (aka Shawnigan School)
(1883)
Cookhouse, former Sayward's Mill, Mill Bay,
BC

2nd Mill Bay School (aka Shawnigan School)
(1883-1896)
Corner, Nightingale and Cobble Hill Roads,
Cobble Hill, BC

3rd Mill Bay School (aka Shawnigan School)
(1895-1914)
3175 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill, BC

Miss Fry's School (c. 1890)
In former Library building opposite former
Jayne's Store, Canada Avenue, Duncan, BC

Miss Geoghegan's School (1918)
Home of Miss Dorothy Rachel Geoghegan
6781 Westcott Road, Duncan, BC

Mrs. W. R. Smith's Kindergarten (c. 1931 –
1942)
York Road, Duncan, BC

Mount Prevost Junior Secondary School (aka
Mount Prevost Middle School) (1961-2013)
6177 Somenos Road, Duncan, BC

Mount Sicker School (1901; 1908-1910)
Former townsite near former Mount Sicker
mine on Mount Sicker, Westholme, BC

North Chemainus Primary School (1967- c.
2001)
3172 Garner Street, Chemainus, BC

Oak Park Kindergarten (1949-1951)
1247 Maple Bay Road, Duncan, BC

Palmer School (aka Benallack School) (1925-
1934)
Mile 65.4 on the old CNR Railway line to Lake
Cowichan, ½ mile south of the Cowichan
River, and 450 feet from the former railway
station

Peter Pan Nursery School (c. 1939)
Duncan, BC

Quamichan Indian Day School (1859-1922)
Clemclemaluts Reserve, Cowichan Tribes,
Cowichan Bay, BC

Quamichan Junior Secondary School (later
Quamichan Middle School) (1961-2013)
2515 Beverley Street, Duncan, BC

Queen Alexandra Solarium (1927-1958)
2735 Mount Baker Road, Mill Bay, BC

Roanoak School (aka Mrs. Stanhope's School)
(1928 +/- 5 years)
Off Stanhope and Lakes Roads, Duncan, BC

Rounds School (1936-1947) Rounds Beach, Lake Cowichan, BC	Summerfield's School (c. 1920-1925) 6122 Lakeview Drive, Duncan, BC
Somenos Indian School (1899-1910) Somenos Reserve, Cowichan Tribes, Duncan, BC	Sylvan Learning Centre (1994) #213 – 80 Station Street, Duncan, BC
4 th Somenos School (aka Somenos Elementary; Somenos Rural Traditional School) (1953- 2013) 3030 Sprott Road, Duncan, BC	1 st Sylvania School (1918-1919) 2511 Sylvester Road, Cobble Hill, BC
St. Aloysius Protectorate (1904-1956) 1843 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan, BC	The Cliffs School (1894-1916) 2986 Cliffs Road, Duncan, BC
St. Catherine's Alternative School (1973-1975) 1802 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan, BC	The Cottage (1917-1918) Somenos, BC
St. Catherine's Indian School (aka Cowichan Consolidated Indian Day School) (1940-1973) 1802 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan, BC	2 nd Thetis Island School (1922-1951) Forbes Road, Thetis Island, BC
St. John's Church Hall (Sept-Nov 1944) 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan, BC	Twindergarten Kindergarten (1962-1963) 1111 Chemainus Road, Saltair, BC
St. Joseph's Elementary School (1964-2018) 9735 Elm Street, Chemainus, BC	Uppington School (1914-1916) Phipps Road, Cowichan Station, BC
St. Jude's Chapel (c. 1936) NW corner, Tssusie Road near intersection with Crofton Road, Westholme, BC	Wesleyan Methodist Church, Maple Bay (1872) Pioneer Road, Duncan, BC
St. Peter's Quamichan Anglican Church (c. 1867) 5800 Church Road, Duncan, BC	Western Canada College (1981-1983) 2046 Widows Walk, Shawnigan Lake, BC
Strathcona Lodge School (1927-1977) 2371 East Shawnigan Lake Road Shawnigan Lake, BC	Westholme Indian Day School (1949-1964) Westholme Road, Westholme, BC
	Westholme Roman Catholic Church (1950) Crofton Road, Westholme, BC
	2 nd Yount School (1935-2007; 2008-2013) 8545 Hemlock Street, Youbou, BC

APPENDIX 2
LIST OF SCHOOLS IN OPERATION AS OF NOVEMBER 2022

Alex Aitken Elementary School (1967 - current)
 2495 Roome Road, Duncan, BC

Alexander Elementary School (1958-current)
 2471 Beverly Street, Duncan, BC

Bench Elementary School (aka 4th Bench School) (1950 - current)
 1501 Cowichan Bay Road, Cowichan Bay, BC

Brentwood College (1961 - current)
 2735 Mount Baker Road, Mill Bay, BC

Chemainus Community Elementary School (aka 5th Chemainus School) (2001 - current)
 3172 Garner Street, Chemainus, BC

