

# Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King A Cultural History of Three Regional Parks

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1999  
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Capital Regional District  
**PARKS**

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# SUMMARY

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Research for this project was completed over a period of ten weeks. Starting with a few pages of previously collected historical facts about Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King regional parks and a list of contact names, the research very quickly took off in many directions.

Although the least amount was known of Mill Hill's history, it almost immediately presented itself as a park to be reckoned with. Having only one documented inland shell midden site, artifacts retrieved from Mill Hill in the 1960s (and first recorded during this project) reveal that Mill Hill Regional Park has a much richer prehistory than previously thought. Without excavation it is difficult to say, but some artifacts could date back to 2,500 to 3,000 years. Mill Hill was a large and likely significant inland site that merits further archaeological investigation. Indeed, findings have already piqued the interest of several prominent local archaeologists.

Thetis Lake Regional Park too has a long and industrious history. It was well used as a recreational area even before it was sanctioned as such. Many people in the Victoria area remember hot summer days at Thetis when a jukebox played music at the dance pavilion. During World War II it was the place to be for local teenagers. Many newspaper articles chronicled the fight to preserve Thetis Lake and the land around it in the middle part of the century. It is a place that has for decades elicited strong emotions from the people who have used it, loved it, or sought out its resources.

Francis/King Regional Park, comprised of two large donations of land, has a somewhat clearer history though no less interesting a past. Many still remember the tall and cantankerous old Tommy Francis who donated the land that his father bought in the 1860s. Janice Green, a "Skipper's Kid" and family friend of Francis, has in her possession a basket once belonging to his mother. Janice has generously offered to donate the basket, the only article remaining from the old Francis homestead, to the Francis/King Nature House. As for Freeman "Skipper" King, the other namesake of the park, testaments from those who loved and respected him and the numerous pages of newsprint detailing his work and life renew a sense of gratitude that this extraordinary man cared so deeply about the wild places of this area.

Finally, the research leads to one strong conclusion: that all three parks hold within their borders a long and vibrant past, one that has spilled over into the lives of many, many people.

## Acknowledgments

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## Researcher's Note

Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King regional parks share borders and history with each other, yet each sports its own unique treasures and quirks. Each has also touched many human lives and has in turn been shaped by those lives. This research, while striving to be as comprehensive as possible, only begins to unravel the strands of human history remaining to be discovered in these three regional parks.

Margaret McCurragh, past president of the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, when asked what she would say to the next generation entrusted with the care of Thetis Lake replied, "I would say, just try to love it." This advice which she gives above all else might just as well be applied to all three parks.

Indeed, that these places have elicited such passion in people speaks of how deeply a landscape can affect and influence. Through this research it was a great pleasure to learn of the many people who cared enough to protect these natural places and as a result have left them as a legacy for generations to come.



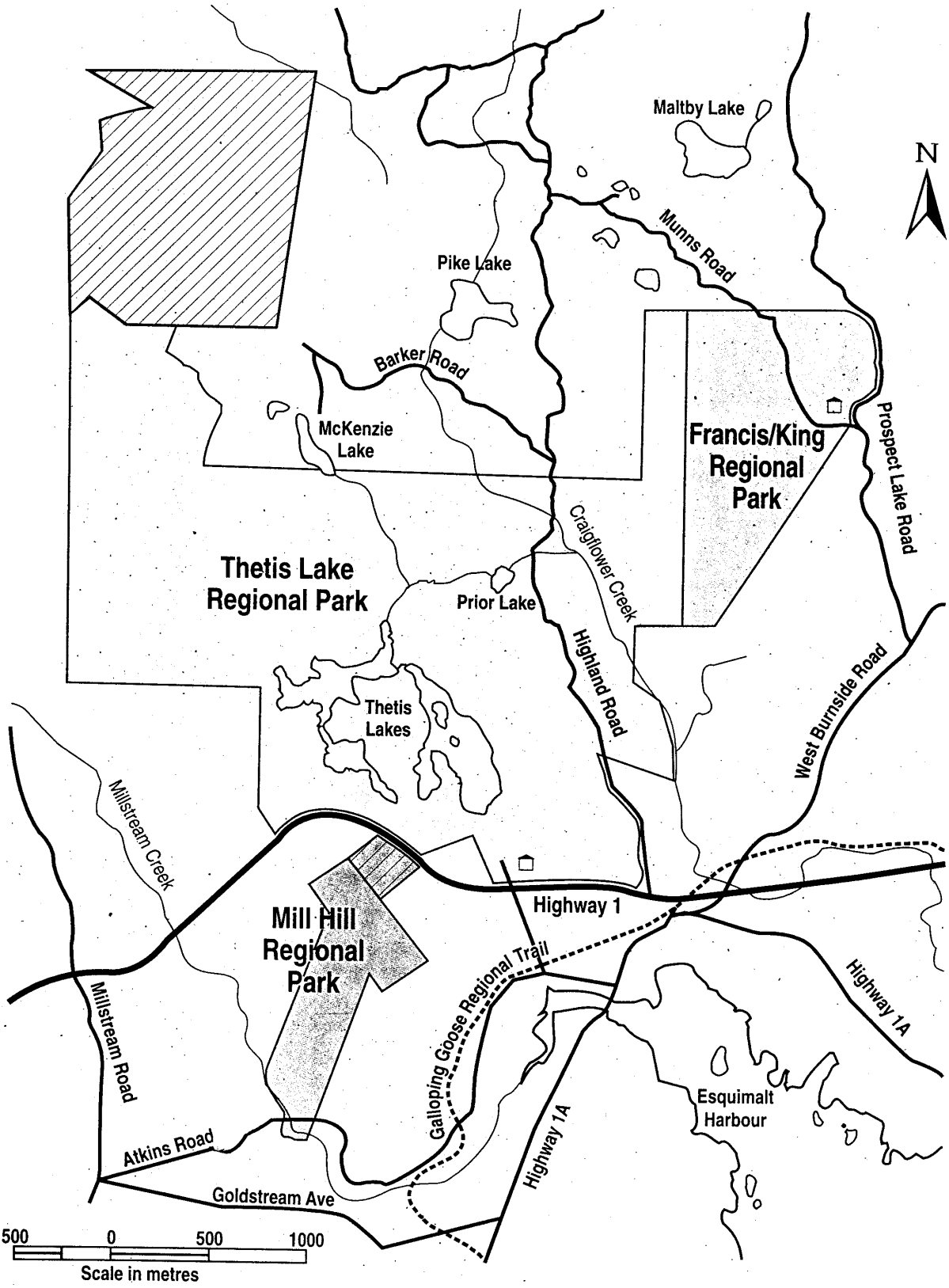
# INTRODUCTION

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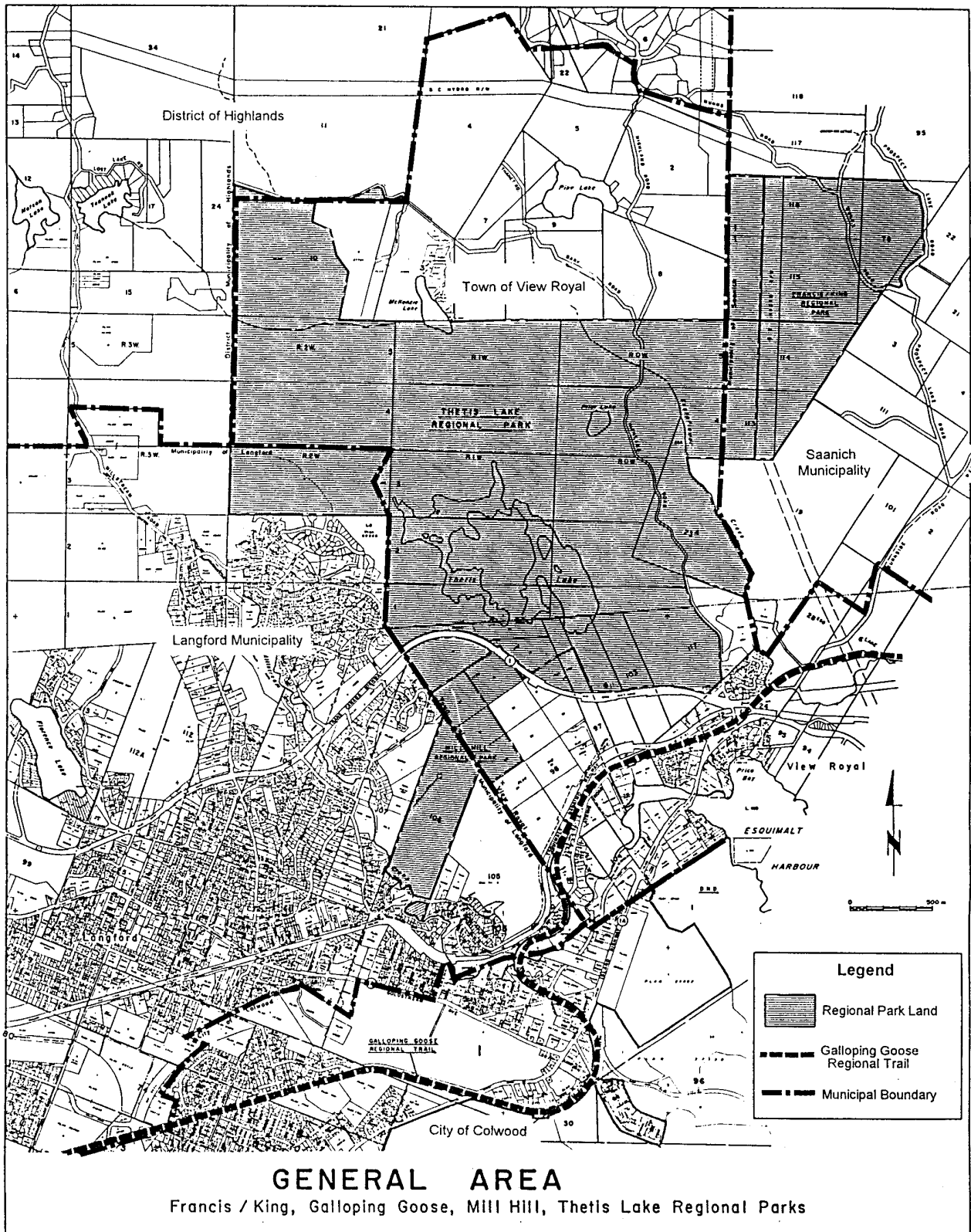
*A Cultural History of Three Regional Parks* is the human story of Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King regional parks. These three parks, linked by their borders, comprise an area of approximately 1,000 hectares. Such a large area of land provides a unique opportunity to explore and protect the cultural heritage of what is now Langford, View Royal and Saanich.

This report is the culmination of archival investigations, interviews with local residents, interest groups, historical societies, descendants of past residents, professionals in the field of historical resource research, and library, newspaper and museum research.

Information is presented in four main parts. The first part is a general history of the land prior to European contact. The next three parts present each park's history separately, including its archaeology, the Hudson's Bay Company presence, early land owners and the postwar years.



**Map 1 Three regional parks: Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King**



Map 2 Three regional parks and surrounding areas

# PREHISTORY TO CONTACT

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## The First People

The human history of Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King regional parks begins with the end of the last Ice Age, approximately 12,000 years ago. It was then that huge amounts of water, once frozen in continental glaciers, were released. With the release of this water came rising sea levels and a rebounding of the land that had once been trapped beneath the weight of the glaciers. Because this weight was greater than the amount the sea levels had lowered, the land rebounded higher than the rising sea levels, leaving much more land exposed and available to people.

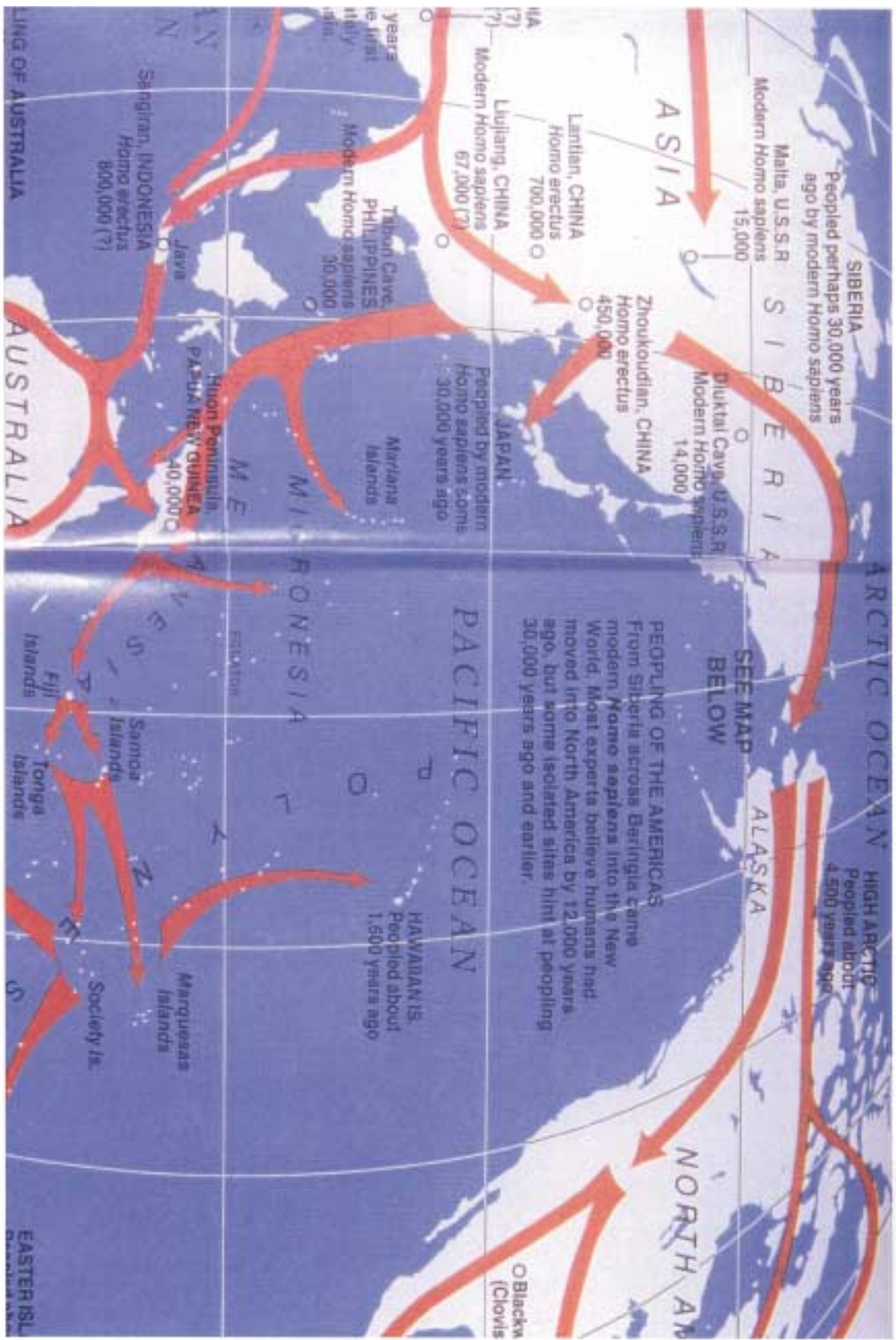
One of the results of this rebounding was the formation of Berengia, a land bridge between North America and Siberia, which is the present day Bering Strait. This land bridge would have been most suitable for traversing from the old world to the new about 13,500 to 12,000 years ago (Ralph Matthews, public lecture). In fact, this is the most commonly held theory of how people first came to the new world. However, at the time of this writing a news story reported human remains in California dating to at least 13,000 years before present, possibly of south Asian or Polynesian descent. The suggestion is that people were using marine routes instead of, or in addition to, the Bering Land bridge (Map 3).

This new information supports Knut Fladmark's long held theory that the first people in North America arrived by boat rather than land. ". . . It is possible that some people, perhaps already adapted to a maritime existence on the shores of Asia, could have reached British Columbia around the North Pacific rim, where rich stocks of fish and sea-mammals might have provided continuous resource pathways from Old World to New" (Fladmark 1986: 13).

