



HISTORIC SITES IN DELTA

VOLUME I

Plaques & Interpretive Signs

BRITISH COLUMBIA



*It is with great pleasure that the **Delta Heritage Advisory Commission** publishes its first in a series of "passports" to Delta's official Historic Sites.*

We invite you to join us in celebrating the rich and varied history of our community, a history reaching back to the earliest days of British Columbia and one we share with our neighbours, the Tsawwassen First Nation.

We hope that whether you are a resident or visitor to Delta you will enjoy your journey to the markers of Delta's remarkable story.



*The Big Store, Delta Street
Ladner, 1920*



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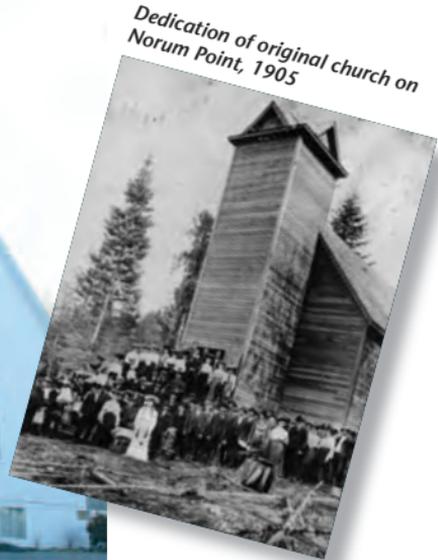


Cover photos:

- "Goodfellows" fishing camp on Boundary Bay, ca. 1895
- Unloading fish at the Delta Cannery, ca. 1880
- Hauling shingle blocks to Thompson Mill, North Delta, ca. 1910
- Delta farmers plowing match, 1928



Trinity Lutheran Church



Dedication of original church on Norum Point, 1905



11040 River Road, Delta, BC

Trinity Lutheran Church, dedicated May 22, 1910, overlooks the historic fishing village of Annieville. Part of the message placed in the corner stone reads: "Remember the promise you gave on the day of your Confirmation, back home in the unforgettable Norway." This building became the new home for the congregation after the church at Norum Point was demolished, making way for the new Great Northern Railway (GNR).

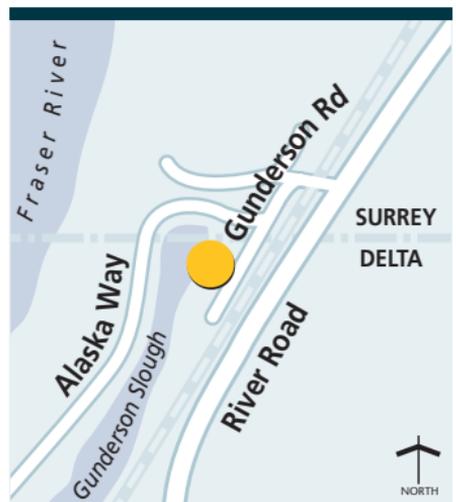
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Annieville Cannery

