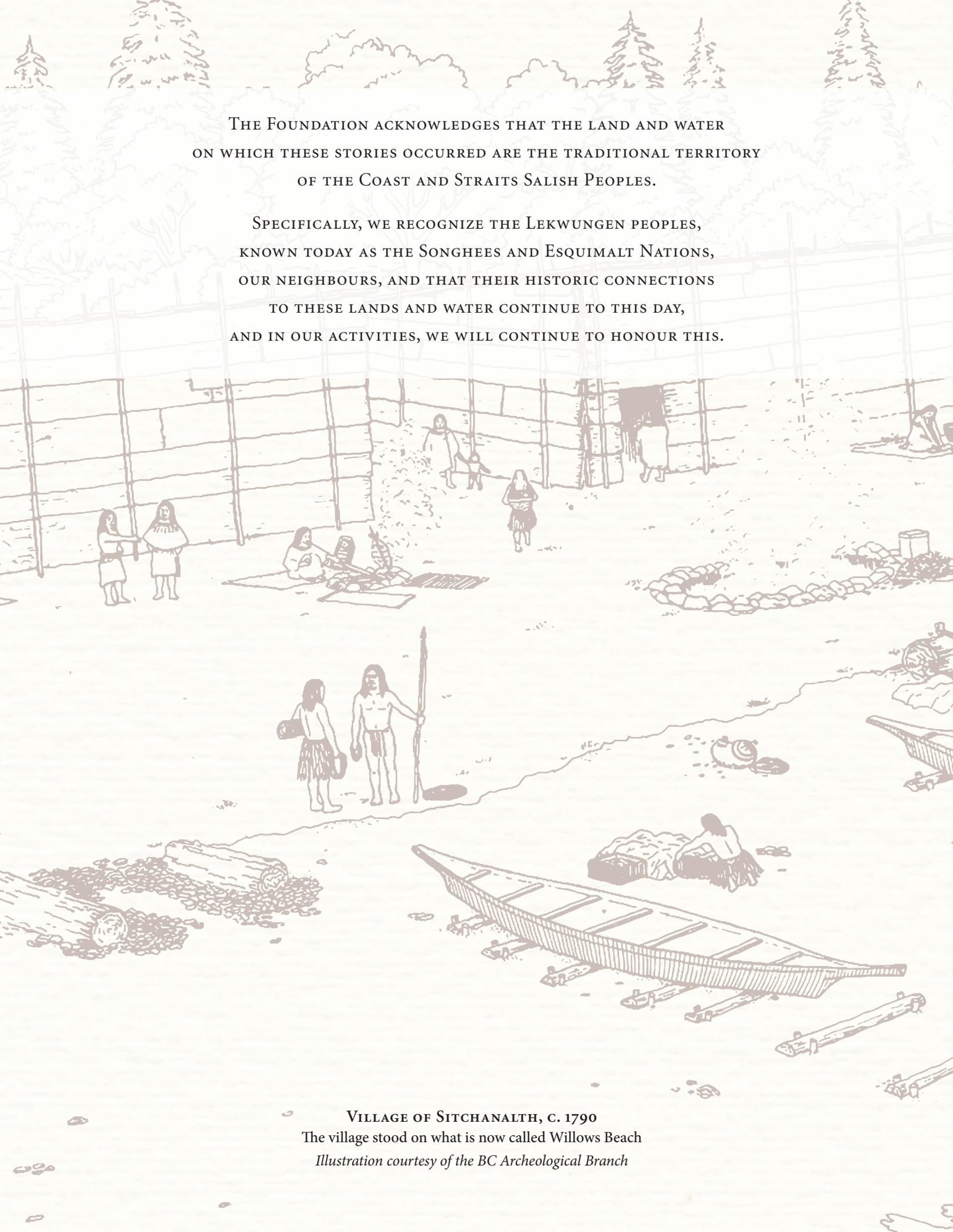




ANNUAL REPORT 2025

THE FOUNDATION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE LAND AND WATER
ON WHICH THESE STORIES OCCURRED ARE THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY
OF THE COAST AND STRAITS SALISH PEOPLES.