Proof of First Peoples ancient history on Vancouver Island is found at Beaver Cove near Port Hardy. This is the oldest site on the island, dated at 8,400 years of age. Pender Island has a 5,100 year old site with older layers beneath that have not been dated. In the south island region, the oldest sites are about 4,100 years old. One site is under the Tillicum Bridge in Esquimalt and the other is at Fleming Beach in Esquimalt. The Tillicum site is older by about 20 years. It is believed there are sites on Vancouver Island as ancient as some of the mainland sites (10,000 years or older); they simply haven't been discovered yet, or are out of reach due to changing sea levels (Keddie, pers. comm.).



*Archaeology site/shell midden*



Map 3 Berengia, ancient human corridor

An interesting factor in unraveling the prehistory of British Columbia's south coast is the complex relationship between ancient sea levels and inland shell middens. Shell middens are the ancient, sometimes deep layers of remains of fish and shellfish that are “. . . piled in intricate white and grey layers, mixed with streaks of charcoal, wood ash, and other camp debris . . . and result from successive deposits of floor-sweepings and food remains near prehistoric dwellings” (Fladmark 1986: 54).

Inland shell middens are those found more than 200 metres from present day shorelines. Shell middens begin to appear in the archaeological record about 5,000 years ago. When the glaciers retreated, the sea and land did not finally reach their modern levels until about 4,000 years ago. Excavation and dating of these middens would contribute to the understanding of inland shell middens and their relation to past sea levels (Beram 1988). Not as much is known about inland sites; much more work has been done on coastal sites. Millennia Research suggests that the rarity of located inland sites has more to do with a research emphasis on coastal regions than a real lack of inland sites. They also suggest that inland sites may indicate a time when people relied on inland resources more than coastal ones (1997).

## **The Northern Straits Salish**

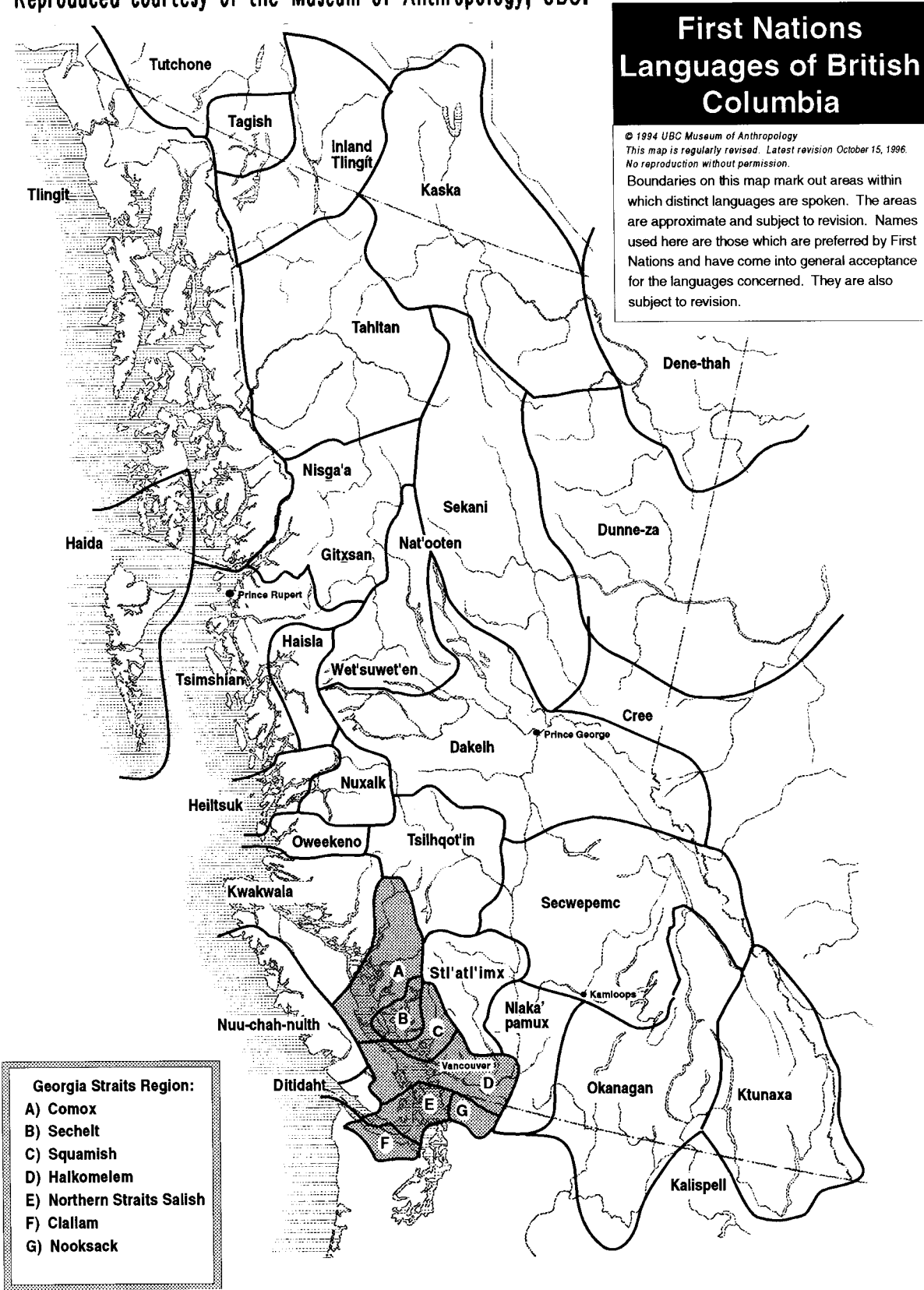
Who were the people whose cultural remains comprise early archaeological sites on Vancouver Island? They were the ancestors of the present Northern Straits Salish who include the Saanich, Songhees, T'sou-ke and Esquimalt people (Map 4). The area encompassed by Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King regional parks is the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt people or collectively, the Lekwammen. These cultural distinctions are not determined by territory but by language:

*North Straits Salish is one of 23 languages in the Salish language family, that are unintelligible to each other. Communication with outsiders was by individuals [who] could speak two or more languages. When we say the Songhees are Coast Salish people, we are indicating that they are one of many tribal groups living on the coast whose language has common origins. This is equivalent to saying that English is part of the Indo-European language family that includes most languages of Europe and others with a common origin stretching across Turkey and India (Keddie 1999: 2).*

Compared to other groups on the coast, little is known of Lekwammen traditional culture prior to European contact and during the early days of European presence. The culture was one of the first to be disrupted. Early ethnographers took more interest in the northern groups like the Haida, whom they considered more traditional. For example, there has never been an ethnology done of the Songhees and the last person to speak Songhees died more than 30 years ago (Keddie, pers. comm.).



Reproduced courtesy of the Museum of Anthropology, UBC.



Map 4 First Nations languages of British Columbia

## European Contact

When Europeans began populating the Lekwammen territory, changes occurred that rapidly altered the people's way of life forever, a way of life that evolved from living almost 10,000 years in the same place. The earliest recorded contact between Europeans and indigenous people on the west coast of British Columbia was in 1774 when a Spanish vessel from Mexico arrived on the scene. Captain James Cook followed in 1778 (Duff 1969: 54-5). Early European history in the Capital Regional is dominated by the presence of the Hudson's Bay Company, starting in 1843, at the site of Fort Victoria. James Douglas, the chief factor of the company, began negotiating the first treaties with the Songhees people on April 29, 1850. It was policy that "before any settlers could be given title to lands, it was . . . necessary to conform with the usual British practice of first extinguishing the proprietary rights of the native people" (Duff 1969: 6).

Over the course of two years the Songhees, Klallam, Sooke and Saanich people signed over their land to become "the entire property of the white people forever" (Duff 1969: 55). However, village sites and enclosed fields were to be kept for their own use, and hunting and fishing were to be allowed over all unoccupied lands (Duff 1969).

Today some indigenous people of these places are organized into the Te'mexw Treaty Association First Nations. Many are descendants of the original signatories of the James Douglas Treaties. It is important to remember that the cultural heritage protected within the CRD Parks system is as ancient as some of the oldest cultural sites in North America, not just on Vancouver Island.



# MILL HILL REGIONAL PARK

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## Archaeology

Currently, there is only one recorded archaeology site within Mill Hill Regional Park. DcRu 70 is an inland midden site originally recorded in 1967 (Map 5). In 1988 it was estimated to be one to three metres in depth. This site has not been excavated and is at the base of the Summit Trail (Beram 1988).

However, in the course of this project, while researching the fire suppression camp at Mill Hill, evidence has been found to suggest that the hill not only has more than one archaeological site, but the sites may be large and contain cultural material as old as 3,000 years. This cannot be verified without excavation; nonetheless it seems that Mill Hill is a far more significant site than previously thought.

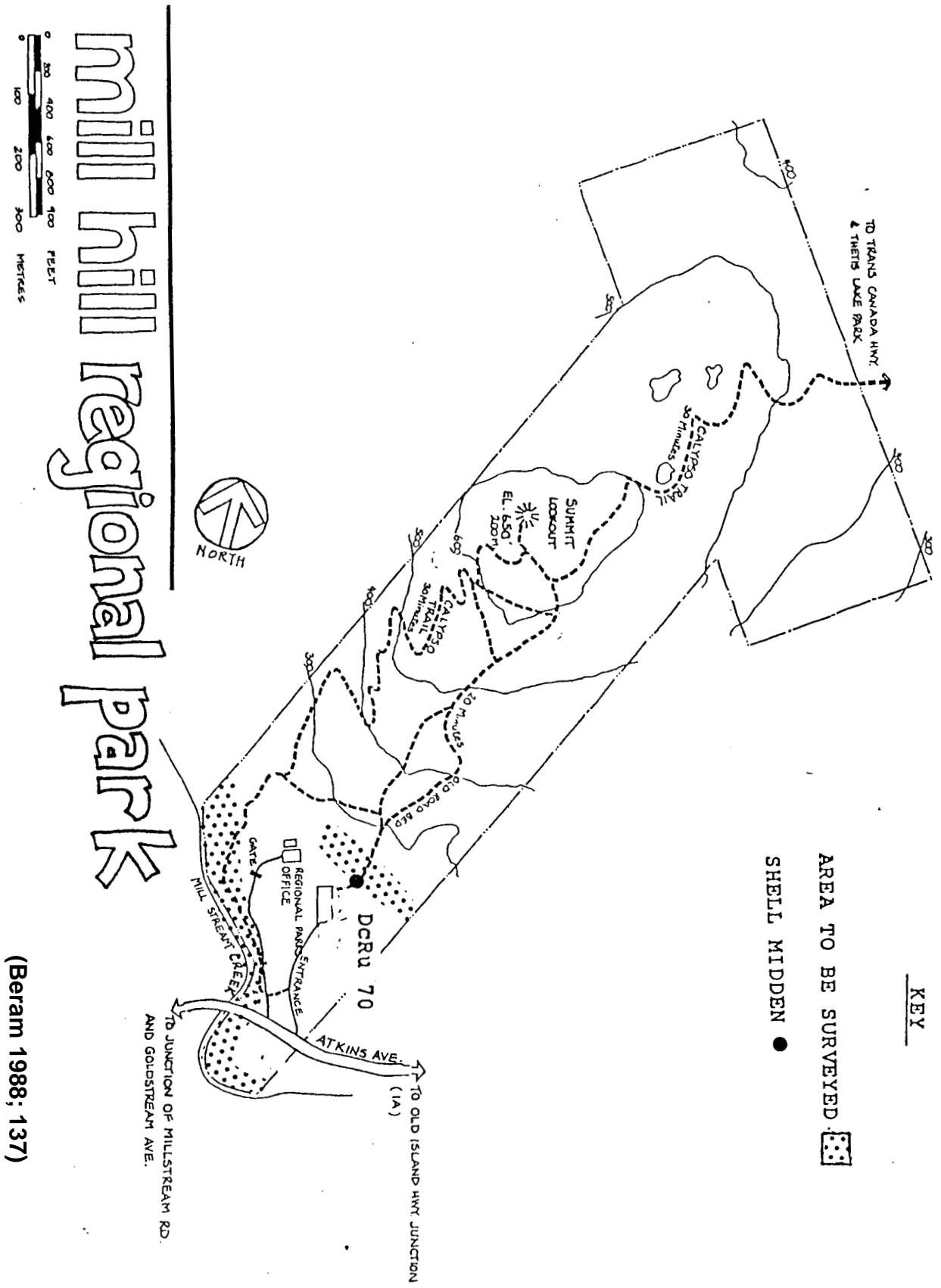
George and Barbara Reynolds were caretakers of the federal research buildings at Mill Hill between 1964 and 1969. They lived at the site in a dwelling that was directly in front of where the CRD Parks headquarters office is now (Map 6). While living at Mill Hill, the Reynolds uncovered 23 artifacts. They have kindly donated these to CRD Parks, which will turn them over to the Royal British Columbia Museum (the Museum).

After examining each piece, the Museum's Curator of Archaeology, Grant Keddie, concluded that only 20 were actually artifacts. Appendix 1 includes photographs and a complete list of the Reynolds' artifacts. The following is information about the artifacts based on observations by Keddie.

- Artifact 1 is a piece of whale bone that may have been used as a net gage. Net gauges were used in the manufacturing of a net "to ensure evenness and the right sized mesh" (Stewart 1973: 123).
- Three fragmented nephrite adzes were found. These kinds of adzes were being used anywhere from 3,000 years ago until the time of European contact. Nephrite is not found on the coast so it would have been traded from people in the Lytton and Lillooet area on the mainland. Adzes, or celts, especially made of nephrite, were a widely used woodworking tool on the coast. They were also used to work bone and antler. The adzes were heat treated, giving them a high polish. When they were used again, the used surface would be a lighter colour. Artifact 2 was likely thrown into a fire after it was discarded, because it has such a high polish and there are no signs of wear after the fire. More interesting features of this piece are the two different edge angles. Close observation reveals that one side of the edge has a longer angle than the other side. This was intentionally done by the toolmaker to achieve a different function for each side of the blade. For example, one side might have been used for chipping small flakes of wood; flip it over and the other side would remove deeper, longer pieces.
- The oldest piece in the collection is a hexagonal slate point. These kinds of points are indicative of the period between 2,500 to 3,000 years ago. It is probably missing about two-thirds of its original size. These kinds of slate points do not appear in the archaeological record any later than 2,500 years ago. It is not known why.

- There are four projectile points in the collection. It is hard to say from what period these points originate. However, because they are relatively wider and longer than some points, this could indicate an earlier time period. Keddie found all four to be irregular and could have been constructed between 1,500 to 2,000 years ago.
- Two deer ulna tools were recovered. These may have been used as awls, in basketry and leatherwork. Deer ulnas may also have been used on the island to gut herring and other fish.
- There are three antler tips. One appears to be a cut antler tine that has been chopped, then discarded, and the other part of it likely used for something else. Pendants were sometimes made from antler tines but the purpose of these tips cannot be definitely said.
- The most unique piece in the collection is made of antler. Keddie believes Artifact 15 could be a fixed foreshaft for a harpoon. He had never seen anything like it and described it as a very unusual artifact. The piece has an acutely worked tip and looks as though something was tied around its middle. The mouth of Millstream was traditionally the location of a chum salmon run. It was likely shallow enough during spawning to just grab, trap or spear salmon. Harpoons would not necessarily be needed. If number Artifact 15 does indicate harpoon use, were the people instead spearing seals or smaller land mammals such as beavers? Seals are commonly seen at the foot of Mill Falls (McCully, pers. comm). More than 400 beaver skins were taken at Fort Victoria during the Hudson's Bay Company's first year here, so they may have been an abundant resource. A CRD Parks document claims a band of Songhees used to camp at the mouth of Millstream and frequently go inland to hunt deer. Perhaps the tool was for deer hunting. Its use remains a mystery.
- Artifacts number 16, 17 and 8 could have been part of a three tipped leister spear. This type of tool could be used for killing a wounded animal or even for basket work.
- Of the three pieces that are not artifacts, one of them may have been fire cracked rock, still indicating the presence of humans.

Larry Elchuk worked at the Langford District fire suppression camp at Mill Hill from 1966 until 1969. During one season, the septic tank became plugged and this required digging in order to deal with the problem. This is when Elchuk first noticed evidence of a shell midden and first recovered artifacts at the site. Later, while planting flowers and digging flower beds, more artifacts were recovered. Previous to Elchuk's time at Mill Hill, water lines had been put in. Perhaps artifacts were recovered by workers at that time as well. This could have been as long ago as the 1940s when government buildings first went in. Elchuk's memories of Mill Hill confirm Reynolds'. Both men remember a shell midden extending from the front of the Reynolds' house all the way to the fire suppression camp (Map 6).