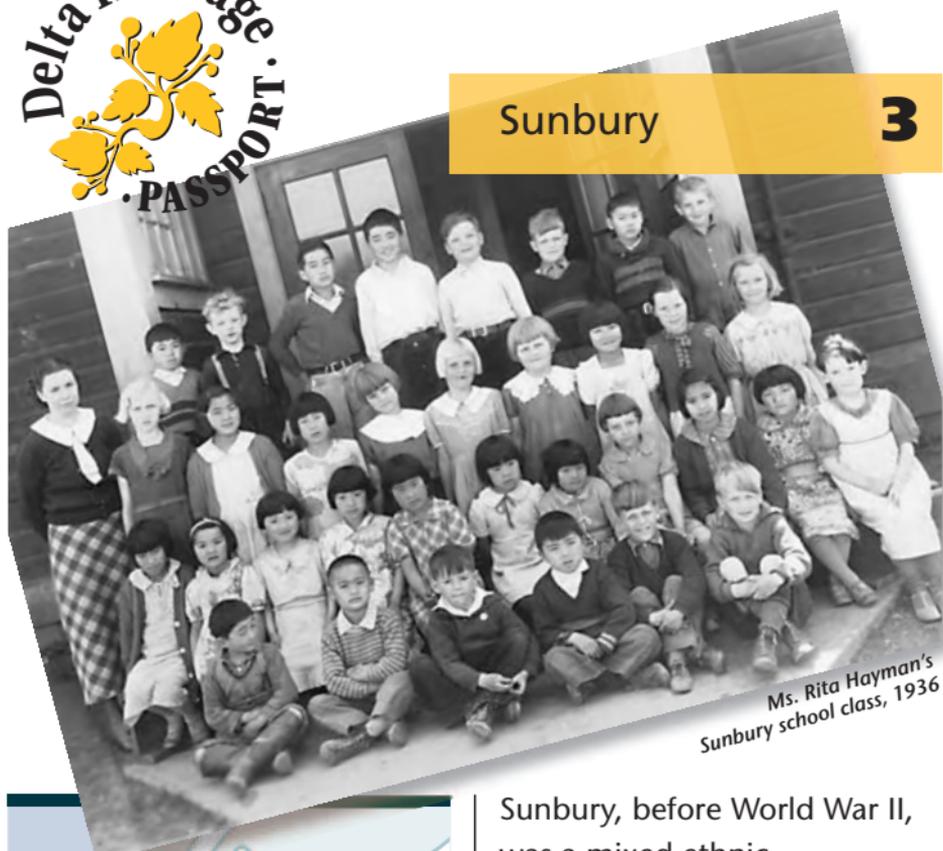


Annieville Cannery, ca. 1905

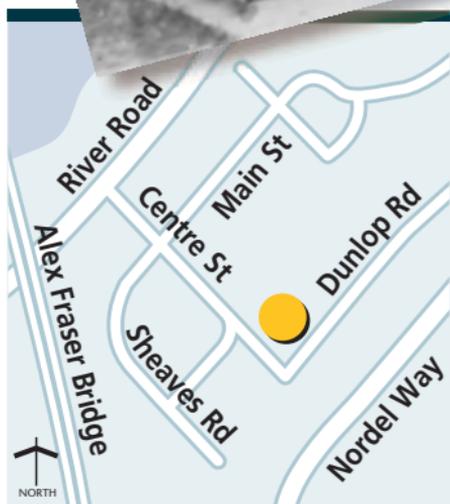
The Annieville fishing camp sign marks the site of Peter Birrell's cannery, which he built in the 1890s. Annieville Cannery operated into the 1940s. The above photo was taken circa 1905, a few years before the Great Northern Railway (GNR) was built through Annieville on the old River Road grade. Gunderson Slough formed later, as a result of growing industrial activity along the river.



Gunderson Road, Delta, BC



Ms. Rita Hayman's
 Sunbury school class, 1936



10409 Dunlop Road, Delta, BC

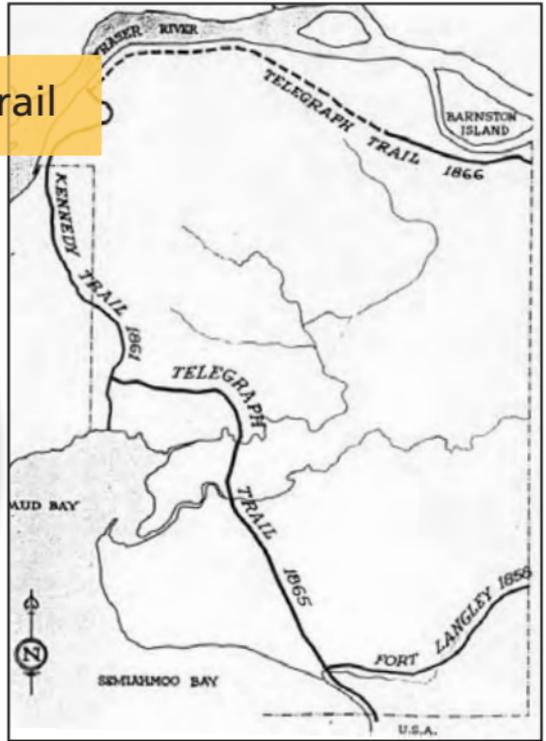
Sunbury, before World War II, was a mixed ethnic neighbourhood of largely Japanese and Scandinavian fishermen living along River Road between North Delta Heights and Tilbury Island. The Glenrose and St. Mungo Canneries were major employers. The plaque is located at Sunbury Hall, which was originally located on Centre Street at River Road.