SPECIFICALLY, WE RECOGNIZE THE LEKWUNGEN PEOPLES,
KNOWN TODAY AS THE SONGHEES AND ESQUIMALT NATIONS,
OUR NEIGHBOURS, AND THAT THEIR HISTORIC CONNECTIONS
TO THESE LANDS AND WATER CONTINUE TO THIS DAY,
AND IN OUR ACTIVITIES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO HONOUR THIS.



VILLAGE OF SITCHANALTH, C. 1790
The village stood on what is now called Willows Beach
Illustration courtesy of the BC Archeological Branch



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Mayor and Council
District of Oak Bay

The 2025 Annual Report of the Oak Bay Heritage Foundation

It is with pleasure that we submit the annual report of the Foundation.

The Foundation revised budget policies, allocating Municipal Grant funds to homeowner grants and the necessary costs of operating the Foundation under the *Societies Act*; and using Foundation-generated funds to support heritage promotion activities. It is believed that it will be easier to solicit donations where they are used for heritage promotion. Two homeowner heritage restoration grants were awarded.

Promotion of heritage continued through: six presentations through the *Marion Cumming Heritage Lecture Series*, the Century Plaque program, the Foundation website and Facebook page, four evenings at the Oak Bay BIA Night Markets, and a heritage garden party. The Foundation website provides the public with an overview of the Foundation, and includes the annual reports from 2019 to the current.

The Foundation was featured in the January 2026 edition of *Oak Bay Neighbours* magazine, published and mailed to residents in December, 2025.

On behalf of the Directors, thank you to you and the members of staff who have assisted the Foundation throughout the year.

Robert Taylor

PRESIDENT

Bill Hanna

VICE PRESIDENT

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1 TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PUBLIC INTEREST IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION

CONSTITUTION SECTION 2

- (a) To promote the preservation, maintenance and restoration of buildings, structures, sites and land of heritage value in the Municipality of Oak Bay
- (b) To promote and encourage public interest in heritage conservation in the Municipality of Oak Bay

1.1 Marion Cumming Heritage Lecture Series

The series was established in 2004 by the late Marion Cumming.

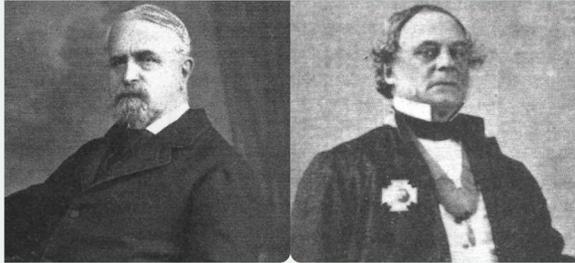
OAK BAY
HERITAGE FOUNDATION
The Marion Cumming Lecture Series
PRESENTS

***Feuding Governors:
Blanshard's Nemesis – Douglas***

THE GRAND INQUISITOR VERSUS THE MONOPOLIST

Celebrated historian Barry Gough brings a defining era of history into focus. Illuminating with intriguing detail the genesis and early days of Canada's westernmost province, and highlighting the fascinating struggles of the time: the supreme influence of commerce, the disparity between expectations and reality, and the bewildering collision of European and Indigenous cultures.

Q&A and refreshments to follow



THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025 7:00PM
Windsor Park Pavilion
2451 Windsor Road, Oak Bay
Everyone welcome | Donations appreciated
facebook.com/OBHeritage | oakbayheritagefoundation.ca

AERIN GRAMM / ALANIS DESIGN

JANUARY

Feuding Governors: Blanshard's Nemesis – Douglas

Celebrated historian **Dr. Barry Gough** illuminated the genesis and early days of Canada's westernmost province, and highlighted the fascinating struggles of the time: the supreme influence of commerce, the disparity between expectations and reality, and the bewildering collision of European and Indigenous cultures.