(Beram 1988; 137)

Map 5 Archaeology sites at Mill Hill Regional Park



Having a previous interest in archaeology, Elchuk not only knew what to look for but how to record archaeology sites. He reported his findings to the Museum in about 1967. Elchuk's almost 63 Mill Hill artifacts are carefully stored and numbered at his home in Squamish. He kindly allowed the artifacts to be photographed. See Appendix 2 for photographs and a complete list of the Elchuk artifacts. The following descriptions are based on Keddie's observations of the photographs.

- As would be expected, there are similarities between the Reynolds and Elchuk collections. Specifically, Elchuk's Artifact 17 appears to be another fixed harpoon foreshaft.
- A hand maul, another essential woodworking tool possibly made of quartz diorite, looks as though it was not finished. This type of maul appears in the archaeological record between 2,200 and 2,000 years ago.
- A sea lion tooth in the collection raises a number of questions. Were these people at Mill Hill when sea levels were much higher or were they hunting sea mammals and bringing them back to their inland site?
- There is what appears to be a handle for an adze, an abrading stone used for grinding, and even an ornament with an incised design. Keddie had never seen one like it before. A polished bone splinter with a design may have been a blanket pin, a bow tip or something else.

## **Ancient Mill Stream Use**

In addition to DcRu 70, and the areas described by Reynolds and Elchuk, there are a few spots along Millstream that may be shell midden sites but have never been recorded. Parks staff and Grant Keddie were aware of the location of these sites. Though coho salmon are currently being reintroduced into Millstream, chum salmon - not coho - were traditionally spawning there. Anecdotal information from property owners and simple salmon physiology, (chum can tolerate higher salinity in their spawning sites) indicate that chum salmon were once in Millstream. The area also supported significant shell fish harvesting and there also may have been cutthroat trout (McCully, pers. comm.).

It is unlikely that chum salmon ever spawned past the point of the Hudson's Bay Company Mill at Mill Falls (McCully, pers. comm.). If the people living at Mill Hill were catching salmon beneath the falls, they would have had to transport them back to the hill. Speculations as to why people exploiting coastal resources lived inland vary. Keddie's theory is that Mill Hill may have been a site where the women and children went when warfare or retaliation from other groups was expected. Certainly the site is far enough inland to provide security, and the top of Mill Hill provides an excellent lookout to sea. Keddie suspects at any flat area along Millstream may have also been used by people, which would explain the small patches of shell midden found along the stream today.

D'ann Owens-Baird, an archaeologist involved in work at Thetis Lake in 1995 to 1997, believes inland sites may be more common than we know; they just haven't been sought out as intensely as coastal sites. Baird also suspects inland sites may indicate a time when people were adapted to a more inland life, depending less on the ocean and more on hunting and gathering land resources (pers. comm.). A traditional use study reports that Portage Inlet area provided people not only with fish, but ducks, game birds, bears, elk and deer (Eldridge 1997: i).

Interestingly, a distinct feature of shell middens close to Millstream, in the Gorge and Esquimalt Harbour, is the predominance of British Columbia's native oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) (Wigen, pers. comm.). Anchovies were also prevalent in the area starting about 2,000 years ago. It is possible too that anchovies were present at lower Millstream (Keddie, pers. comm.).

This new archaeological information about Mill Hill underscores CRD Parks' role in protecting the prehistory of the area. Furthermore, future excavations at Mill Hill could answer many of the questions raised by this research, as well as contribute to the general understanding of inland shell midden sites on Vancouver Island.

## **Hudson's Bay Company Years**

Mill Hill Regional Park is bordered by Millstream, an extremely significant stream in the history of British Columbia, for it was this stream that provided the power for the first lumber mill in the province. However, before it was called Millstream, it was Rowe Stream, named after Thomas Rowe who was the paymaster for the survey ship *H.M.S. Fisgard*.

When James Douglas selected Victoria Harbour to Portage Inlet (or "Camosack") as the place to build the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Victoria, building a sawmill was already high on the list of priorities. At first he considered the Gorge waterway as a mill location. Crate and Fenton, two of the first millwrights in the province, are reported to have believed the Gorge was a plausible mill location, though Douglas in the end decided a "fresh-water river would certainly be in many respects more convenient, as the moving power could be made to act with greater regularity, and be applied to the machinery at probably less labour and expense than a tide power" (Duffus 1993: 11).

The task of finding an appropriate source for a mill fell to Roderick Finlayson, senior officer at Fort Victoria. Rowe Stream soon became the object of Finlayson's search. On August 4, 1847, he set out. "Proceeded direct to Esquimalt Bay to examine a stream of fresh water, reported by Indians to be there and found it as reported, running over a ledge of rocks, the site being apparently well adapted for a mill" (Duffus 1993: 11-12). Unfortunately, rain had been heavy that summer and Finlayson saw falls that looked much more powerful on that day than they usually were. Because the only other source of fresh water was in Sooke, Finlayson ordered construction to begin on the mill. Photograph 2 shows what Finlayson may have seen that rainy summer. Photograph 3 shows the more typical summer face of Millstream Falls. Photograph 4 shows the fully constructed mill (flour mill on the left, sawmill on the right) as painted by midshipman Richard Britten of the *H.M.S. Topaze* in 1860. Map 7 indicates the location of the Hudson's Bay Company mill.



*Millstream in winter*



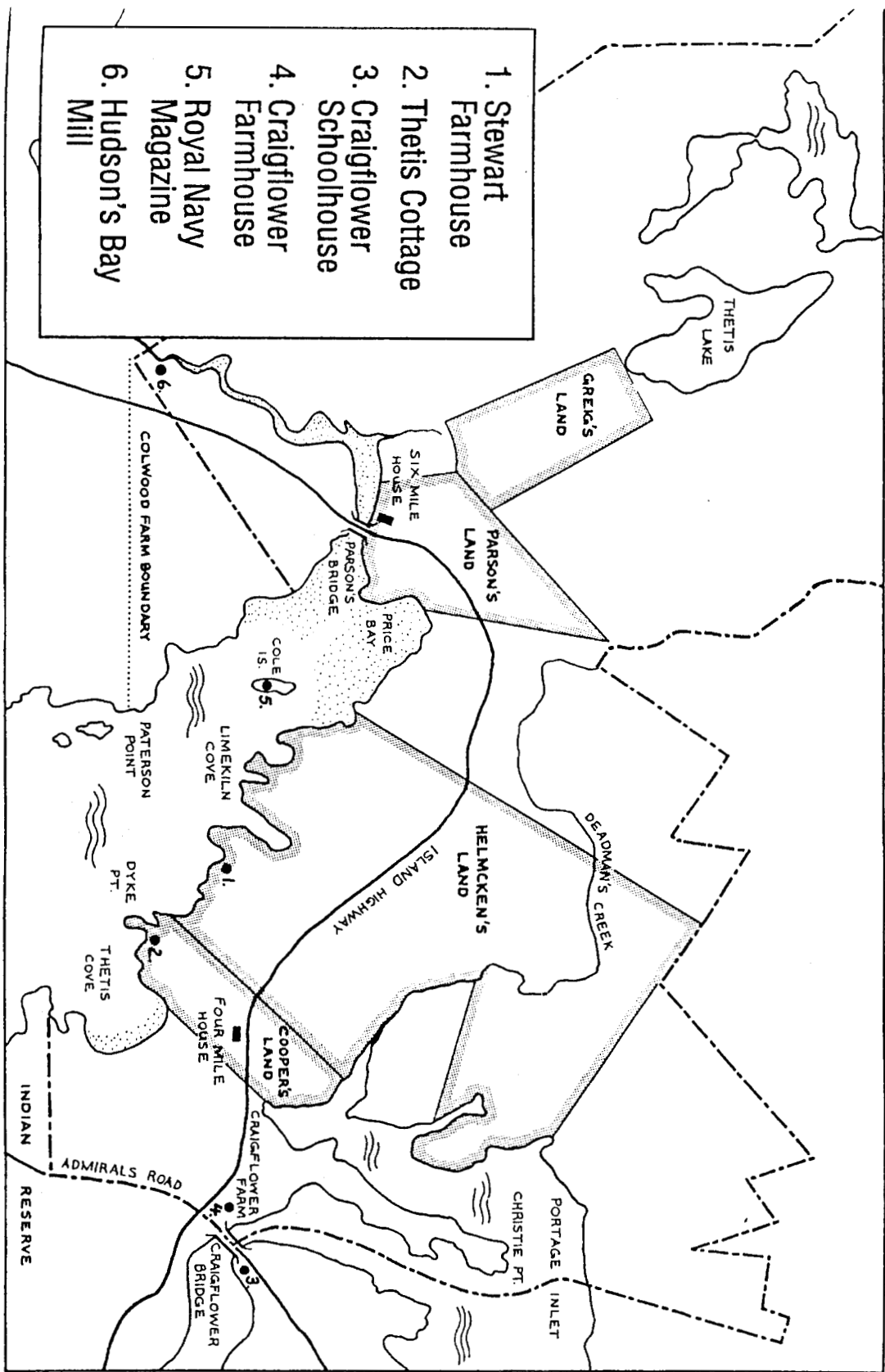
*Millstream in summer*





*Painting of HBC Mill*





The extent of early landholdings is shown on this map based on part of an 1858 survey map of Esquimalt District (Duffus 1993; 17)

Map 7 Location of HBC millsite, Greig and Parson's Land

September 1848, the mill was completed even though water power was weak. Because the water power was not strong enough to power the wheel when it was first constructed, Finlayson and millwright Fenton went upstream to find a water source that could be diverted into Millstream, so that the mill could be used every day of the year, not just when there was heavy precipitation. It was on that expedition in September of 1848 that Finlayson and Fenton traipsed up Rowe Stream past what is now the CRD Parks headquarters and stumbled upon what was probably Thetis Lake. Finlayson did consider somehow linking the lake to Millstream to obtain more flow, but decided the distance between them was too far and the water level in the lake too low (Duffus: 1993).

It was in November of 1848 that Millstream flowed furiously enough that the lumber could be cut. It was a first for British Columbia. Reportedly, some of those early boards were used to surface the floor of the company dairy barn in Victoria. Later, the small mill sent its first cargo of lumber to the United States. At 80 pounds per 1,000 feet, on the American brig *Coloney*, 4,270 board feet were sent to San Francisco, the captain apparently depositing \$7,000 in gold dust as security. It appears that a considerable number of shipments were sent to San Francisco and also to Hawaii during the next few years (Stranix 9).

Millwright Fenton kept the sawmill in operation for six months. In April 1849, he left the Hudson's Bay Company. George McKenzie was a successor and later he was replaced by William Richard Parson. The mill ran until about 1855. When a steam sawmill at Craigflower farm rendered Finlayson's mill unnecessary, Parson left the Hudson's Bay Company, bought some land and opened Parson's Bridge Hotel. The hotel catered to the men from the naval ships in Esquimalt Harbor and is the location today of the Six Mile Pub (Map 7).

## Naval Water Source

As early as 1854, British naval ships in the area were using Rowe Stream as a fresh water source. At high tide there would have been sufficient water depth near the falls for small barges to get close to the falls to fill up with water. A naval officer described the scene in 1854:

*There is a stream of water at the extreme north [of the harbor] called Rowe's Stream, where we watered, sending our pinnace up and filling her in bulk from the mill stream by hoses, which was often tedious work as the water ran very slowly. The flour mill belonging to the company stands on the left-hand going up a stream and abreast of it [is] a sawmill. These will soon be superseded, as a Craig flower stream is already in use for a sawmill and no doubt will shortly be used for a flour mill. (Daffiest 1993: 36)*

Eventually, the Royal Navy built water flumes to avoid filling individual barrels of water. The flume was built between the two main falls and went from there down to sea level (Duffus 1993). Evidence remaining at the old mill site today bears witness to its history. Photograph 5 shows tungsten steel rods next to a modern wooden structure built to guide coho salmon up the falls. The steel rods were part of the old naval flumes (McCulley, pers. comm.).



*Remnants of naval flume*

## **Early Settlers**

In 1922, the Hudson's Bay Company mill site property was sold to the Pollock brothers. The property included land on both sides of Millstream. Approximately 17 acres of it is still in possession of one of the brothers, Earl Pollock. Thus far, the Pollock family has preserved a beautiful and historical piece of land amidst the bustle of surrounding development.

An 1858 Surveyor General map shows the area around "Mill Mountain" to be part of Section XCVIII, 350 acres of Government reserve. (Mill Hill is referred to as Mill Mountain by Roderick Finlayson in 1848 and as Seymour and Thetis Mountain in some archival photographs.) The section, which appears to correspond to current day lot number 106, is section CVI. Unfortunately, the owner's name is unintelligible though it looks as though it might say "navy," perhaps referring to the Royal Navy who did use Millstream as a fresh water source. Indeed, the lot is bordered by Millstream.

Information from a 1863 voting list reveals that a John McGregor owned 181 acres of land on Rowe Stream and that Arthur Peatt, Henry Piers and James Porter all owned land near a bridge on Rowe Stream (Duffus: 34). A letter dated 1872 in the provincial archives shows that permission to build a bridge over Millstream was granted to a Peter Sabiston. Looking for drinking water for Victoria, Chief Engineer Bulkley, in 1872, reported Millstream as a possible water source. Also, according to an 1898 map, land near Millstream belonged to a "McKenzie" (Mumford, pers. comm.).

Information on Mill Hill in the first half of the century has not been forthcoming. Local residents do not remember the site being utilized in any way. No records were found on its use either. A CRD staff member speculated that Mill Hill, like other hills in the area, may have been used as a lookout point during the world wars, though the Department of National Defense has no record of this.

Another staff member had heard a rumour that a Japanese internment camp had been at Mill Hill during the Second World War. Many experts on the subject found this rumour to be unsubstantiated. Internment camps were in the interior of the province. Japanese Canadians from Victoria were sent immediately to Vancouver (Ayukawa, pers. comm.).

## **Postwar to Parkland**

In 1948 a forest insect survey insectary and a rearing facility were built by federal staff at Mill Hill. The buildings belonged to the federal Department of Agriculture, but the land was leased from the provincial government. A federal letter from 1948 illustrates how the Department of Agriculture was “averse to buying land and that wherever they can use the Dominion Government property or Provincial property, they prefer to do so” (Ellis; 27). An early site plan also specifies that the land was British Columbia Forest Service property.

Dave Evans, the scientist who ran the facility from 1949 to 1965, recalls that the land was leased from the provincial government until 1965. At that time the federal forestry operations were moved to the new Pacific Forest Research Centre on West Burnside Road. Federal forestry records indicate that the facility at Mill Hill was then turned over to Langford municipality.

Don Collis and Lew Fiddick, both still living in Victoria, worked on the construction of the federal buildings at Mill Hill. Mr. Collis recalls the insectary, a long screened-in building behind the office and house, being built in 1949 and a storage shed being built in 1950 or 1951. Trucks were stored in a storage shed (Map 6). Collis also remembers people fishing and picnicking at Mill Hill in the years that he was there.

According to Dave Evans, the chief aim and interest of the facility was the study of insects to be used for biological control. A lot of the research involved identification and observing life histories of insects. Many species were identified and “a lot of insects went to their deaths there.” As well, there were other biology research officers working at the facility, not just entomologists. In the winter months the only staff were Evans and two to three permanent technicians. But in the summer the facility was very busy. At first research students came from Victoria High School as well as from the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. Eventually, it became more competitive to be accepted onto the site and the facility only had room for university students.

George and Barbara Reynolds lived at Mill Hill as caretakers from 1964 to 1969. The Reynolds were brought in because the Forest Service wanted caretakers to combat the vandalism that had erupted in the winters following the facility’s move to the new Burnside location (Map 6). Reynolds describes the dwelling as a field station with living quarters. The house had no insulation, no heating, just a wood stove and a space heater. The Reynolds were not required to pay rent, lights or fuel costs. Upstairs in the building was attic space. There were low windows at the back of the building near where the students reared insects. The large storage building was situated behind the house (Reynolds, pers. comm.).