4

Kennedy Trail



James and Caroline Kennedy, 1854



James Kennedy cut the settlement trail in 1861 from the Brownsville Wharf on the Fraser River to pasture land at Mud Bay. The contract for the 14.5 km (9 mi) road specified that it be 3 m (10 ft) wide, “all stumps to be grubbed out or cut down level with the ground surface”, marshy spots corduroyed and bridges “to be of round poles”. Imagine standing at this site when it was a tall, thick forest of Douglas Fir, Spruce and Hemlock and facing this task with only hand saws and axes!



Gibson Elementary School
11451 - 90 Ave, Delta, BC

The Mackie Family Legacy

The Canadian branch of the Mackie Family Legacy begins in 1830, when Thomas Mackie Sr. (1785-1850), son of Scotland, who immigrated to Canada in 1807 when he was 19 years old, arrived in Toronto for a job he received to build Columbia in 1833 and settled in New Westminster. He had work in New Westminster until he started getting better of the "Fever River" (his first job) in North Delta on a boat route around at various points along the Fraser River. In 1833 he married Mary-Jane Sheaves of Peter Head at Sturtevant and they spent the first part of their marriage residing in New Westminster.



sons of his land. George Sr., Mary-Jane and their son George Jr., moved to North Delta on the Shuswap area, where living in the Shuswap area four more sons, William, John Robert and Angus, were born.

Plans for the "Steel City" were not completed, primarily due to the Depression prior to World War I and the property then re-sold to the owners of George Mackie Sr.

In 1911 brought the Mackie family back to North Delta for the same property on Richardson Road (now 82 Ave) they owned prior to moving to the Shuswap. The land was logged and the subsequent crops of regenerated cedar trees used to home owners in Vancouver for firewood.

The five sons of George Sr. and Mary-Jane each chose a different career path. Of the five, only George Jr. remained on the original property in 1938 to married Joseph Gaudin and they had four children. The second son, William, also remained in Delta, settling on Blue Road at Suncrusty, William married Thelma Nowe in 1928 and they had four children.

Robert and John both served in the Air Force during World War II eventually returning to Delta before moving to other areas of the province. Both brothers married in 1943, Robert to Louise Kluge and John to Arlene Moon. Each couple had four children. Angus, the youngest, remained in Delta working in the logging industry until he married Peggy Ross in 1940. Angus and Peggy moved to Surrey where they had four children.



In late 1912, following the



Commissioner for a number of years and active in the Sunbury / Anemite Local of the Fishermen's Union serving as president for over 20 years.

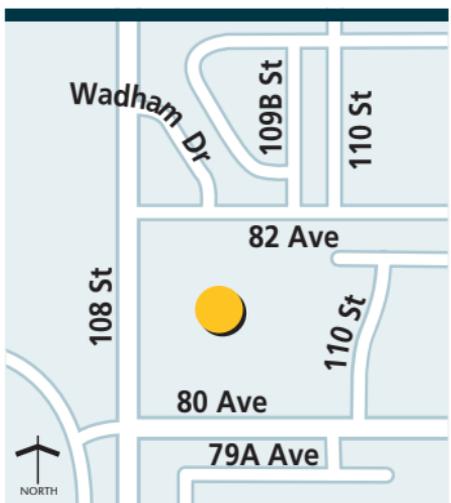


Robert and Angus began to sell off parcels of their land to developers. The Mackie family wanted to create a legacy for the people of North Delta and therefore a number of these parcels were acquired by the Municipality of Delta in 1968...for the use and enjoyment of the public for pleasure and recreation as a park... Development of the park has included the installation of North Delta's first artificial turf field in 2002 and the upgrade of the baseball diamond in 2003.



William, also a founding member of the North Delta Boatmen's Club, served as President of the Sunbury Hall Society for over two decades. The one of his great passions, he was enthusiastically with the Society included sailing, speed skating, tennis, and other outdoor recreation. He was a Delta Community Park

