# Guide to the First Nations Monuments of Oak Bay Cadboro Bay (Sungayka) to Harling Point (Sahsima)

### **Background**

In 2009 Heritage Oak Bay and the District of Oak Bay (Mayor Christopher Causton), guided by Songhees Nation elders and former Lands Manager Cheryl Bryce, archaeologist Grant Keddie, researcher Trisha Glatthaar and others, unveiled the first of eight interpretive monuments in Oak Bay. The monuments were financed by the BC 150 Years Legacy Fund, 2008 and feature artwork by Salish artist Charles Elliott (Temoseng). The Oak Bay Community Green Map (2012) states: "The Xaxe Tenew Sacred Land Society initiated this project".

#### **Brochure**

Oak Bay residents Marion Cumming and Mike Stacey created the Brochure with guidance from Butch Dick, Songhees Nation Artistic Director. The Brochure describes a 13 Km walk / bike / drive tour of the Monuments. An associated smart phone app will be available in the spring of 2015.

# **Purpose**

Increase awareness of First Nations culture and history in the Oak Bay area by helping the public to access the Monuments.

#### Distribution

- First Nations organizations
- Local businesses and schools, museums, Scout troops, libraries, etc.



or ...

# For additional brochures, please contact:

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1. Loon Bay (Sungayka - "Patches of Snow") A village existed here for at least parts of the last 1500 years ... a fortified trench defensive site was used by the Lekwungen people.

From the plaque on the top of the Monument.



I neated across from 3295 Beach Drive, south of Cadboro Bay. The defensive site was on the peninsula in the middle of the bay.



2. Willows Beach (Sitchanalth) For thousands of years ... longhouses once lined the entire shore.



Located at Willows Park, 2740 Dalhousie St. (off Beach Drive). Sandy beach, Kiwanis Tea Room, washrooms ... a great picnic spot! Close to Estevan Village shops



3. Bowker Creek (Thaywun - coho salmon stream) For thousands of years the salmon supported thriving populations ... deer and elk antlers were beautifully crafted into works of art.



Located near 2045 Cadboro Bay Rd. Close to Oak Bay Recreation Centre, shops



4. Turkey Head (Spewhung) A large shell-midden ... this was an ancient village.



Just East of Oak Bay Marina (1327 Beach Dr.). Near cafes and services at Oak Bay Marina and Oak Bay Beach Hotel. Native plants near the Monuments are maintained by volunteers, supported by Oak Bay Parks.



5. Anderson Hill Park (The Guardian)

[Used] as a lookout ... for approaching enemies ... or sea mammals. Bulbs of blue camas, valued for food and trade, were gathered nearby.



Location: 5 minute walk east into Anderson Hill Park from the entrance near 528 Island Rd. Background - the Olympi ountains, Washington State



6. McNeill Bay (Chikawich) The people ate over 20 species of fish and 15 species of birds, deer, sea mammals, raccoon and marten. Across the water lies Trial Island,



Located near 568 Beach Drive Beautiful native plants, rushing ocean currents



7. Trafalgar Park Lookout

To the east lies McNeill Bay ... Chikawich, an early village. Later the people moved to Cadboro Bay, about 8 km north by canoe.



Located at Trafalgar Park Lookout, near 200 King George Terrace. Great views. The plaque depicts deer and camas plants, First Nations food for millennia.



8. Harling Point (Sahsima)

Hayls the Transformer [frightened] away the seal the harpooner [was] stalking. The harpooner rebuked [Hayls]. Hayls turned him to stone



Opposite 2090 Penzance Rd., near historic Chinese Cemetery. "Sahsima" (harpoon) refers to a large boulder on the shoreline.



December 15, 2014.

**Marion Cumming** presents brochure To Mayor Nils Jensen and the Oak Bay Council,

Oak Bay News article, December 19, 2014, highlighting volunteers' contribution.

PLEASE REUSE AND RECYCLE THE BROCHURES!

OAK BAY NEWS - Friday, December 19, 2014

# **Oak Bay maps First Nations monuments**

Christine van Reeuwyk News Staff

Touring the First Nations monuments got 10,000 times easier Monday night. Dec. 15 was the official launch of the new brochure (of which 10,000 were printed) A Guide to the First Nations Monuments of Oak Bay.

It includes eight eairms and the other hand other displays in the

It includes eight cairns and two other displays in the district stretching from Cadboro Bay, or Sungayka, to Harling Point, or Sahsima. Each of the monuments offer insight into Lkwungen people and land use. "Tonight we celebrate the completion of this guide," said Mayor Nils Jensen on Monday. The eight heritage monuments are cairns featuring bronzed First Nations cedar plaques created by master carver Charles Elliot honouring the Coast Salish history and heritage in Oak Bay. The monuments depict what happened on our shores many years ago, and include the control of the what happened on our shores many years ago, and include illustrations such as a seal, buck, otters, salmon and loon. Many of the cairn sites also feature native plant gardens. The other sites are Oak Bay municipal hall, where all eight alongs are assisted file door. municipal hall, where all eight plaques are painted full colour and framed with a plaque outlining where the eight cairns can be found. The final site is the L'kwungen history panel at Cattle Point featuring posts by Songhees carver Butch Dick.

The brochure was created



Britt Karlstrom, left, and designer Louise Grant plant native species around one of the Lekwungen First Nations cairns on Beach Drive.

Beach Drive.

to help residents and visitors see each of the sites easily and features a technological advance – a QR code.

"With an app you'll be able to go to each monument and it'll be called up on your smart phone with more information," Jensen said.

Jensen also thanked and introduced Marion Cumming, a member of the Oak Bay Heritage Society, who was instrumental in the years of work it took to create both the monumental trail and seeing the final guide come to fruition.

"We thank her for her passion and dedication and hard work," Jensen said.

Cumming came with a gift,

offered by Songhees chief Ron Sam who couldn't attend the event, the Songhees book. The Songhees is a commemorative book dedicated to the opening of the Songhees Wellness Centre that

Songhees Wellness Centre that examines who the Songhees were, who they are and where they are going.
"That Songhees book is great," Cummings said in a passioned and short speech.
"I read and reread it. It just has so much wisdom and understanding in it. we're all

nas so much wisdom and understanding in it... we're all on just such a learning curve." The guide will be available at the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations as well as local schools. cvanreeuwyk@oakbaynews.com