## The Mill Hill Fire Suppression Camp

The BC Forest Service's Langford District Ranger Station had a fire suppression camp at Mill Hill. The camp ran from at least the year 1949 until the early 1970s. Retired federal staff recall the suppression camp already in existence in 1949, complete with a fruit tree orchard and mini arboretum (Evans and Collis, pers. comm). The territory of Langford District covered the south end of Vancouver Island from Port Renfrew to Mill Bay (Jones 1989: 158).

Fortunately, Ron Jones, who worked for the Langford District was not only a professional photographer, but also a writer, he has published memories of his years in the forest service in *End of Eden, Reminiscences of a Forest Ranger*. Among many lively stories are detailed descriptions of fires fought by Mill Hill suppression crews.

Jones began working with the Langford District in 1958 and quit the Forest Service in 1967. He remembers the summer fire suppression staff at Mill Hill as "A crew of twenty men, under foreman Bruce Granholm . . . mainly university students hired for the summer and trained by the Ranger staff in initial fire suppression" (Jones: 160).

One of the three lookout towers that the Langford District maintained was the Langford Lookout on top of Mill Hill. It was probably dismantled in 1964 or 1965 (Photographs 6, 7, 8). At one time there was road access from the fire suppression camp up to the tower. The tower was serviced with vehicles. It also had power and telephone. In his book, Jones describes the lookout as "a fifty-foot high wooden-beam structure with living quarters on top" (Jones: 163). The foundation of the Langford Lookout remains today on top of Mill Hill.



*Langford  
Lookout*

6.

*Langford  
Lookout*



7.



*Langford  
Lookout*

8.

Another tale from Jones's book is about Bud, the camp cook:

*The suppression crew camp was situated about two miles from the Ranger station and consisted of half a dozen cabins plus a large cookhouse. Bud, the cook, being much older than the average age of the crew, was a father figure, without doubt far different from any parent that most of the young fellows had experienced. Years in the merchant navy, and later as a mining camp cook in the Yukon, complemented his boisterous, rugged personality. He was a sight to behold when, with favourite tattered chef's hat perched atop his bald head, he sent his beefy arms flying over the stove. He could slap out morning hot cakes far quicker than twenty young males could devour them, and his supper meals were excellent. (Jones: 168)*

The following story written by Ron Jones, is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author.

## **The Ruse**

It was around 1964 and possibly late in September, I am sure it was evening having just finished supper. A phone call from Saanich Police Department requesting Forest Service assistance. The escape of a dangerous criminal from William Head Minimum Security Prison and a follow up anonymous phone tip: "He was hiding atop of the Mill Hill Lookout tower."

No information as to why a dangerous criminal would be in a minimum security establishment in the first place or why a phone tip, most likely from the inmate's girlfriend, would be given any credence. Anyway a contingent of ten to fifteen police officers from Victoria, Saanich Police Departments along with penitentiary staff would be at the Forestry Suppression Camp within one hour awaiting my guidance from the camp and up the half a mile steep trail to the lookout tower.

Naturally, my first reaction was to remove a shotgun from the basement wall; a hand full of shells and on my way. It was dark with no moon but sufficient star glow to reveal the many police cars parked around the Suppression camp clearing. I whispered salutations to the various uniforms, there being not sufficient light to see faces and off up the steep trail we all went.

A few minutes into the trail I stopped the following herd and again whispering, (it seemed appropriate to whisper when a dangerous criminal might be comfortably sleeping a half mile above us), "Is this whole mob going up the hill?"

The answers more or less indicated they all wanted to be in on the kill.

"Well then I'm going back, you guys can storm the bastille without me."

So back in my truck I guarded the empty police cars, watching for any movement in the shadows that might indicate our fugitive had doubled back to steal a set of wheels. After loading the shotgun I lay it alongside on the passenger seat, the business end of the barrel pointing out towards the door, naturally. A shadow moved, it bore Sergeant stripes, the passenger door opened and the “officer in charge” plonked his considerable weight alongside me.

“Stupid, everybody going up there like a lynch-mob, I came back to sit with you.”

We sat in the deepening darkness; the sergeant occasionally squirming and most likely wondering what it was that made his backside so uncomfortable. I also wondered at that point, whether he would see any humour in the fact he sat upon a loaded and cocked shotgun.

The expeditionary force returned, puffed-out and empty handed. A car radio crackled out a new message. “Small boat stolen from Oak Bay marina.” Our escapee was ocean bound for Vancouver, while the majority of Victoria’s true blue were taking a walk up Mill Hill and the Sergeant was sitting upon a loaded shotgun.

We had partaken of a ruse. (Jones, unpublished)

Larry Elchuk worked at Mill Hill from 1966 until 1969. He started as an assistant ranger, eventually looking after the administration of the suppression camp. He describes the camp buildings and the suppression crew’s quarters as sort of “shacky kinds of buildings” with only one door each, painted white, with bunk beds, a wood stove and three to four beds in each building. Each building was approximately ten by 15 feet in area. The Ranger Station hired students, 17 to 19 years old, in the summer to assist in putting out fires. In the summer there was a unit crew of one ranger and three assistant rangers.

When they weren’t on duty, the crew mowed lawns and did general maintenance around the field, used as a soccer field. The buildings were already built when Elchuk started. They appeared to be very old. The crew moved some of the buildings as they were rotting. The buildings were put on blocks as they didn’t have proper foundation (Elchuk, pers. comm.).

Doug Eastman, retired forester, transferred to Mill Hill in 1963. Included in the group of about 16 crew members was Dale Lovick now a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He remembers the crew singing while Dale played his guitar at the camp. He also recalls painting the camp buildings and all the rocks lining the driveway white. “When we asked what we could do after painting the rocks white, the suppression camp foreman said to turn them over and paint the underside!” (pers. comm.).

Mill Hill’s fire suppression days are not just preserved in memory and in print; a Forest Service film was made in and around Mill Hill about 1966 or 1967. The film is called “Up in Smoke” and is about air tankers called “Supercansos.” In the 1960s one aircraft crashed into Mount Finlayson and another into Goldstream (Adderly, pers. comm.).



After the Reynolds left, the house was rented out to other tenants, one of them having to be evicted in 1974 because the place was kept in such disrepair, including the building of a horse corral behind the garage. Later in 1976, the chief forest ranger of Victoria requested that the fire suppression crew be allowed to live in the old federal building during the summer fire season. There is a record recommending the Forest Service talk to the owners of the land, the provincial government. In 1976, the provincial government approved an application to lease Mill Hill for a public park. Then in 1979, the last tenants at the old federal residence, Mr. and Mrs. Michael McDonnel, were evicted presumably to make room for CRD Parks staff.

In 1980, after some renovations, the old federal building became the CRD Parks' office. In 1990 the building was to be renovated, but upon inspection was found to be unsound and so was torn down. A new structure had to be built for CRD Parks office space. What had previously been the operations building, housing the garage and extra storage space, was modified to provide extra office space while the other building was being built.

Bordered by the stream that powered the first lumber mill in British Columbia, Mill Hill Regional Park is a small but significant protected track of regional history. It also serves as a southern protected corridor into Thetis Lake Regional Park.

# THETIS LAKE REGIONAL PARK

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## Archaeology

Thetis Lake was not a regional park when archaeological surveys were done by Beram in 1988. However, recent salvage archaeology completed around the park in 1995 and 1996 due to highway construction provided new information. Millennia Research documented six sites within the boundaries of the park (Map 8).

- One deer bone and some fire cracked rock were found at DcRu 569; no artifacts were recovered. There were various species of shellfish, “Butter, littleneck, bent nose, horse and other macoma clam, cockle, native oyster, bay mussel, and a large barnacle were identified in the shell samples. The recovery of these species indicates that a number of beaches were being utilized, including a rocky beach with some exposure for the large barnacles” (Millennia 1997: 42).
- DcRu 570 was radiocarbon dated to about 1280 years before present. Again, mammal bones and shellfish remains were found at this site.

At DcRu 571, an elk mandible with cut marks was found. The cut marks indicated two different kinds of tools, adze and knife. The elk mandible was dated to about 200 years before present.

- At DcRu 573, three mammal bones were found, deer and possibly sea mammal and pig. A wide variety of shellfish was found at this site also. These indicated that late winter to early spring were the main seasons when shellfishes were harvested there.
- DcRu 53 and DcRu 54 are simply noted as shell midden sites.

A City of Victoria Parks employee who worked at Thetis Lake before it became a regional park remembers a very deep shell midden near the main swimming beach. The site was partially destroyed when a new parking area was constructed (Nielsen, pers. comm.). A site near the main swimming beach was recorded in 1959 (Keddie, pers. comm.). Whether this is the same site Nielsen located is unknown. As well, the Thetis Lake Nature Sanctuary Association noted a site at the south end of the lake. Interestingly, what is now the main swimming beach was one of four dams constructed prior to 1915. The effects of changing lake levels on these archaeological sites is unknown.

Nielsen also discovered a shell midden on the south end of the south island in lower Thetis Lake. Grant Keddie and CRD Parks staff have noted a shell midden near the far north east corner of Thetis Lake. Keddie has also seen a midden between Thetis Lake and Mill Hill Regional Park. He is quick to point out that until formally investigated, it is important to remember that shell middens are not necessarily ancient and could date back only to the 1890s.

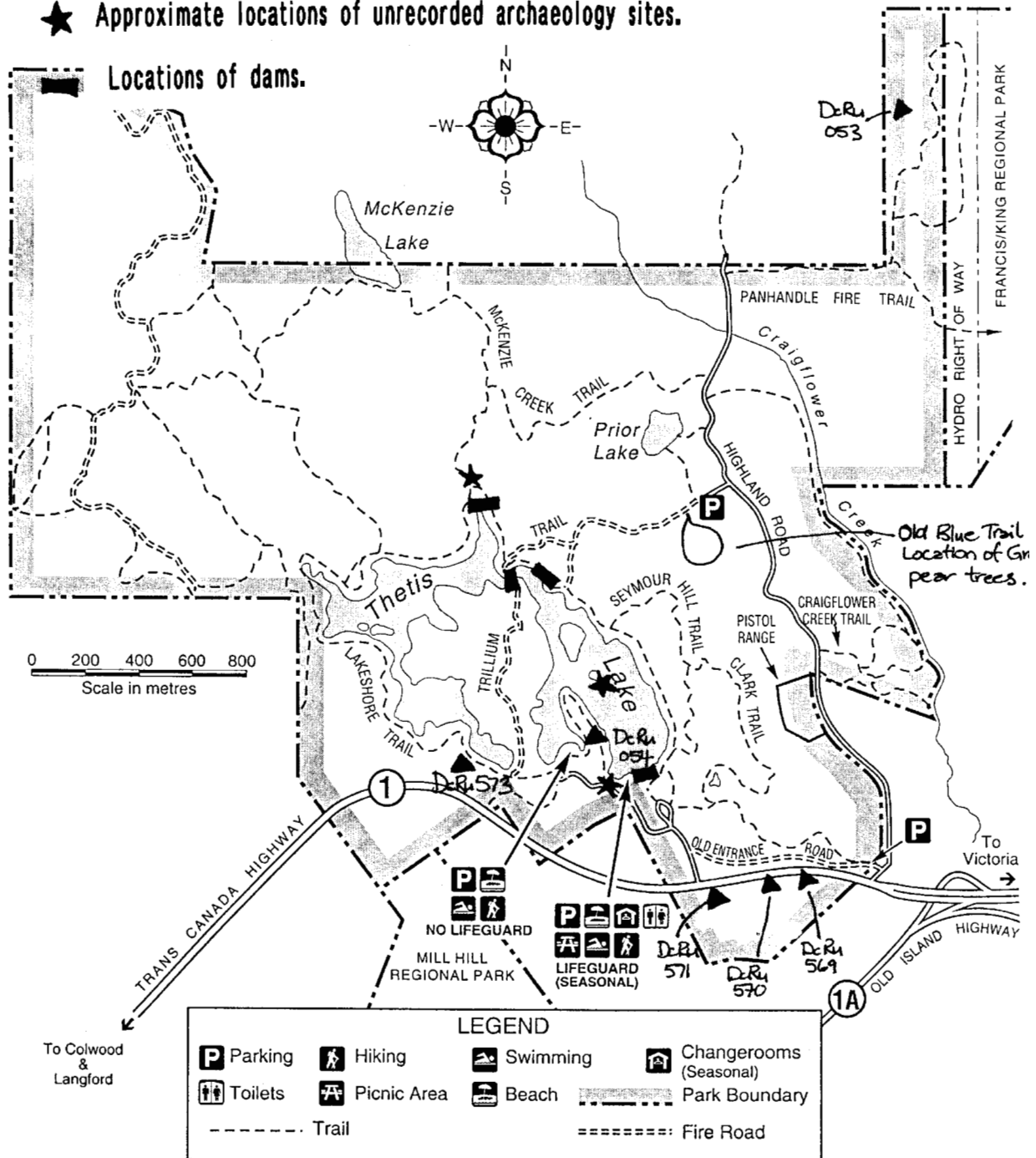
It is worth mentioning here that Parks staff have noticed what may be culturally modified trees on the McKenzie Creek trail. (These are trees that have been used by humans in such activities as bark stripping.) However, they are difficult to accurately identify and even more difficult to date. Again, they could be from the historic period and could have been easily altered by Europeans or archaeology students.



# Thetis Lake Regional Park

▲ Approximate locations of recorded archaeology sites.

★ Approximate locations of unrecorded archaeology sites.



Map 8 Archaeology sites at Thetis Lake Regional Park

Perhaps a wee bit of old Thetis Lake lies bound up today in our provincial legislative buildings, as an Atkins Lime Kiln and Silica Brick Company supplied much of the building material for that structure (Laverdure 1990: 30).

Craigflower Creek, which runs through Thetis Lake, was originally called Pulkwutsang by the Lekwammen people. Pulkwutsang means “place of ghost” (Duff 1969: 32). On an 1855 map it was referred to as Deadman River and later on it is referred to as both Deadman’s River and Deadman’s Creek.

George MacFarlane’s memories of Thetis Lake prior to the 1930s are recorded in *Craigflower Country* (Duffus: 122).

## **The Hudson’s Bay Company Years / Early Settlers**

Thetis Lake is likely named after the Royal Navy 36 gun frigate *H.M.S. Thetis* that was stationed in Esquimalt in 1852. The ship patrolled between Victoria and the Queen Charlotte Islands during the gold rush.

One of the earliest landowners at Thetis Lake was an ex-Hudson’s Bay Company employee, John Greig. Map 7 shows where the land he purchased was located. Prior to settling in Victoria, Greig apparently walked across the continent. Once settled he grazed cattle near his property at Thetis Lake and ran a lime-burning operation (Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association: 1974).

Reportedly, pear trees still grow where the Greig family planted them, just south of what is now the fire road, near the Highland road entrance to the park. However, a quick search in May of this year turned up nothing. Greig’s great-granddaughter was a member of the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary in 1974. Land was also owned along Craigflower creeks by Victoria’s first mayor, Thomas Harris, as well as George Foster and Thomas Flewin (Duffus: 1993).

In 1885 Thetis Lake was owned by the Esquimalt Waterworks Company. The company originally owned 527 hectares of land and supplied water to Esquimalt and Victoria West from 1892 until 1915. An earthen dam was constructed in 1887 which raised the water level enough to join the upper and lower lakes and provide water storage (see Map 8 for dam locations). Thetis was a part of the Elk and Beaver Lakes waterworks system as a reserve water supply. On Seymour Hill a surge reservoir was built.

The company started with just Mr. Wm. P. Sayward, Mr. Theo. Lubbe and 1,500 shares at \$100 each. Original officers were Edgar Crow Baker, W.S. Chambers and Joshua Davies. Some of the 1905 shareholders included F.B. Pemberton, Dr. O.M. Jones, Dunsmuir, Pooley, Musgrave, Pearce and O’Reilly. In 1925, the City of Victoria expropriated 1,100 acres of the Thetis Lake watershed, at \$35 per acre. Because the lake could be used as a water source, it was held tax free based on the Victoria Water Works Act of 1873.

On January 31, 1895, Florence Annie Dumbleton traveled over the Thetis Lake trail by horse and buggy and gave birth to Percy Dumbleton at the Royal Jubilee Hospital (*The Daily Colonist*, April 26, 1964). Percy grew up around Pike Lake just north of Thetis Lake; his story is detailed in the section on Francis/King Regional Park.