OAK BAY
HERITAGE FOUNDATION
The Marion Cumming Lecture Series
PRESENTS

*Oak Bay's Sealand of the Pacific
– more than just whales*

Join former Sealand animal trainer Cathy Denny to learn about Sealand's role in research, rescue and rehabilitation of marine animals
Q&A and refreshments to follow



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025 7:00PM
Windsor Park Pavilion
2451 Windsor Road, Oak Bay
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facebook.com/OBHeritage | oakbayheritagefoundation.ca

AMPHI CUMMING | KAREN DENNY

FEBRUARY

Oak Bay's Sealand of the Pacific – more than just whales

Former Sealand animal trainer Cathy Denny described Sealand's role in research, rescue, and rehabilitation of marine animals, which contributed to our current understanding and appreciation of these creatures.

OAK BAY HERITAGE FOUNDATION
The Marion Cumming Lecture Series
PRESENTS

VICTORIA COUGARS WIN STANLEY CUP IN OAK BAY!

Helen Edwards tells the miraculous story of the Stanley Cup in 1925.
Q&A and refreshments to follow



THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 7:00PM
Windsor Park Pavilion
2451 Windsor Road, Oak Bay
Everyone welcome | Donations appreciated
facebook.com/OBHeritage | oakbayheritagefoundation.ca

AMPHI CUMMING | KAREN DENNY

MARCH

Stanley Cup in Oak Bay 1925

Helen Edwards told the miraculous story of the Victoria Cougars winning the Stanley Cup in 1925 against the Montreal Canadiens. The final game was played in the Patrick Arena, 2110 Cadboro Bay Road, Oak Bay.¹

¹ Opened in 1911, the arena burned to the ground in November 1929.

SEPTEMBER

Skullduggery to Preserve Heritage

Former Oak Bay Mayor and BC Attorney General **Brian Smith** described the challenges of *preservation is progress* in the 1970s, including Tod House and Anderson Hill Park.

OAK BAY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Marion Cumming Lecture Series PRESENTS

SKULLDUGGERY TO PRESERVE HERITAGE

Former Oak Bay Mayor and BC Attorney General Brian Smith will describe the challenges of preservation is progress

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 7:00PM
 Windsor Park Pavilion
 2451 Windsor Road, Oak Bay
 Everyone welcome | Donations appreciated
 facebook.com/OBHeritage | oakbayheritagefoundation.ca

AMITY GRAMMETT | ALANIE DESIGN

OCTOBER

Soul of a Wolf – Honouring Staqeya

The sculpture, located at Cattle Point, honours stqéya (Staqeya), named by the Songhees First Nation when he first arrived on Tl'ches, also known as Chatham and Discovery Islands

Sculptor **Kent Laforme** described the journey from Pietrasanta and the quarries of Mount Altissimo, also known as Michelangelo's mountain, to the complex process of the design and engineering challenges, to the creation of the sculpture.

OAK BAY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Marion Cumming Lecture Series PRESENTS

Soul of a Wolf – Honouring Staqeya

The sculpture honours stqéya (Staqeya) named by the Songhees First Nation when he first arrived on Tl'ches, also known as Chatham and Discovery Islands

SCULPTOR KENT LAFORME DESCRIBES THE JOURNEY FROM PIETRASANTA AND THE QUARRIES OF MT. ALTISSIMO, ALSO KNOWN AS MICHELANGELO'S MOUNTAIN, TO THE COMPLEX PROCESS OF THE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGES, TO THE CREATION OF THE SCULPTURE IN OAK BAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 7:00PM
 Windsor Park Pavilion
 2451 Windsor Road, Oak Bay
 Everyone welcome | Donations appreciated
 facebook.com/OBHeritage | oakbayheritagefoundation.ca

AMITY GRAMMETT | ALANIE DESIGN





HERITAGE FOUNDATION
PRESENTS

The Marion Cumming Lecture Series

Story Pole: Indigenous Veterans and the Tallest Totem in the World

Guided by First Nations Elders, this documentary explores the story of Indigenous veterans and how they are remembered today. This film begins with the story pole carved by Mungo Martin, Henry Hunt, and David Martin, raised in 1956 at MEE-qan (Beacon Hill Park). The mystery surrounding the war memorial plaque dedicated to Indigenous veterans, found at the base of the pole, serves as a gateway to a powerful story of truth and reconciliation. This film weaves Royal Roads Military College, a family of the Tsawout Nation, and the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, in the Netherlands. The film is a production of the War Heritage Research Initiative at Royal Roads University, led by Professor Dr. Geoffrey Bird. This film project was guided by Indigenous Elders of several First Nations.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025 7:00PM
Windsor Park Pavilion
2451 Windsor Road, Oak Bay
Everyone welcome | Donations appreciated
facebook.com/OBHeritage | oakbayheritagefoundation.ca