Interpretive sign at Mackie Park

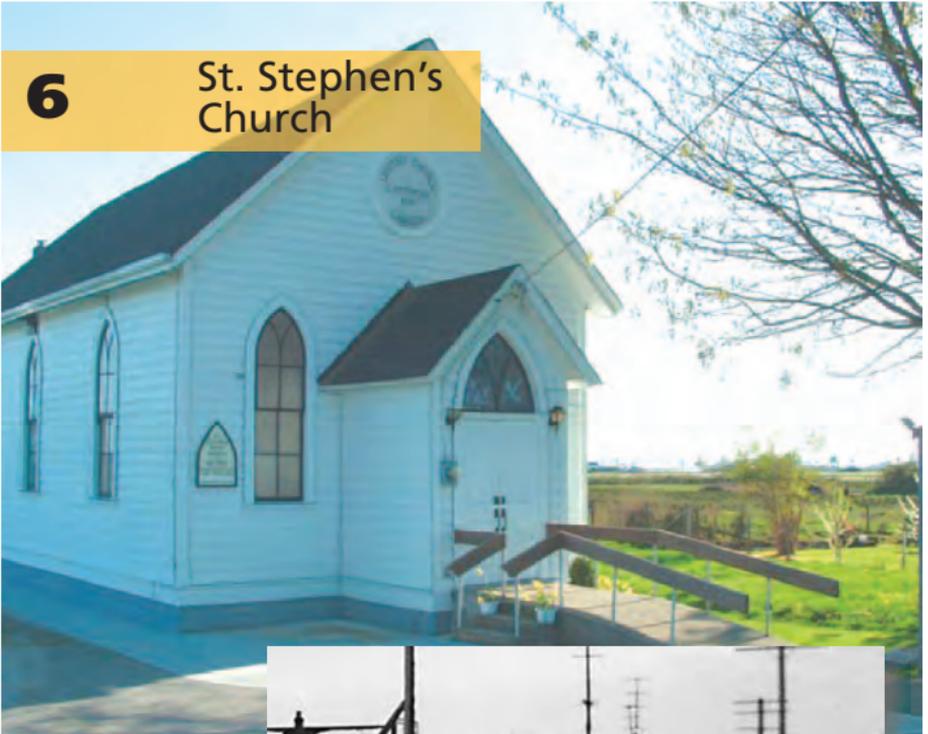


10900 - 82 Ave, Delta, BC

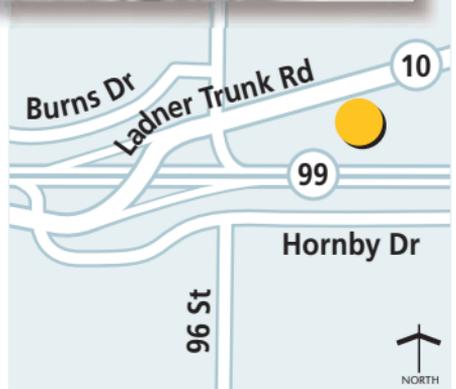
Mackie Park heralds the accomplishments of one of North Delta's pioneer families. The sign at the park tells the story of George Mackie, Sr. who arrived in British Columbia in 1888 and found work in sawmills and fishing. Like many early immigrants, George saw opportunity in his adopted land. His vision of "Steel City", a planned industrial town in the Sunbury area, was a grand scheme that was never realized. The Mackie family, however, would go on to create other successes in Delta.

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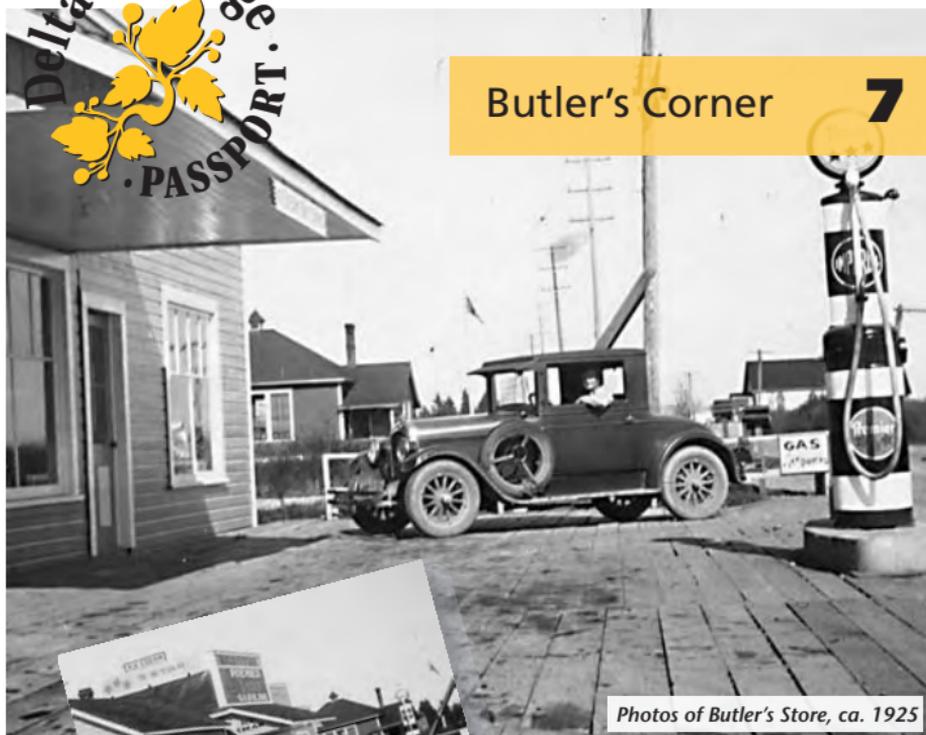
St. Stephen's Church