As early as the 1890s, water was brought from Thetis Lake by wooden flume for a brickwork company on Atkins Road (Duffus: 1993). In 1914 one lime kiln near Parson's Bridge was operated by Thomas Atkins and later moved to Hart Road.

*As boys we used to swim in the summer at Thetis Lake because the water was quite warm up there. Thetis Lake in those days was still kept in reserve as part of the Victoria water system, and as such was posted No Trespassing. There was a house there where a caretaker lived and the trick was to sneak in through the woods, round past the caretaker's house so we weren't seen. Once we got to the lake we were probably all right swimming for three or four hours before the caretaker would make his rounds, at which point we would flee out through the woods, get back on the road further up and then make our way home. All the boys in View Royal swam there as far as I can remember every summer. We swam from a high bluff in the early spring on the right hand side of the lake from the dam. We always had a bonfire, the idea being to warm you up after swimming in the cold lake. Summer time when we didn't need a fire we moved down to the opposite side of the lake. We had no fire then because of the danger of starting a forest fire. One summer there was a bad fire on the island on the lake and it was pretty well burned off.*

Richard Rant describes swimming at Thetis Lake when a caretaker, Mr. Massey, lived in a small house across from the current entrance to the park. "One day we went to the little bay to the left as you approach the lake and found a dead man, a suicide, under a tree. Two of the older boys went off to tell Mr. Massey, but he wasn't there so they had to run all the way to Miss Pimlott's store at the top of the Four Mile Hill before they got to a phone to call the police" (Duffus 1993: 93-94).

Another long time Thetis Lake regular, Matt Fagan, died in 1973 at the age of 94. Fagan kept in shape by swimming a circle around Thetis Lake every day until he was 80 years old. On different occasions he saved two drowning people at the lake (Duffus 1993).

In 1930 wood was cut in the north and east areas of the park to provide relief labour for men out of work. Fire roads and trails were put in at this time too. In 1932 the lake was officially opened to the public for recreational use. As early as 1932, the southern portions of what is now Thetis Lake Regional Park was rented out as farmland. Two long time residents of Victoria remember a Chinese vegetable garden where the Thetis Lake overpass is now. It was presumed to be leased from a Dr. Francis. The garden may have been there as far back as the 1920s (Duffus: 1993).

A CRD Parks document claims a tea room was constructed in 1936 at Thetis Lake. This research turned up no evidence of one; however, a dance pavilion at the main swimming beach in the 1940s could have originally been a tea room.

## **Postwar to Parkland**

Louise Baur remembers going to Thetis as early as 1943. "Thetis Lake was *the* place to go during World War II, just as the Gorge was the place to go during the first war." There was a jukebox at the dance pavilion, boat, horse rentals and a concession stand that sold coke and chocolate bars. Music from the jukebox could be heard when far out on the lake in boats (Baur, pers. comm.).

Margaret McCurragh, former Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association President, remembers going to the lake for picnics. She too remembers the dance pavilion and recalls that it was dirty, rickety and had been vandalized. McCurragh and her friends hated to use the bathrooms and change rooms at the lake for the same reasons. These structures were where the main swimming beach is now. There were life guards on duty for the many families who swam at the lake (pers. comm.). (Photographs 9, 10 and 11 show buildings that were still at the main swimming beach in the 1950s.)

In 1954 a portion of the Trans Canada Highway cut through what is now the park. In the process, 13.12 acres of land was lost and 57.91 acres were left isolated south of the new highway.



*Thetis Lake*

**9.**



*Thetis Lake*

10.



*Thetis Lake*

11.

## Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association is Born

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, developers discovered Thetis Lake. Victoria City even considered selling Thetis Lake so a subdivision could be built at the park's western boundary. Some homes would have been only 100 yards from the lake. At one point people had picked out their waterfront property. Fortunately that plan was diverted, thanks to what would be known as the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association.

Founding members Dr. Ed. H. Lohbrunner (horticulturalist), Adam Szczawinski (provincial botanist), Alfred deMezey (businessman) and Dr. Lewis J. Clark (Chemistry Department Head, University of Victoria) decided to survey the flora and fauna around Thetis Lake. They were immediately astounded at the beauty and diversity that had remained intact at the lake. Clark decided it was worth saving. They started a petition that stated the area should not be used for housing. An application to form a park at Thetis Lake is dated February 26, 1957. The form is signed by E. Lohbrunner, A. F. Szczawinsky and L. J. Clark. In an effort to save the area from development, even the names of pet dogs and cats appear on the petition. People put their children's names on it too. Emily Sartain, a water colour painter also involved with the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, took the final petition with more than 800 names on it to City Hall; City Hall politicians listened and agreed. About 400 acres of land around the lake became known as the sanctuary and the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association was given guardianship over it (McCurragh, pers. comm.). On February 27, 1958, council adopted the recommendation to bring Thetis Lake Park Sanctuary into being. It was thought to be the first nature sanctuary in Canada.

Miss J. C. Melburn was a very active member of the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association. She was even involved in the rebuilding of Thomas Francis's house which is described in the next section on Francis/King Regional Park. Melburn came to Victoria from Calgary after her retirement, where it is believed she may have been a botany professor. For many years she was the Membership Chairman for the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association (McCurragh, pers. comm.).

Standing at the main entrance to Thetis Lake Regional Park is a memorial to Jessie Woollett. Woollett was a photographer and many of her fine photographs appear in the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association's 1974 publication on Thetis Lake. McCurragh remembers her as an amazing woman. Woollett was left with two young sons when her husband died suddenly in the 1920s. (His appendix ruptured while at work on the CPR boats. With no antibiotics at this time, he didn't survive and was too young to have built up any kind of pension.)

Woollett got an office job with the provincial government and worked there until her retirement. Because she had to do things cheaply, the only kinds of summer vacations she could afford for her family were camping trips. These trips led her to an interest in and love of nature that in turn led her to photography. After the war, there were new cameras on the market and supplies were more readily available. She spent many hours experimenting with photography. She loved Thetis Lake because it was accessible from town, but still wild (McCurragh, pers. comm.). Born in 1907, Jessie Woollett died in 1987.

The land around Thetis Lake was a designated game reserve between 1944 and 1961. Before the province canceled the game reserve in 1961, rumblings of discontent could be heard in the local papers. In 1960, Alderman Geoffrey Edgelow was quoted as saying, "Riding in Thetis Lake park I have seen six or seven deer that have been skinned, and the skins and the heads left" (*The Daily Colonist*). People were also reported shooting ducks near the lake. "A ricochet there could kill a person walking along the trails." *The Daily Colonist* later reported that the area would be patrolled by game warden Jack Lenfesty.



In 1958 the northeast panhandle section of the park was logged for \$15,000. The contract to log went to a Mr. R. C. Oldfield. In 1961, in exchange for 90 acres at Durrance Lake and \$5,200, the city allowed BC Hydro a 101.66 acre portion around Thetis Lake for a hydro line right of way. These developments at Thetis Lake did not go unnoticed. Newly elected Victoria Natural History Society President, Freeman King, was upset over BC Hydro's application for an easement through the park. He believed it would only create a precedent. "Logging operations first approved by the city in 1956 were destroying the natural beauty of some sections of the park" (*Victoria Daily Times*, January 13, 1960). Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association President, Lewis Clark, also warned about vandalism in the park. He strongly supported it being made into a provincial park or wildlife sanctuary. However, while protected as a water reserve for the city, the land remained tax exempt, a strong incentive to avoid designating it as parkland.

There was also reluctance in the city council to spend money on Thetis Lake because it was used by so many people from outside Victoria, mainly from View Royal. Water purity was protected by the Victoria Waterworks Act, but that was all. There was no special bylaw to protect wildflowers and at one point the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association attempted to get the same legislation that Elk/Beaver Lake had been using since 1922, bylaw 2163. (The bylaw applied to a protected area that was to be developed as a park, but could not be disturbed because of its status as a watershed.) As it was, to charge anyone with picking flowers at Thetis Lake involved proving injury had occurred under the Trespass Act.

Vandalism erupted in 1972 when a youth dumped about 2 \_ gallons of crude liquid coal tar into the lake. He had taken the tar from the construction shack at the back of the lake. It covered the surface of the swimming beach. Also that year new toilets, change rooms and concession buildings were put in at the main swimming beach. In 1974 power boats were prohibited. Finally in 1975, Thetis Lake and the Nature Sanctuary around it were given official park status, forever protected from subdivisions and resource development. In 1980 the provincial government transferred 424 acres to the city to be added to Thetis Lake Park. In 1984 a new entrance road was installed.

In 1993, CRD Parks acquired Thetis Lake from the City of Victoria. The largest of the three regional parks, Thetis Lake has been a focal point of human activity for centuries.

# FRANCIS/KING REGIONAL PARK

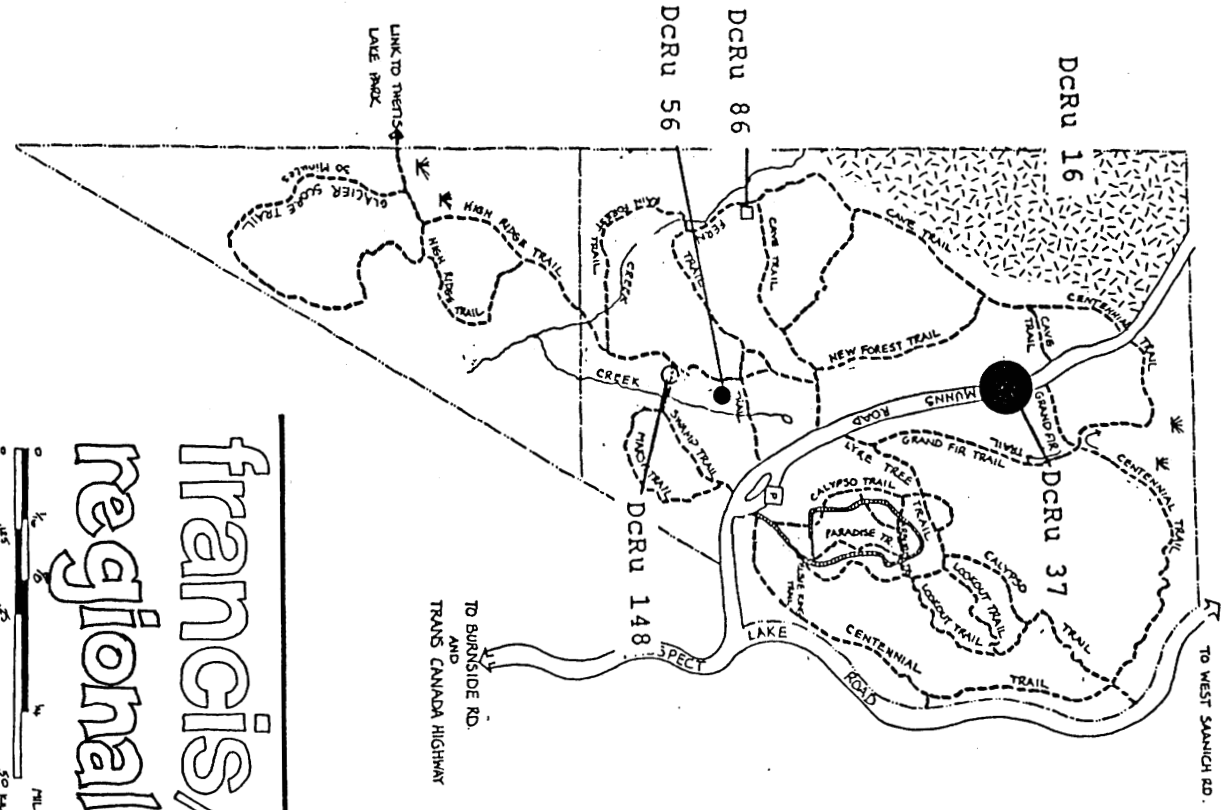
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## Archaeology

In her 1988 survey of Francis/King Regional Park, Luisa Beram recorded five archaeology sites (Map 9).

- DuRu 37 was first recorded in 1963. This small inland shell midden “is thought to be the remains of a small stopping place. No artifact finds have been reported with this site” (Beram; 114).
- DuRu 16 was recorded in 1960 and was brought to the province’s attention by Freeman King. It was suggested by Beram that this site could represent an ancient shoreline, a hunting and plant gathering camp, or simply the place where a container of shells was spilled (1988).
- DuRu 86 is a cave site and was first recorded in 1972. Two human teeth and a large bird bone, likely of a heron or eagle, were found in the cave. It is presumed to be a human burial cave (Keddie, pers. comm.).
- DuRu 148. This site is a cultural depression site, the only one within the CRD parks and trails system. It was first recorded in 1978. The size of the pit, lack of artifacts and other indicators of human use suggest that it was used as a pit for hunting deer and elk. According to ethnographies, deer were hunted there in the fall. One hunting method was to cut out a pit so that running deer would fall into it, be impaled on something, and caught in a net. There are records of people using dogs to help trap deer in tree nets. A 1911 ethnography tells of someone at the old Songhees reserve saying they used to catch deer in nets in the James Bay area (Keddie, pers. comm.).
- DuRu 56 is an extremely small site that was first recorded in 1964. There are no artifacts associated with this site.

Grant Keddie has noted a shell midden site near the swamp trail that was probably some kind of campsite. Fire cracked rock and deer bone were found there, but no artifacts. Nothing else is known about the site.



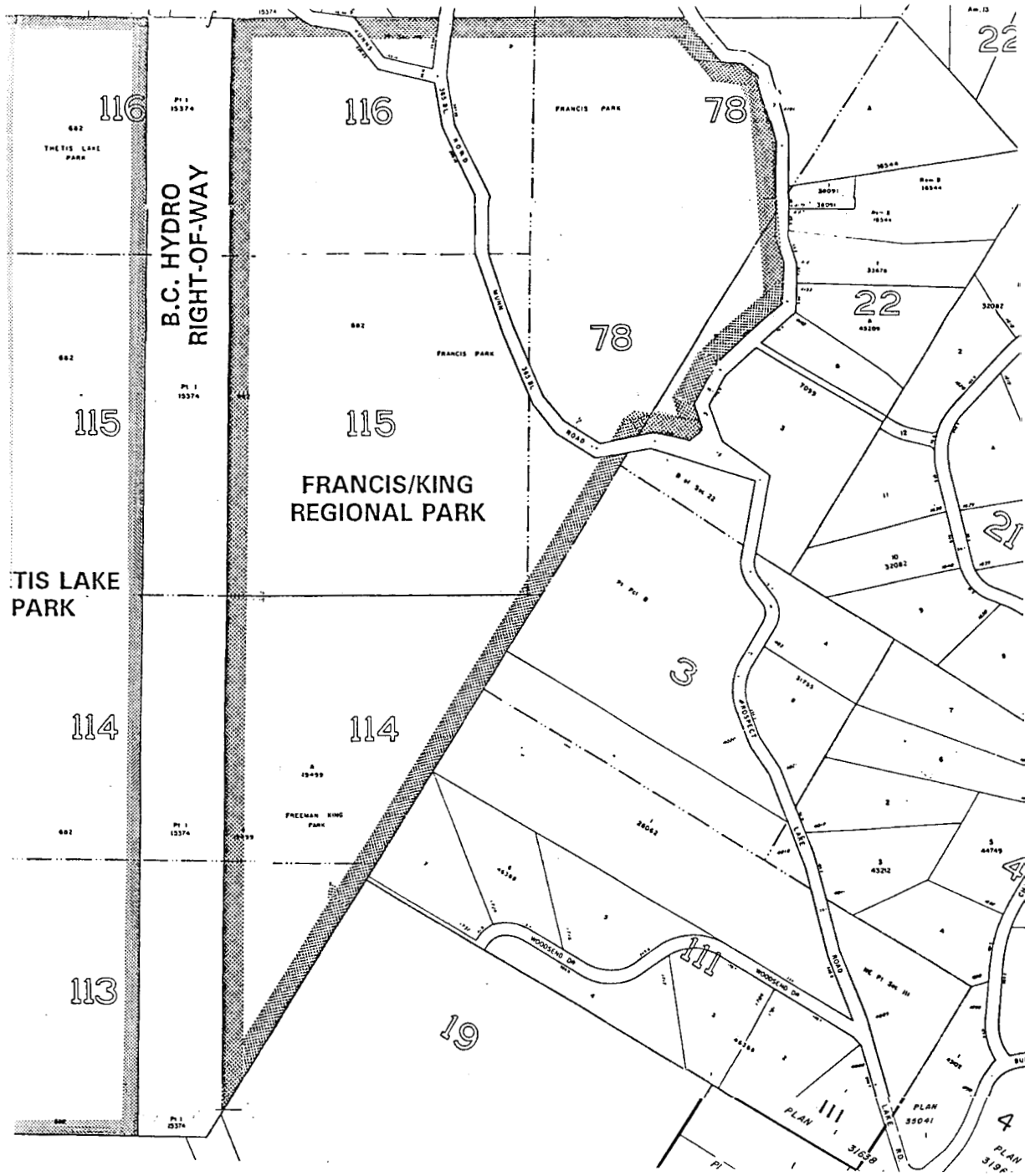
(Beram 1988; 125)

- KEY
- SHELL MIDDEN ●
  - CULTURAL DEPRESSION ○
  - BURIAL CAVE □

francis/king  
regional park



Map 9 Archaeology sites at Francis/King Regional Park



Map 10 Land parcels of Francis/King Regional Park

## The Hudson's Bay Company Years / Early Settlers

Francis/King Regional Park is named after Thomas Samuel Francis and Freeman King. In 1960, Thomas Francis donated the bulk of the land that comprises the park and in 1967, a section on the west side of Munn Road was added and named in honour of Freeman King (Map 10).