WITH GRANT FUNDING

NOVEMBER

Story Pole: Indigenous Veterans and the Tallest Totem in the World

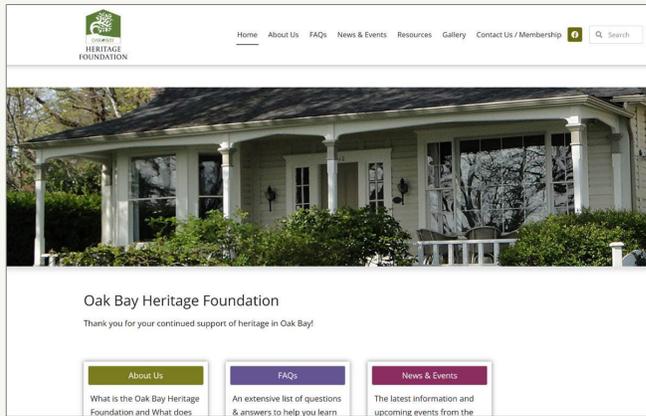
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1.2 Century House Plaques

The Foundation continued the *Century House* (1925 or older) celebration program, established in 2015. Ninety-five plaques are now displayed on homes in the community (See Appendix B), dating from 1906 to 1925.



1.3 Oak Bay Heritage Foundation Connections



WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

The website highlights the activities of the Foundation, news, events, and resources, as well as architectural examples of heritage homes in Oak Bay, and heritage-related books for sale.

See *www.*

oakbayheritagefoundation.ca

OTHER HERITAGE-RELATED GROUPS

The Foundation is working with the Maritime Museum of British Columbia and the Wentworth Villa – Architectural Heritage Museum, to maximize opportunities for lecture material and presenters.

1.4 Oak Bay Neighbours Magazine

The January edition of the magazine was mailed out to Oak Bay residents in December.

The magazine featured a description of the Foundation and heritage functions. It is anticipated that the exposure will create greater community knowledge of the Foundation, and Oak Bay heritage and history.

The magazine has offered the Foundation a “community” half-page in each edition, at no cost, for Foundation-generated content. The content may include Foundation events and lectures, local history, history book reviews, and interesting local history stories.

See *Appendix A* for the full article.



1.5 Hallmark Heritage Society Awards

The Foundation supported the nomination of two Oak Bay homes. Both were recognised by the Hallmark Heritage Society with Awards of Merit for the restoration of the houses.



2370 WINDSOR ROAD²



929 ISLAND ROAD

1.6 Night Markets

During the four Night Markets held June, July, August, and September, the Foundation shared space with the Oak Bay Archives stall, with numerous discussions and explanations concerning heritage issues.



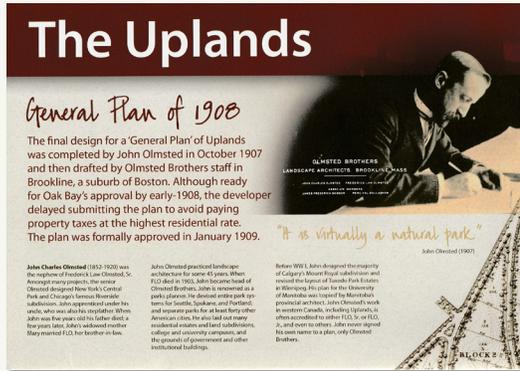
1.7 Heritage Garden Party

In August, in partnership with the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA, Elgin Street, Oak Bay), and sponsored by *Perivale and Taylor Consulting*, a heritage garden party was held. The event was set in Oak Bay in 1925, featured CCPA actors in costume and character, mingling with the guests. A total of eighty guests attended.

² The restored and preserved Windsor Road home is owned by a Foundation director.

1.8 Brochures

The Foundation provided the following brochures to the public at the night markets and heritage lectures; one thousand copies of the *Walking Trails* map were delivered to various restaurants, Oak Bay Monterey and Recreation Centres, the Oak Bay Public Library, and the Oak Bay Beach Hotel.