Chemainus Secondary School (formerly Chemainus High School) (1950 - current)
 9947 Daniel Street, Chemainus, BC

Cowichan Secondary School (formerly Cowichan High School) (1950 - current)
 2652 James Street, Duncan, BC

Cowichan Valley Open Learning Cooperative (CVOLC) (1992 - current)
 1033 Nagle Street, Duncan, BC

Crofton Elementary (aka 4th Crofton School) (2007 - current)
 8017 York Avenue, Crofton, BC

Discovery Elementary School (c. 1980 - current)
 2204 McKean Road, Shawnigan Lake, BC

Drinkwater Elementary School (1967 - current)
 6236 Lane Road, Duncan, BC

Duncan Christian Elementary School (1960 - current)
 495 Beech Avenue, Duncan, BC

Duncan Christian Secondary School (1960 - current)
 495 Beech Avenue, Duncan, BC

École des Cascades (2021 - current)
 756 Castle Place, Duncan, BC

École Cobble Hill Elementary (formerly Cobble Hill Elementary School) (c. 2001 - current)
 3642 Learning Way, Cobble Hill, BC

École Mount Prevost Elementary (formerly Mount Prevost Junior Secondary School, then Mount Prevost Middle School) (1961 - current)
 6177 Somenos Road, Duncan, BC

Evergreen Independent School (1983 - current)
 3515 Watson Road, Cobble Hill, BC

Frances Kelsey Secondary School (1994 - current)
 953 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Road, Mill Bay, BC

George E. Bonner Elementary School (formerly George E. Bonner High School, then George E. Bonner Junior Secondary School, then George E. Bonner Middle School) (1955 - current)
 3060 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill, BC

International Montessori Academy (2016 - current)
 2375 Koksilah Road, Cowichan Station, BC

Khowhemun Elementary School (1965 - present)
 2918 Cliffs Road, Duncan, BC

Lake Cowichan School (formerly Cowichan Lake High School, then Lake Cowichan High School; then Lake Cowichan Elementary/High School; then Lake Cowichan Secondary School) (1944 - current)
 190 South Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC

Maple Bay Elementary School (aka 3rd Maple Bay School) (2000 - present)
1500 Donnay Drive, Duncan, BC

Mill Bay Nature School (aka 4th Mill Bay School; formerly Mill Bay Elementary School; École Mill Bay Elementary) (2018 - current)
3175 Cobble Hill Road, Cobble Hill, BC

Palsson Elementary School (1977 - current)
9 Grosskleg Way, Lake Cowichan, BC

Quamichan School (formerly Quamichan Junior Secondary School; then Quamichan Middle School; then Quamichan Campus, Cowichan Secondary School) (1961 - current)
2515 Beverly Street, Duncan, BC

Queen Margaret's School (1921 - current)
Elementary and Secondary Programs
660 Brownsey Avenue, Duncan, BC

Queen of Angels School (1964 - current)
2085 Maple Bay Road, Duncan, BC

Quw'utsun Smuneem Elementary School (2003 - current)
3121 Glenora Road, Duncan, BC

Shawnigan Lake School (1916 - current)
1975 Renfrew Road, Shawnigan Lake, BC

St. John's Academy (2019 - current)
2371 Shawnigan Lake Road, Shawnigan Lake, BC

Sunrise Waldorf School (1980 - current)
4344 Peters Road, Duncan, BC

Tansor Elementary School (1957 - current)
3594 Auchinachie Road, Duncan, BC

3rd Thetis Island School (1951 - current)
North Cove Road, Thetis Island, BC

**Thanks to the following past and present members of the
Cowichan Valley School Heritage Committee:**

Cec Ashley
Shirley Blackstaff
Martha Fraser
Fay Heard
Lois Joyce
Bob King
Leslie Lundgren
Len Mayea
Astrid Notte
Francine O'Brien
Heather Posey
Carolyn Prellwitz
Carolyn Rasmussen
Sandy Riecken
Sally Smith
Sharon Sweeney
Carol Wratten

With many thanks to the following supporters:

BC Retired Teachers' Association
City of Duncan
Chemainus Valley Historical Society
Cobble Hill Historical Society
Cowichan Historical Society
Cowichan Valley Regional District
Cowichan Valley Retired Teachers' Association
Cowichan Valley Teachers' Union
Kaatza Historical Society
Koksilah School Historical Society
Mark's Instant Sign Shop
Mill Bay/Malahat Historical Association
Municipality of North Cowichan
School District 79 (Cowichan Valley)
Shawnigan Lake Historical Society
Sylvania School Society
Town of Lake Cowichan
Westholme School Society

As well as all the private homeowners and businesses
on whose properties former schools once stood
and who graciously allowed us to erect signs
marking the locations of those former schools.