The land donated by Francis comprises three parcels: Section 78, and the east halves of 115 and 116, which had been in his family since the 1800s. Francis's father was James Nathan Francis. Research at the Saanich archives shows that James Francis was not the original owner of one of the parcels.

On November 19, 1861, a J. Wilson made the first payment of \$67 on Section 78. It is noted that the official land register records Wilson holding "PR 130, but that further payments were made by James Francis for PR 7221 on July 7, 1864 and PR 905." Inquiries into the meaning of "PR" have proved fruitless, though one archivist believes it may refer to a preemption number, which would indicate that piece of land would have to be improved before a person could attain title. This corresponds with information at the archives which states that on May 18, 1867, a Certificate of Improvement (#286) was issued for that piece of land.

Who J. Wilson is, is unknown. However, a search at the provincial archives revealed that a Joseph D. Wilson is mentioned in the personal correspondence of Edward Cridge, a clergyman in the Victoria area at that time. There is also a record of a James Wilson having written a poem while on a voyage from Great Britain to Vancouver Island in 1854.

On May 18, 1867, James Francis made a first payment on Section 115 East \_ (55 acres) and 116 East \_ (46 acres). A 1881 census of land owners in the Lake District prior to 1906 lists James Francis as the owner of Sections 78, 115 East \_, 116 East \_, with a combined total of 168 acres. Records show that Francis payed a dollar per acre for his land.

Interestingly, prior to the 1860s shillings were still being used, but soon after that a shift was made to dollars. Old CRD Parks brochures report that Francis purchased the land for ten shillings an acre in the 1840s, as opposed to archival records which show him paying one dollar per acre in the 1860s. The root of this apparent date conflict remains a mystery.

This leads to another mystery: the birthplace and heritage of James Francis's wife, Jane. *The Daily Colonist* says James Francis "came around the Horn, from Cornwall, to help build Fort Victoria" (1963). A previous *Daily Colonist* article written in 1960 claims the family came from a place called Hungry Hill in Dorsetshire, England, and that they settled on their land in 1865. This information brings up two items of contention in the history of the Francis family: the actual date of land purchase and the birthplace of Jane Francis.

Was Jane Francis a First Nations woman or was she English? A family friend of Thomas Francis, Janice Green (née Cudmore), grew up hearing from her mother that Jane Francis was English. Indeed, newspaper articles claims she came from the Old World with her husband. Had James Francis come to the west coast of Canada, met Jane, then taken her to England only to return here later to live? This is a mystery because most other accounts of Jane describe her to be a First Nations woman. One article claims that she was from the Chilcotin and another says she was "a full-blooded Haida" (*The Daily Colonist*, 1963).

To support that, a 1972 archaeological report about Francis/King Regional Park states that Jane Francis was Salish and that the Francis homestead was started in 1852. It goes on to say that “Thomas Francis’ Father brought many fine dresses from London for his wife who had no opportunity to wear them, but kept them pressed in a trunk which was donated to the museum when Thomas died. Freeman King was the executor. Dresses are now in the historical collection.”

The *Daily Colonist* said of Jane:

*Those who knew her said she was a marvelous woman, loved and respected. Years later, after the Francis house was destroyed by fire, trunks of her clothes were saved and given to the archives. They were in beautiful condition, among them a paisley shawl and exquisitely sewn undergarments made from bleached flour sacks. (May 19, 1963)*

During this research, Jim Wardrop at the Royal BC Museum was contacted about the whereabouts of the trunk of clothes. Wardrop searched and found that there was clothing donated to the provincial archives in the 1960s but there is no record of it. The clothing is likely in the museum now, but proper records were not kept and there is little chance of finding it, as it would not be labeled. Another article reports that items from the fire were added to the Craigflower School Museum collection by the Saanich Pioneers Association. Unfortunately, inquiries at the Craigflower School Museum turned up nothing.

One bright note is that Janice Green has in her possession a basket that belonged to Jane Francis that she has generously offered to donate to the Francis/King Nature House. On the night that fire burnt Tommy Francis’ house to the ground, Francis showed up at the Cudmore residence with only his mother’s sewing basket in his hands. The basket was handed down to Janice and she was told that it was “brought over on the boat” with the Francis family (Green, pers. comm.) (Photograph 12). Jane Francis died around 1912.



*Francis slingshot and basket*

James Francis first built the Francis homestead, a cabin, across the road from where the caretaker's residence is now. The original farmhouse, though adequate, was replaced by a stronger framed residence and a couple of barns in 1890. The structures were built where the Forester's Cabin now stands. Some of the trees felled at that time were used for the barrel staves at Victoria's first brewery (*The Daily Colonist*, May 15, 1960).

James and Jane Francis had three sons: Robert, Charles and Thomas. James died in a logging accident just before Thomas was born on January 25, 1878. Robert and Charles died in the early 1900s.

## Postwar to Parkland

### Thomas Samuel Francis

Tommy Francis was born on January 25, 1878, and died on January 6, 1961. He was a great hunter and lover of nature, though he only hunted for food. One old newspaper article tells of him being "jokingly barred from turkey shoots after the first round" because he was one of the best shots on the island (*The Daily Colonist*: May 19, 1963).

Tommy grew up on the family homestead and made a living raising beef cattle and farming. Sam Ricketts, a neighbour and contemporary of Thomas, remembers the two families going as far as McKenzie Bight to pick up stray cattle as the lands were not fenced in those days (*The Daily Colonist*: May 15, 1960). Francis was one of the first students to attend Craigflower Elementary School. Evidence of selective logging remains on the property today.



*Thomas  
Francis*

That same *Daily Colonist* article quotes Thomas directly and it is interesting to hear the nuances of his speech patterns, "A beautiful piece of work, is this" and "That took a lot of work, did that." He's also quoted at that time, replying to a hunter who threatened to shoot one of his pet birds, "You shoot that raven and I'll shoot you."

Betty Witwiki and her sister, remember wild animals surrounding Tommy Francis when they visited him at the homestead. Their family lived near a bus stop on Holland Avenue close to where Helmcken crosses Burnside. Tommy Francis would walk from his house to the bus stop catch the bus into town. Betty's father was a friend of Tommy Francis. Witwiki remembers going to the Francis property

specifically to get the rich dark soil from his land for their garden. Witwiki recalls Francis had a horse, a corral with cows, and a lot of dogs. “You could hear the dogs barking from two miles away.”

Betty’s sister, Jessie, remembers going there to play with Tommy’s dogs and seeing deer near the house. As well, there was a lot of timber on the property. As Thomas never married, he referred to his house as the “Bachelor House.” When their Father, Arthur Lahore, died in 1951, the Witwicki sisters went up to visit Francis at his house (Witwicki, pers. comm).

A *Daily Colonist* article describes Francis:

*He moves easily around, an upright figure of a man. His five foot ten structure is still rangy. His mother was a full-blooded Haida of ancient lineage and his complexion and character reflect native heritage. A grey moustache, somewhat like those of a friendly character in a western movie, slopes a little at each side of his face. His eyes are brown, his face firm. He is an independent spirit, a colourful phrase maker with a deep kinship with nature. (May 15, 1960)*

In 1946, Thomas first became acquainted with Freeman “Skipper” King, a local boy scout leader, who would take his scouts for hikes on the Francis property. Freeman received permission from Thomas to ramble about his property with the Scouts, and Thomas noticed the respect with which the group treated the nature he loved so much. Janice Green recalls that her parents, who knew both men originally introduced them (Green, pers. comm.).

### **Freeman King**

Freeman “Skipper” King was born on August 8, 1891 in Sussex England and died in Victoria on September 26, 1975. The name “Skipper,” or “Skip,” hails back to his days as a Scout leader. Freeman’s father had a 1,000 acre estate near Midhurst, Sussex. Freeman himself claimed he was descended from “a small baron who came to England with William the Conqueror in 1066 and was given land as a reward for having helped wallop the Saxons” (*The Victoria Daily Times*, December 31, 1970).

Freeman King was the eldest of 13 children. His sister, born in 1899, remembered Freeman in England as a child, leading them all on nature rambles, showing his siblings what he called his special places and plants. A newspaper article reported his two sisters, Miss Violet Foad-King and Mrs. Gwen Davies, visiting Victoria. The pair had not seen their brother in 48 years. “He hasn’t changed a bit,” one of the sisters said. “He’s still always out with the trees and worms and caterpillars . . . . When we were young . . . he used to take us tramping over hill and dale. We’d leave early in the morning and he wouldn’t bring us back until dark.” Clearly, Skipper’s love of nature began early in his life.

King came to Canada in 1910, originally working any job he could but mostly doing farm related work. In 1914, he served in France and Belgium with the Canadian Forces, 1st Canadian Division. In 1915 he was invalided. In fact, his daughter, Grace Mariager, still has the piece of shrapnel taken from his leg during the First World War. King eventually became a Sergeant-Major.



On October 28, 1916, at St. Saviour's Church in Folkstone, Kent King married Elsie Culver. As nearly all the young men were fighting the war in Europe, Canada needed more wheat farmers, so the Kings moved to Perdue, Saskatchewan, in the spring of 1918. Their first of three daughters, Grace, was born in that same year. An interesting coincidence happened on Freeman and Elsie's journey to Canada. They had been assigned to different ships for the five week journey, she with the war wives and he with the troops. However, once aboard and stopped in one of the first ports, Elsie was pleasantly surprised to see Freeman traipsing up the gang plank toward her. They made the journey to their new country together after all (Mariager, pers. comm.).

In 1924 the family moved to Sidney, British Columbia. There Freeman worked for the Sidney Lumber Company. He was Scoutmaster of the first Sidney Scout troop in 1935. During the depression, he ran relief camps for the provincial government. He joined the BC Forest Service in 1937. King also spent seven years working as a reporter for the *Victoria Times*.

As the years passed and his friend Thomas Francis began to age, it was Freeman King who would take Francis to town, buy his groceries and persuade him to get his hair cut (*The Daily Colonist* May 19, 1963).

One day Thomas claimed that he was going to leave his glorious piece of land to the Skipper. King managed to convince the aging man that turning it over to the province for parkland was the best idea.

Years before, Francis had been offered \$60,000 in cash for just the timber on his land but he had staunchly refused. He also refused to leave his land to the City of Victoria as he was not fond of their handling of Thetis Lake and was apparently uneasy about the Saanich municipality as well. He was reported to say that he not only wanted his land kept in its natural state, but if possible, to be one day incorporated into the Thetis Lake parkland (*Victoria Daily Times*, February 29, 1960). One hopes Francis would have been doubly pleased to see his land not only connected to Thetis Lake, but to Mill Hill as well.

However, before his affairs could be put into order, the old Francis homestead burned to the ground in February of 1960. A mother cat and kittens died in the fire, but at least one male cat escaped. The future caretaker of the park, Percy Dumbleton, looked after Francis' cats while the new home was being built. It was this night that Francis arrived at the Cudmore's home with his mother's basket in his hands, the only possession saved from the fire.

Interestingly, both Francis and King were water diviners (Appendix 4, Photograph 1). Using a stick or wire held out in front of them, they claimed they were able to locate underground water sources. There is a story that Francis claimed he could find gold using the same divining method if he perched a gold ring on the end of the stick or wire. After the fire he was heard to say that there had been gold in his house that had melted in the fire and he was going to go in and find it by divining. No one knows if he did this or not (Singleton pers. comm.). Francis also apparently hid a large number of coins near where the Forester's Cabin now stands.

When the Francis house burned to the ground, he had only his old age pension to live on. Freeman King immediately went into action. King, President of the Victoria Natural History Society, organized the Society and the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association to build a new house for Francis. While the building was in progress, Tommy lived in a senior's rest home. King called the project, "One of the most satisfying experiences of my life . . . . It was a joy to work with everyone. The milk of human kindness is there. All it needs is something to bring it out. It pulled us together in a common cause. Made good relations. Made a lot of friends for a lot of people . . . . We could have furnished the house ten times over" (unknown newspaper article).

Indeed, the project drew people from across the community. There were 68 individual donors, as well as donations from the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, Vancouver Island Rock and Garden Club, Victoria Natural History Society and the Saanich Pioneer's Club (see Appendix 3 for a list of contributors to the house). Women in particular helped out, even with some of the building and painting. Prominent Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association members, Miss J. C. Melbourne and Miss Emily Certain, in particular lent their time.

### **Presentation of the House**

Finally, on April 10, 1960, 125 people, including the Victoria Natural History Society and the Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association, presented the new house to the 82-year old Mr. Francis:

In a most heartwarming little ceremony Dr. David Turner, Deputy Minister of Recreation and Conservation presented Mr. Francis with the keys of the new house, and made him "Honorary Forest Ranger Extraordinaire." Freeman King, noted naturalist, in his dynamic style, told of the pleasure they all had in building this house, and presented the owner with a membership in the Victoria Natural History Society. A barrage of television and photographic cameras accompanied the speeches, for it is not every day that we [the people] receive such a lovely gift, and those present felt proud to have had even a small part in providing a home for the generous donor (*Saanich Star*, April 14, 1960).

In leaving his land to the people, a provision was made that ensure Francis was able to live on the land for the rest of his life. On June 15, Thomas S. Francis Park was officially accepted as a Class C provincial park to be administered by a local board. Not surprisingly, Freeman King was named chairman of the board (*Daily Colonist*, April 17, 1966). When Thomas Francis died in 1961, it was the Skipper who scattered his ashes over a rock in the park, and it was the Skipper who chiseled out a place in the rock for the bronze plaque that remains there still in memory of Tommy Francis.

### **Skipper's Kids**

Skipper's Kids was a junior naturalist group, referred to as "Juniors" and run out of a museum, prior to being led by Freeman King until the early 1970s. Skipper led any willing child in outdoor activities, including hiking, camping and nature education. Beneath these practical teaching goals was a desire to guide children to be useful and responsible citizens. Children would meet on Saturdays at the corner of Douglas and Hillside and off they would all go on a great adventure. Some of the original Kids were Janice Cudmore, Rick Glendenning, Gail Mitchell and Jerry Rushton. At one point, there were as many as 80 children involved in the group. They went to Goldstream Park, John Dean Park, Swan Lake and eventually spent so much time at Thomas Francis Park that it became a sort of unofficial home base.

Older children were appointed to be Junior leaders. University of Victoria ethnobotanist, Nancy Turner, was a Skipper's Kid. She remembers that Freeman "was never one to let us get away with silence. When we had visitors, or gave tours of Francis Park, he would simply turn them over to some unsuspecting junior naturalist and walk away. We had to learn to speak, and to say something interesting . . . I remember several times being shoved up on the stage with a 'you can do it!' to encourage me, and stumbling along on a thank you speech in front of a few hundred people . . . Skip often made us write for the *Victoria Naturalist*, or even turned over the first draft of his Nature Rambles column to us on occasion" (Turner: 1996).