1.9 Season's Greetings

The following greetings were forwarded to the Foundation's contact list of over 300 persons.



2 HERITAGE GRANTS

FOUNDATION CONSTITUTION SECTION 2 (D)

To provide grants for the purpose of assisting in the preservation, maintenance or restoration of [heritage] properties, which are situated in the Municipality of Oak Bay

2.1 The Coulson House

2018 MEADOW PLACE

Built in 1913 for the Coulson family, the house has aesthetic value as a good example of a contractor-built Craftsman home of the era. Its features include a gable roof with dormers, large front porch, pillars on rough granite piers, leaded windows and wood shingles. Interior features include wood detailing and a fireplace of an unusual cast stone design. The Coulsons were involved in local politics as signatories to the

petition to create the separate municipal entity of Oak Bay.

This residence has historic value for its association with the installation of streetcar lines in the area. It was one of the homes built for families who moved to the area after the streetcar lines were installed in the 1890s along Cadboro Bay Road and along Oak Bay Avenue. On this *cul-de-sac*, ten other homes of various styles were built during this early period of Oak Bay's development, of which half still survive today.

The Foundation grant was to paint the exterior siding following repairs by the owner.



ARIFIN GRAHAM PHOTO

2.2 1526 Beach Drive

Haynes Cottage is a storybook-style residence located on Beach Drive near Haynes Park, in the historic Prospect Place subdivision.

It is a one-and-a-half storey stucco clad house with an asymmetrical multi-peaked roof, enclosed in the front by a low stone wall with ornamental wrought iron.

The home has historic value for its location in a 1898 subdivision amongst other heritage homes. The property sits between two other heritage designated properties, Sandhurst to the south, and Bide-A-Wee to the north. These properties are part of Prospect Place, a historic subdivision laid out in 1898 by prominent architects Francis M Rattenbury and John G Tiarks. It is an area that has preserved much of its historic character with numerous homes designed by several prominent architects of the early 1900s. The neighbourhood streetscape is characterized by mature trees and stone walls.

The Foundation grant was for replacement of a heating system.



3 DIRECTORS

The Directors appointed by Council for 2025 were:

Jane Hall (Secretary)
Bill Hanna (Vice President)
Pat Howard
Cassie Kangas
Rick Marshall
Jane Nielsen
Margaret Palmer
Susan Simpson
Bronwyn Taylor³ (Treasurer)
Robert Taylor (President)
Sarah Taylor

The Foundation was assisted and advised through its discussions by Andrew Appleton, Councillor & Council Liaison.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – OAK BAY Neighbours Magazine Heritage Article >>

³ The three Taylors are not related.

THE OAK BAY HERITAGE FOUNDATION: Honouring Stories



By Audrey Wang | Photos by Trevor Ball



When the volunteers of the Oak Bay Heritage Foundation gathered on a rainy winter's day in Oak Bay Village for a photo shoot – posing before the familiar façade of the original Oak Bay grocery and post office, and the Bell Block – it was impossible not to feel the presence of history layered in every brick and beam. Heritage, however, is more than just the buildings. The volunteer-run, not-

for profit organization is a repository of stories – human stories, community stories, and stories that pre-date settler history by thousands of years.

No one expresses this more clearly than Robert Taylor, President of the Oak Bay Heritage Foundation, whose lifelong love of history shapes his work. "Heritage, a knowledge of local history, grounds us," he says. "We understand

why things are as they are, how the community grew and developed; we appreciate the stories of previous residents." We interviewed five dedicated volunteers over coffee at Hide + Seek in the Bell Block. Bill Hanna (Vice-President), Jane Hall (Secretary), and board members Marg Palmer and Pat Howard agree with Robert that stories and a rich history are what give Oak Bay its soul.

(Continued on Page 10.)



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The District of Oak Bay Plan is five-fold: to preserve heritage streetscapes and neighbourhoods; to conserve historic buildings and structures; to conserve cultural landscape features; to conserve natural landscape features; and to celebrate Oak Bay's unique history.

Education is at the heart of the Foundation's mission, thanks in large part to the late Marion Cumming – artist, activist, philanthropist, and changemaker – whose deep commitment to heritage and social justice helped establish the lecture program that continues today. The Marion

Cumming Lecture Series, held at the Windsor Park Pavilion in spring and fall, is now one of the Foundation's signature initiatives. The January lecture is "Explorations on our Doorstep – Voyages of Forgotten Dreams", by maritime historian Barry Gough, at the Windsor Park Pavilion, on Wednesday, 21 January, 7pm.

Marg Palmer who has been an active volunteer for 15 years, explains: "Since 2004, the Foundation has conducted lectures on local history. We also create heritage walking maps and engage with resi-

dents at the Oak Bay Night Markets." These initiatives are invitations to see Oak Bay with fresh eyes, reminding residents that the familiar village streets, beaches, and leafy lanes hold narratives far older and more complex than the character homes so many admire.

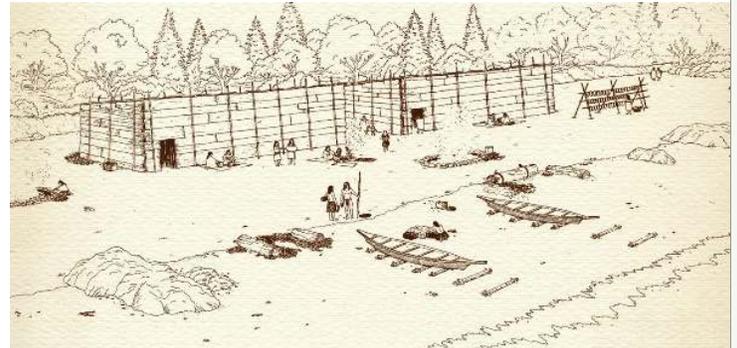
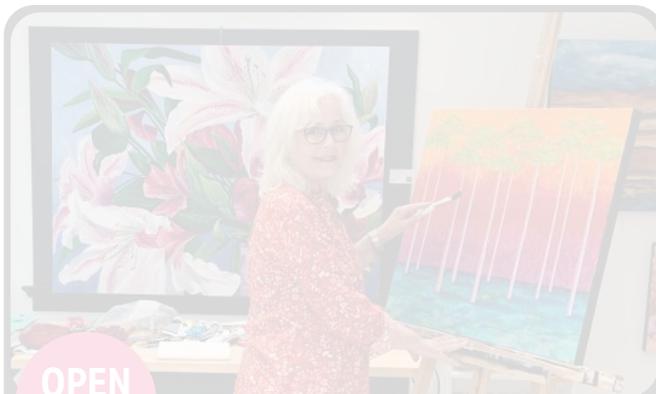


Illustration of the village of Sitchanalth, c.1790; created by the BC Archeology Branch and displayed at the Willows Beach Tea Room.

A crucial part of the Foundation's educational work is acknowledging the land's deeper past. "We reflect that there were Lekwungen villages along the shoreline and islands," Bill notes, "One of the most significant was Sitchanalth, located along what we now call Willows Beach. The village thrived for thousands of years before the population moved to the harbour reserve in the 1840s." As a way of restoring perspective, the Foundation weaves Truth and Reconciliation principles into its programming, helping residents understand that heritage encompasses what was here long before the arrival of settlers.

Though Oak Bay's Indigenous history spans millennia, many of the community's most notable buildings come from the early 20th century.

If Robert had to choose a favourite heritage-valued building, he admits it would be the original Oak Bay grocery and post office (now The Oaks Restaurant), built in 1912. "It became the anchor of the village," he explains. Soon after came the Bell Block (1913), built by Bunting & Son. Its architect, Archie Bunting, was killed in the First World War in 1917, a poignant reminder that the Oak Bay is shaped by sacrifice as much as by architecture.