Influential naturalist Yorke Edwards was a Skipper's Kid as was filmmaker Atom Egoyan. In Thomas Francis Park, the kids found an old trail that had probably been in use a century before. They cleared trails for public use, made signs, and recorded observations on the park's flora and fauna. In fact, the kids even managed to find ". . . a tiny fungus which grew only on charred wood. It has now disappeared, as mysteriously as it came, and every effort to preserve and cultivate it has, unfortunately, failed. A sample was sent to Ottawa, also to the Smithsonian Institute, and it was found that this little black mushroom was known to exist in only three places in the world, England, Finland and Francis Par" (*Daily Colonist*, April 17, 1966).

The Nature House at the park was officially opened on May 1, 1962 (Appendix 4, Photographs 6 and 7). Although the Nature House was the Skipper's idea, it was built entirely by volunteers.

### **Beatrice Mist Laboratory**

In May of 1964, the Beatrice Mist Laboratory was officially opened. One hundred people were present. Miss Enid Lemon, President of the Victoria Natural History Society at the time, conducted the ceremonies and the Education Minister, Leslie Peterson, opened the building. Beatrice Mist, lived at 885 Douglas Street and by donating \$100 started off the fund to build the lab; hence it was named in her honour. There was also apparently quite a substantial donation from an anonymous person (*Daily Colonist*, April 26, 1964). The laboratory was attached to the back of the Nature House and provided a place for junior naturalists to do botanical and zoological research. It was all built by volunteer labour and was fully equipped with microscopes, dissecting tools, mounting cards and other equipment (Turner, pers. comm.).

### **Freeman King Park**

In 1967, property on the west side of Munn Road was transferred from the City of Victoria to the province and named in honour of Freeman King (Map 10, Appendix 4, Photograph 9).

"The property involved 49.8 acres bordering Francis Park near Thetis Lake Park. It is being turned over to the city in exchange for power line right-of-way through Thetis Lake Park . . . [the] city then in turn deed the land to the province as a park in perpetuity and that it be named Freeman King Park . . . . The trade was made with British Columbia Hydro following a spirited controversy late in 1966 during which the city was assailed by conservationists for allowing the utility to cut a 100 foot swath across the southern tip of the park for its transmission lines" (January 20, 1967, unknown newspaper article).

### **Forester's Cabin**

The Francis/King Park Forester's Cabin was a City of Victoria centennial project and officially opened on January 28, 1968. The money to build it was raised by the Independent Order of Foresters and much of the labour was provided by the group as well. About 60 people gave private donations. The donations were tied to another one of Freeman's ideas. Donors were to get their name recorded on a tree in a section of the park that was to be called the "Patron's Forest." A newspaper article claims that Skipper's Kids were planting seedlings for the Patron's Forest. Two former Skipper's Kids questioned could not remember planting trees, but they did recall tying plaques around trees with wire. Evidence of this does remain at the park today between the memorial rock and the outhouses. The drive for donations began in about March of 1964; a plaque could be had for a \$5 donation. Tree buyers could choose between Douglas-Fir, Garry Oak, Arbutus and Jack Pines (unknown newspaper article, April 1967).

In September of 1972, a surprise 81st birthday party was given in Freeman's honour (Appendix 4, Photograph 9). Five thousand dollars had been raised on this occasion as a gift from those who loved and appreciated his lifetime of work. Since leaving England, Freeman and Elsie had never returned, and it was thought the hard working couple might like to go back one last time (Mariager, pers. comm.). However, this was not to be. King turned the money over to Skipper's Kids. That night a hat and birchwood staff were also presented to King. The staff is now in the possession of CRD Parks (Photograph 14).



*Freeman's new hat*

A few years later at the age of 84, Skipper retired from his 14-year position as Park Naturalist at Goldstream Provincial Park. Years of chain smoking had taken their toll. Just months after retiring, cancer took his life on September 26, 1975. At Skipper's surprise birthday party years before his death, former Victoria Mayor Hugh Stephen said of King:

*It's a great thing that Skipper has done. He has made us feel the sanctity of nature in all its phases. It could be called a holiness... because the relationship of man to nature is a spiritual one. (The Daily Colonist, September 1972)*

### **The Elsie King Trail**

To honour Elsie King, an accomplished leader of children in her own right, and the calm force behind the Skipper's larger than life existence, the Elsie King Trail, a 750-metre boardwalk in Francis/King Park, was first opened in September of 1982. At the end of her life, Elsie King was confined to a wheelchair herself. She died in November 16, 1980 (Photograph 15). Elsie was a Girl Guide leader for more than 40 years. She was awarded the Medal of Merit for her devotion and outstanding work in guiding. A newly renovated Elsie King boardwalk trail reopened in September of 1999.



*Elsie King*

### **Percy Dumbleton**

Percy Dumbleton's connection to this history is threefold. Dumbleton was caretaker of Francis/King Regional Park, his family was an early landowner near Thetis Lake and they were friends with Thomas Francis's family. Percy Garcia Dumbleton was born January 31, 1895, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

When Tommy Francis died, Dumbleton moved into the new house and became caretaker of the park. In exchange for his services as caretaker and fire warden, Dumbleton was allowed to live in the house rent free.

Dumbleton said of his house, "I'm very comfortable here . . . an oil stove, a good bed and my old brown leather armchair. My army pension and my old-age pension keeps me out of danger in the battles of the cost-of-living war" (*The Daily Colonist*, April 26, 1964). In the same article, Freeman King said: "I put Percy Dumbleton in charge of the Thomas Francis Park. I don't have to worry, if at times, I can't get up here to check things. I know everything is okay while Percy is on the job. He has a home here as long as he wants it" (Photograph 16). In the same article Percy says of his Grandfather, Henry Maurice Dumbleton, "Y'see, my grandfather . . . was very well off. He used to make big-game safaris in South Africa. He was a good friend of those famous English explorers in Africa, Stanley and Livingstone. Perhaps that's why my Father went out to Cape Town and took up ostrich farming in Knysna, a little outpost by the foot of the Mountain at the Cape of Good Hope."



*Freeman King & Percy Dumbleton*

Henry and Clara Dumbleton moved to Victoria from England in the 1880s. Percy’s middle name is actually the maiden name of his Spanish grandmother, Clara. Henry and Clara lived in a large house on what is now Rockland Avenue. The street was then called Belcher Avenue, but the Dumbletons’ home was referred to as “Rocklands.” There is speculation that the present street actually got its name from the Dumbletons’ home (Photograph 17).



*Dumbleton residence*

Henry Dumbleton originally purchased 559 acres (according to family reports, 700 acres) in the Highlands near Pike Lake in 1878. At first it was used for hunting and later a farm was established there. Percy Dumbleton was brought up at Pike Lake and also at another family residence in Saanich. The Todd family owned the rest of the property around Pike Lake and eventually acquired the property from the Dumbletons for \$16,500 (Todd). Photograph 18 shows some of the Dumbleton clan at Pike Lake (left-right - Eileen Dumbleton [Percy’s cousin], ?, Cecil, Norma [Percy’s sister], Cuthbert Baugh-Allen [husband of Cecil]). Photograph 19, again at Pike Lake, shows Charles Dumbleton in the background in a white hat. Percy’s sister, Norma, is in a striped shirt next to Charles.



*Dumbleton family at Pike Lake*



*Dumbleton family at Pike Lake*



Percy Dumbleton's brother, Ernest Lionel Dumbleton, born in 1887, had a short but colourful life. Ernest moved to Victoria with his parents in 1888 and attended Highland District Public School. As the Dumbletons were friends with Tommy Francis, Francis taught Ernest to hunt. Ernest's skill as a hunter provided the family dinner table with animals such as deer and grouse. When construction of the Empress Hotel began, Ernest was one of the workers. Sadly it was this job that indirectly led to his death. Ernest's father, Charles, known for not being able to make or keep money, demanded Ernest hand over his wages from the Empress. Deciding he would do otherwise, Ernest went to Mexico to work in the mines where he could keep his wages for himself.

A family diary, succinctly lists a few tragic details of Ernest's final months:

**11 March, 1907**

Ernest came to Pike Lake to say goodbye.

**13 March, 1907**

Ernest left for Mexico where he was employed by the El Rayo Mines, Santa Barbara, Chihuahua, starting 21 March, 1907.

**11 July, 1907**

Ernest was killed at 10:10 pm in an industrial accident.

Apparently Ernest was wearing loose clothing at the time of the accident, which caught in a machine and pulled him in. He was buried in Mexico (Green, pers. comm.).

In 1914, at the age of 19, Percy enlisted in Victoria's 88th Regiment and served in World War I as a soldier (Photograph 20). Percy returned to Canada in May of 1919.



*Percy Dumbleton, WWI*

Unfortunately, Percy's father, Charles, did not do well with any of the businesses Henry Dumbleton set him up in. His wife died in 1928 and at the end of his life he was left with only Percy as his main financial support. The two men lived together until Charles had to go to a nursing home. He died there in 1940.

In 1984, on his 89th birthday, Percy Dumbleton died in the caretaker's house at Francis/King Regional Park. Still remembered fondly by CRD Parks staff, Dumbleton's memorial plaque lies nestled between the plaques of his two friends, Thomas Francis and Freeman King.

## CONCLUSION

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In the years since CRD Parks has acquired Mill Hill, Thetis Lake and Francis/King regional parks (1981, 1993 and 1979 respectively), protected natural landscape has become more rare and precious. This is true not just of our region but around the world. The role of parks to protect natural and cultural heritage necessarily then becomes more urgent.

In just these three regional parks, the wealth of human history witnessed, written of, painted, photographed and recorded is astounding. Who knows what waits to be discovered there still. Thanks to many committed and forward thinking people, we needn't worry that the legacy of these places will be erased anytime soon.

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*Victoria Daily Times*

*Saanich Star*

(Several references are made to “unknown newspaper articles”. These were found in personal collections and unfortunately lacked sources and dates. Although their origin is unknown, the information was so interesting that it was included in this report.)

## Personal Communication

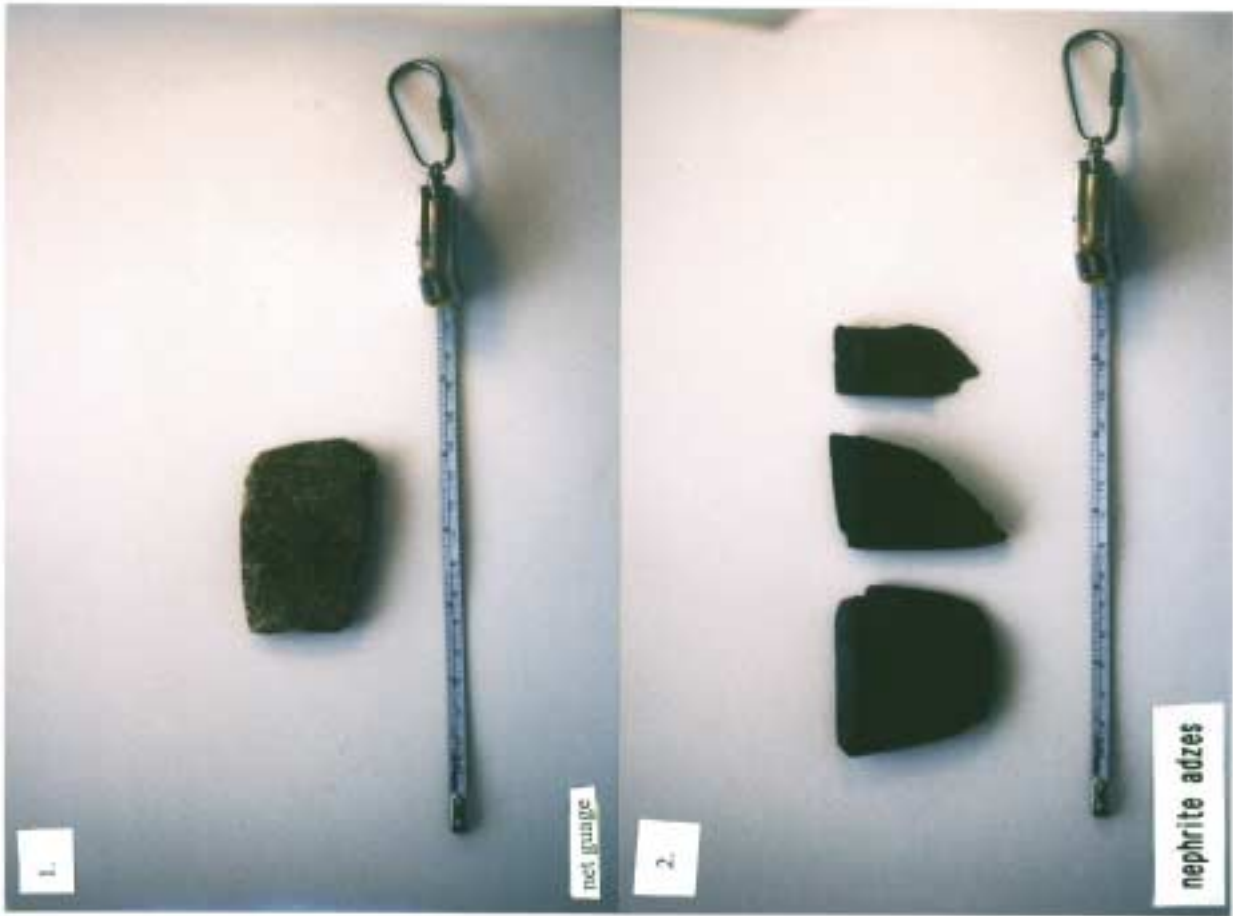
Adderly, D.	Duncan Forestry Museum
Ayukawa, M.	Historian, (Specialty: Japanese community in Victoria)
Baur, L.	Archivist, View Royal
Collis, D.	Builder of Mill Hill federal buildings
Eastman, D.	Former Mill Hill Fire Suppression Crew
Elchuk, L.	Former Mill Hill Fire Suppression Crew
Evans, D.	Former Mill Hill Insectry Manager
Fiddick, L.	Builder of Mill Hill federal buildings
Green, J.	Percy Dumbleton's nephew
Green, J.	Skipper's Kid/Family friend of Thomas Francis (nee Janice Cudmore)
Keddie, G.	Curator of Archaeology, Royal British Columbia Museum
Mariager, G.	Daughter of Freeman King
Matthews, R.	Biologist/Archaeologist, Simon Fraser University (public lecture)
McCully, P.	Salmon Biologist, Goldstream Fish Hatchery
McCurragh, M.	Past President, Thetis Park Nature Sanctuary Association
Mumford, D	Parks Canada, Fort Rodd Hill
Nielsen, R.	City of Victoria, Parks
Reynolds, G.	Former caretaker of Mill Hill federal buildings
Singleton, G.	Skipper's Kid
Turner, N.	Skipper's Kid
Wigen, B.	Archaeologist, University of Victoria
Witwiki, B.	Family friend of Thomas Francis/Archivist, View Royal

## APPENDIX 1

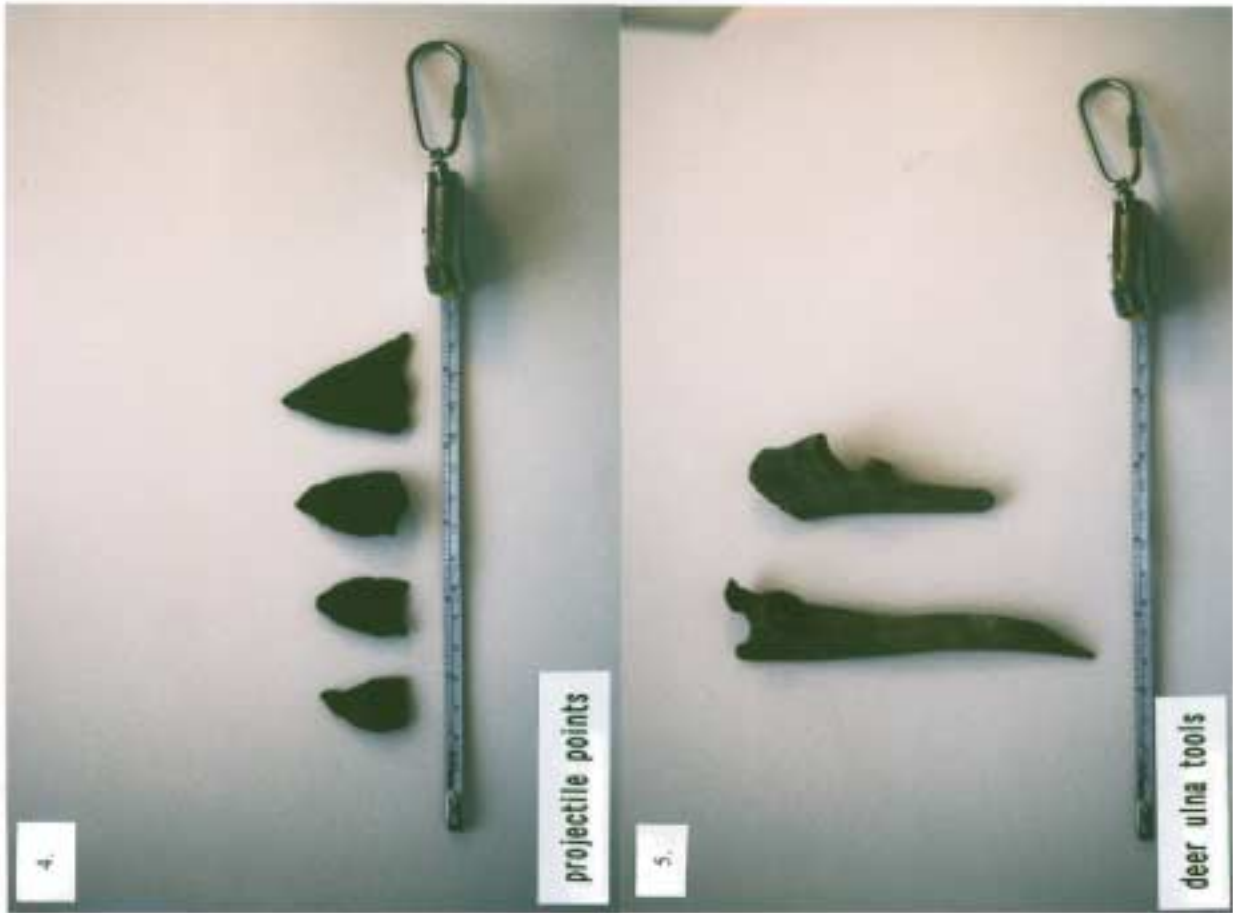
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### The Reynolds Mill Hill artifacts as identified by Grant Keddie.