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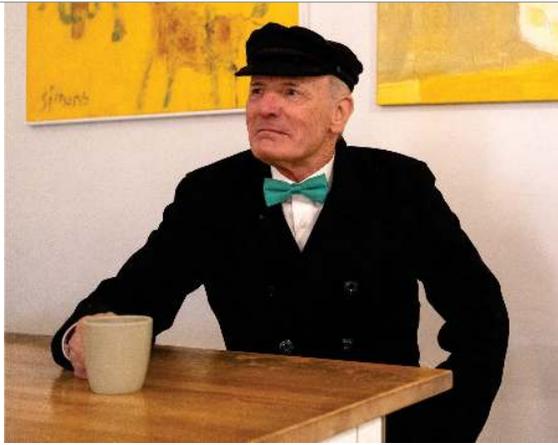
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Next came the Tonkin House (1913), also designed by the young Bunting, now woven into the modern Oak Bay Library. And further along sits the Avenue Theatre, built in 1913 for motion pictures. "These buildings formed a framework for the village," Robert says. They also function as gathering places, familiar waypoints, and parts of the community's shared identity.



Robert Taylor

For Robert, this connection to story is deeply personal. He and his partner, Janet Morningstar, live in a 1922 Arts & Crafts home on St. Patrick Street, designed by architect William D'Oyly Hamilton Rochfort. "Every room contains stories of the families who lived here," Robert reflects. Their research

led them to co-author *St. Patrick Street, Oak Bay: An Architectural & Social History* (2018).

The street's history reads like a time-lapse film of the 20th century: "As we walk along the street, we see more than houses," he says. "We know of the children's birthday party in April 1908; the neighbour who was part of the Scott expedition to the Antarctic; the First World War veteran who was a dirigible pilot; the high turnover of occupants during the Great Depression of the 1930s; the wartime RCAF pilot returning home in May 1945... These homes are time machines. We occupy and care for them for a while, but they continue carrying their history long after our time."

Oak Bay, like many communities, wrestles with the tension between heritage preservation



L-R: Pat Howard, Marg Palmer and Jane Hall.

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and the need for increased housing. Though the Foundation has no mandate over development decisions, it does advocate for balanced solutions. "Sensitively-designed in-fill housing could provide density without spoiling the character streetscapes," Robert notes, and Heritage Revitalization Agreements can offer ways to preserve heritage structures while supporting thoughtful growth.

The Foundation is fully run by volunteers who maintain the lecture series, host information booths at community events, manage the Century House plaque program, distribute the Oak Bay Historical Tour maps, offer books on Oak Bay Heritage for sale through their website, and col-



Bill Hanna

laborate with schools on art projects and heritage treasure hunts. "Anyone can get involved by attending the open monthly meetings, helping at events, or even joining the board," Pat says, "We want to spread awareness through community engagement to keep our local history alive."

One of the Foundation's proudest accomplishments is its successful nominations for 17 Hallmark Heritage Society Awards since 2016. The Society recognizes homeowners, writers, historians, and website designers who have made significant contributions to heritage preservation. "The award recipients have accomplished so much in preserving Oak Bay's heritage and history," Robert adds.

Above all, Robert hopes our readers take away one simple sentiment: "I hope for residents to know and understand and enjoy the history of the place where they live, and to assist in preserving the history both physically and emotionally."

In Oak Bay, heritage and history are alive. It lives in the houses, the landscape, the village, and the image of the Songhees village of Sitchalnath (see illustration). Most of all, it lives in the people who bring with them curiosity, stewardship, and heart. Thanks to the Oak Bay Heritage Foundation and the legacy of past elders like Marion Cumming, our stories continue to be told, honoured and remembered.

To learn more about the Foundation, including the Century House plaque program which allows homeowners to celebrate their home's 100-year story, visit www.oakbayheritagefoundation.ca.



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OAK BAY NEIGHBOURS

Appendix B: Century House Plaques

BUILDING DATE ⁴	ADDRESS	BUILDING DATE	ADDRESS
1906	1472 St David Street	1912	1392 St David Street
1908	1569 Foul Bay Road	1912	1205 St Patrick Street
1908	740 Monterey Street	1912	1217 St Patrick Street
1908	1352 St Patrick Street	1912	1229 St Patrick Street
1909	947 Foul Bay Road	1912	1383 St Patrick Street
1910	2150 Oak Bay Avenue	1912	1440 St Patrick Street
1910	2028 Runnymede Avenue	1912	1344 Victoria Avenue
1911	853 Byng Street	1912	2138 Windsor Road
1911	2519 Currie Road	1912	1576 Yale Street
1911	1222 Monterey Ave	1913	3175 Beach Drive
1911	1237 St David Street	1913	1059 Deal Street
1911	1416 St David Street	1913	1063 Deal Street
1911	1359 St Patrick Street	1913	943 Hampshire Road
1911	1441 St Patrick Street	1913	1729 Hampshire Road
1912	2056 Carrick Street	1913	799 Linkleas Avenue
1912	1578 Clive Drive	1913	2018 Meadow Place
1912	2439 Cranmore Road	1913	1073 Monterey Avenue
1912	2519 Cranmore Road	1913	1376 Monterey Avenue
1912	1065 Deal Street	1913	1072 Newport Avenue
1912	2149 Granite Street	1913	1151 Roslyn Road
1912	2184 Guernsey Street	1913	951 St Patrick Street
1912	773 Island Road	1913	2054 Townley Street
1912	50 King George Terrace	1913	1684 Yale Street
1912	362 King George Terrace	1914	569 Falkland Road
1912	2075 Kings Road	1914	2488 Florence Street
1912	1746 Lulie Street	1914	2508 Florence Street
1912	2365 McNeill Avenue	1914	921 Foul Bay Road
1912	2671 Margate Avenue	1914	1897 Monteith Street
1912	1725 Monteith Street	1914	1092 Newport Road
1912	1033 Monterey Avenue	1914	3000 Rutland Road
1912	1122 Newport Road	1919	1190 Hewlett Street
1912	2150 Oak Bay Avenue	1919	1736 St Ann Street
1912	937 Oliver Street	1919	848 St Patrick Street
1912	1035 Oliver Street	1920	1931 Victoria Avenue
1912	1066 Oliver Street	1920	2130 Windsor Road
1912	2560 Orchard Ave	1920	2320 Windsor Road
1912	1770 St Ann Street	1921	2412 Central Avenue

⁴ The records in Oak Bay Archives are the normal indicators of the building dates. In cases where the houses predate Oak Bay and the Archives' records, title searches, contemporary newspapers, and city directories were used.

Appendix B: Century House Plaques *continued*

BUILDING DATE	ADDRESS
1921	777 Falkland Road
1921	2466 Florence Street
1921	1330 Monterey Avenue
1921	151 Sunny Lane
1921	533 Transit Road
1922	1538 Beach Drive
1922	1596 Clive Drive
1922	1050 Deal Street
1922	2168 Guernsey Street
1922	870 St Patrick Street
1922	907 St Patrick Street
1922	1400 St Patrick Street
1922	1405 St Patrick Street
1923	2280 Brighton Avenue
1923	2360 Windsor Road
1924	2194 Central Ave
1924	2029 Goldsmith Street
1924	2370 Windsor Road
1925	1216 Beach Drive
1925	2651 Currie Road
1925	2050 Hampshire Road



Appendix C: Heritage Grants 2009–2025

DATE	STATUS	ADDRESS
2025	Designated	Beach Drive
2025	Registered	Meadow Place
2024	Designated	Victoria Avenue
2024	Designated HRA	Windsor Road
2023	Designated	Foul Bay Road
2023	Registered	Margate Avenue
2023	Designated	Bowker Avenue
2021	Designated	Prospect Place
2021	Designated	Bowker Avenue
2020	Designated	Oliver Street
2020	Designated	Cranmore Road
2019	Designated	Byron Street
2018	Designated	Victoria Avenue
2018	Designated HRA	Victoria Avenue
2017	Designated	St Patrick Street
2017	Registered	St Louis Street
2016	Designated	Cranmore Road
2015	Registered	St Patrick Street
2015	Designated	Cranmore Street
2014	Registered	Currie Road
2014	Designated	Cranmore Road
2013	Designated	Cranmore Road
2012	Designated	Byron Street
2012	Designated	Beach Drive
2012	Designated	Central Avenue
2010	Designated	Island Road
2009	Designated	Byron Street
2009	Designated	Island Road



www.oakbay.ca/our-community/heritage

FRONT COVER PHOTO BY ARIFIN GRAHAM