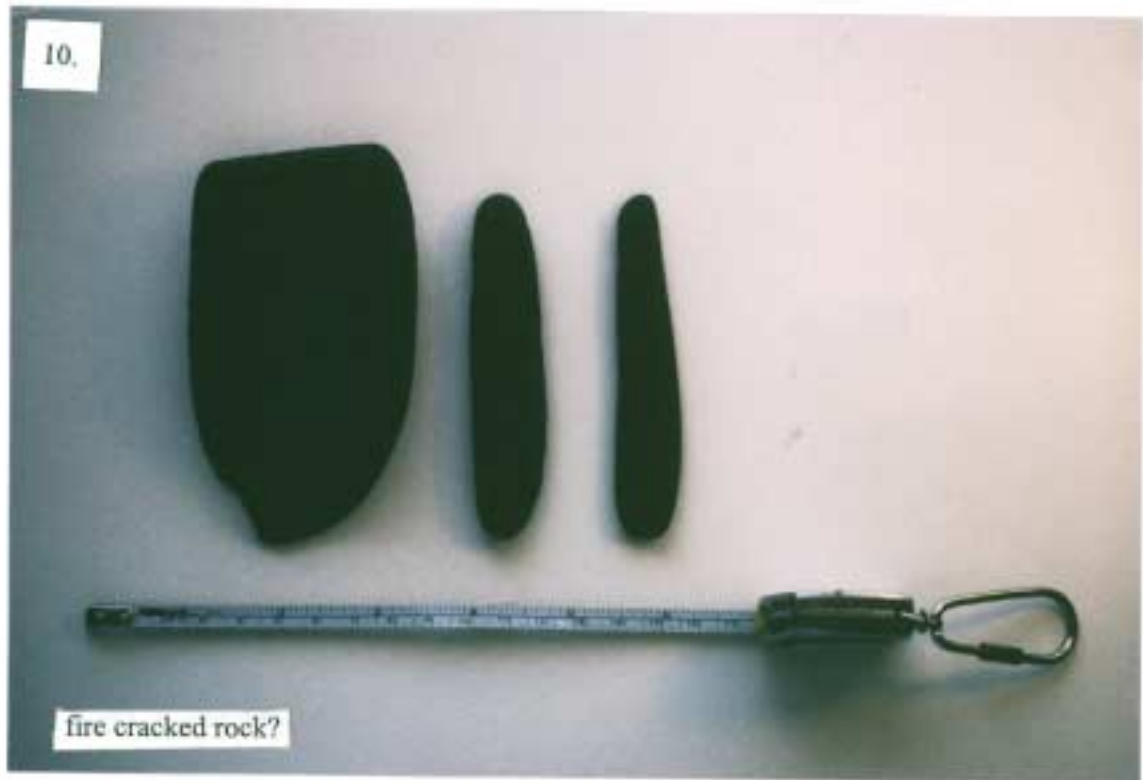
<b>Artifact</b>		<b>Photograph</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	net gauge	1	56
2	nephrite adze, most complete	2	56
3	nephrite adze, dark, triangular shaped	2	56
4	nephrite adze, smallest adze piece	2	56
5	hexagonal slate point	3	56
6	projectile point, asymmetrical	4	57
7	projectile point, concave base	4	57
8	projectile point, irregularity in the rock	4	57
9	projectile point, largest of the four point	4	57
10	deer ulna tool	5	57
11	deer ulna tool	5	57
12	antler tip, dark	6	57
13	cut antler tine	6	57
14	antler tip	6	57
15	unknown-possible fixed harpoon foreshaft, material: antler	7	58
16	bone tip, possible arrowhead or working tip	8	58
17	possible leister point, awl	8	58
18	possible leister point, awl	8	58
19	metatarsal or metacarpal of a deer, splintered, probably an awl	9	59
20	possible fish hook barb	9	59
21	possibly fire cracked rock	10	59
22	not artifact	10	59
23	not artifact	10	59











## APPENDIX 2

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### The Elchuk Mill Hill artifacts as identified from photographs by Grant Keddie

(Note: Elchuk had already numbered each artifact “Mill Hill #4” etc., and his numbers are used below.)

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Photograph</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. absent	n/a	
2. projectile point	18	67
3. harpoon tip	13	66
4. pointed bone splinter, possible awl	10	65
5. unidentified	12	65
6. pointed bone splinter, possible awl	10	65
7. harpoon tip	13	66
8. pointed bone splinter, possible awl	10	65
9. worked bone	14	66
10. antler wedge	2	62
11. unidentified	12	65
12. antler wedge	2	62
13. antler wedge	2	62
14. absent	n/a	
15. antler wedge	2	62
16. worked bone splinter	14	66
17. fixed harpoon foreshaft	16	67
18. harpoon tip	13	66
19. bone splinter, distinct chop marks at the end	14	66
20. pointed bone splinter, possible awl	10	65
21. fixed barbed point	15	66
22. adze handle?	3	62
23. anvil stone	4	63
24. abraiding stone	7	64
25. projectile point	17	67
26. projectile point	18	67
27. projectile point	17	67
28.. abraiding stone	7	64
29. harpoon tip	13	66
30. pointed bone splinter, possible awl	10	65
31. unknown	1	62
32. worked piece of possibly antler	15	66
33. deer ulna awl tip, with evidence of rodent chew	12	65
34. unidentified	12	65
35. harpoon tip	13	66
36. discarded antler tine	11	65

<b>Artifact</b>	<b>Photograph</b>	<b>Page</b>
37. deer metatarsus bone, with rodent chew	14	66
38. pointed bone splinter, possible awl	10	65
39. deer ulna	9	64
40. unidentified	12	65
41. spear point or knife	8	64
42. ornament with incised design	6	63
43. unidentified	12	65
44. wedge	1	62
45. sea lion tooth fragment	6	63
46. drill point	8	64
47. discarded antler tine	11	65
48. harpoon tip	13	66
49. projectile point	17	67
50. projectile point	17	67
51. projectile point	18	67
52. hand maul	5	63
53. projectile point	18	67
54. antler wedge	2	62
55. bone, possible blanket pin or bow tip with design	15	66
56. polished bone splinter	15	66
57. projectile point	17	67
58. projectile point	18	67
59. projectile point	18	67
60. absent	n/a	
61. unidentified	15	66
62. absent	n/a	
63. deer ulna	9	64



wedge/unknown



antler wedges



adze handle?



4.

anvil stone



5.

hand maul



6.

ornament with incised design/sea lion tooth fragment







10.

pointed bone splinters/awls?



11.

discarded antler tines



12.

unidentified bone fragments



13.

harpoon tips



14.

worked bone splinter | deer metatarsus bone | worked bone splinter 11 12 13 14



15.



## APPENDIX 3

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### Contributors to Thomas Francis's House

Chew Excavating did the initial ground work.

Henderson Bulldozing Ltd. cleared the site.

Moore-Whittington provided lumber at a nominal fee.

Butler Bros donated concrete.

W. Trace Ltd. put in the septic tank.

Evans, Coleman and Evans donated hardware.

Capital Metal and Iron Works gave 50percent off merchandise.

Thomas & Lindsay donated the tile drain and labour to install.

Julius Fichtner sanded the inside walls.

Robin Justice did the plumbing.

Sam's Century Roofing donated roof shingles.

Moore-Whittington and George Barr of Gyro Club provided and laid the floor.

Bapco Paint Co. donated paint.

Painters union put on last coats of paint.

L.E. Chambers did the brick chimney.

Phil Croft installed and planned the electric water pump.

Master painters of Victoria donated brushes and labour.

Volunteer tradesmen: George Vickery, Frank Thompson, Gus Murchison, Larry Alexander,  
Bob Kirk, Sonny Vickery, Al Vickery.

Gordon Payne acted as foreman.

Greenwoods provided insurance for the house and furniture.

## APPENDIX 4

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### Freeman King Publicity Photographs

1. Freeman King, Water divining. Sunday Times, August 4, 1951. 70
2. The 'Skipper' with a young admirer. Date unknown. Photo: Maureen Duffus. 71
3. The 'Skipper' with kids in Thomas Francis Park. Environment Tomorrow, June, 1971. 72
4. Skipper's Kids at Thomas Francis Park. Date unknown. 73  
(The split rail fence was reconstructed with wood from the original fence on the other side of the road).
5. Freeman King at entrance to Thomas Francis Park. Date unknown. 74
6. Nature House at Thomas Francis Park. Date unknown. Photo: William A. Boucher. 75
7. Freeman King in the Francis Park Naturehouse. Date unknown. Photo: Maureen Duffus. 76
8. Surprise Birthday party for Freeman King. Daily Colonist, September 1972. 77  
Photo: Jim Ryan.  
(Maj.-Gen. George Pearkes, Gail Mitchell, Freeman and Elsie King.)
9. Ceremony for the creation of Freeman King Park. January, 1967. 78  
Photo: British Columbia Government Photograph.  
(British Columbia Recreation Minister, Kenneth Kiernan accepts \$1 from Victoria mayor Hugh Stephen.)



**1. Freeman King, Water divining. Sunday Times, August 4, 1951.**



**2.** *The 'Skipper' with a young admirer. Date unknown. Photo: Maureen Duffus.*





**3.** *The 'Skipper' with kids in Thomas Francis Park. Environment Tomorrow, June, 1971.*

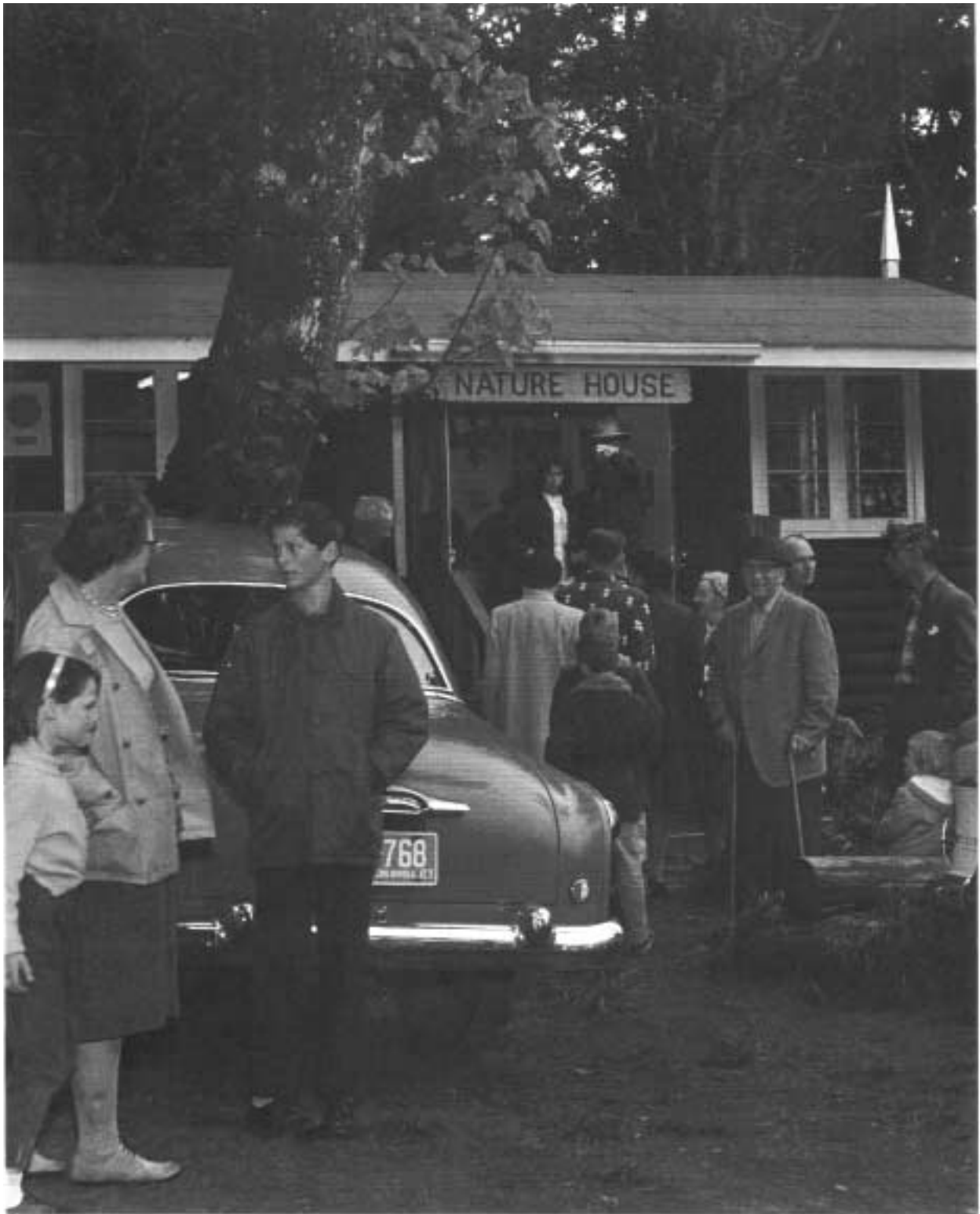




**4.** *Skipper's Kids at Thomas Francis Park. Date unknown. (The split rail fence was reconstructed with wood from the original fence on the other side of the road).*



**5. Freeman King at entrance to Thomas Francis Park. Date unknown.**



**6.** *Nature House at Thomas Francis Park. Date unknown. Photo: William A. Boucher.*



*7. Freeman King in the Francis Park Naturehouse. Date unknown. Photo: Maureen Duffus.*



**8.** *Surprise Birthday party for Freeman King. Daily Colonist, September 1972.  
Photo: Jim Ryan. (Maj.-Gen. George Pearkes, Gail Mitchell, Freeman and Elsie King.)*



**9. Ceremony for the creation of Freeman King Park. January, 1967.**  
*Photo: British Columbia Government Photograph.*  
*(British Columbia Recreation Minister, Kenneth Kiernan accepts \$1 from Victoria mayor Hugh Stephen.)*





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