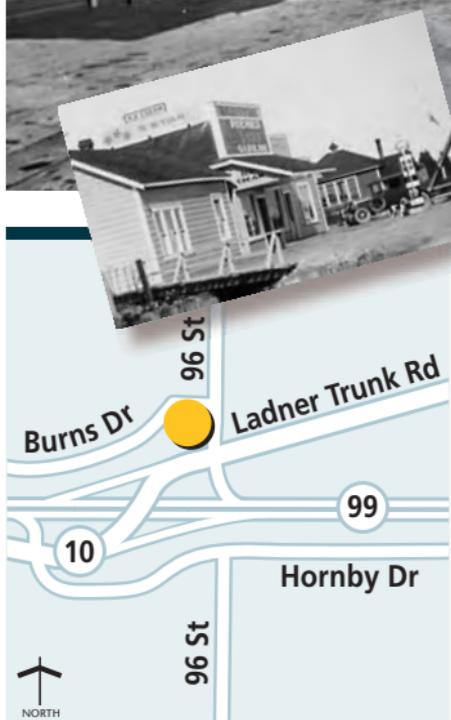
The plaque salutes the enterprise of the people of East Delta. They provided their community with services centred in this area, among them St. Stephen's Church (1891), East Delta School (1888), and East Delta Community Hall (1930). The East Delta farmers also built the first municipal dyke on Boundary Bay in 1892.



9696 Ladner Trunk Road, Delta, BC



Photos of Butler's Store, ca. 1925



9581 Ladner Trunk Road, Delta, BC

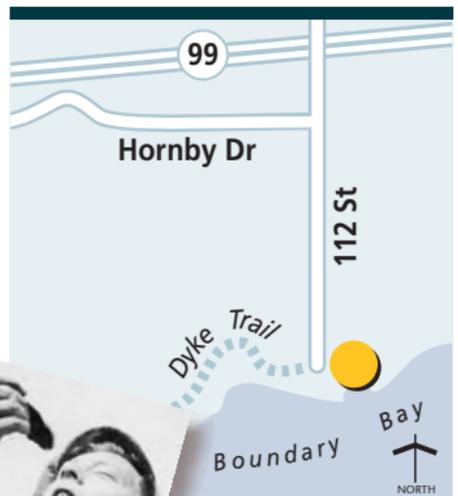
The tiny village of East Delta, consisting of a store, a blacksmith shop and several small residential lots, formed in 1911 at the crossroads of Ladner Trunk Road and Mathews Road (96th Street). The village grew around the existing East Delta School and St. Stephen's Church. Butler's Store and gas station saved the local farmers a long, bumpy and usually muddy drive into Ladner.

8

East Delta
Oyster Plant

Sikh workers at the B.C. Packer's Oyster Plant, ca. 1950

Commercial oyster operations in B.C. began in Boundary Bay at Blackie Spit in 1904 and continued for nearly 60 years. Standing at this spot in the 1950s, you could watch John Christopherson's tug boat tow a barge full of freshly picked oysters to the B.C. Packer's plant for shucking. Between 1940 and 1963, 50% of the provincial production of oysters came from Boundary Bay until water pollution forced the closure of this unique local industry.



South end of 112 St,
at dyke



St. David's
 Anglican Church

9



5575 - 9 Ave, Delta, BC

The first Anglican service in Boundary Bay was held in the local school in 1908, with a congregation of 48. Boundary Bay remained part of All Saints Parish until 1956. The growing congregation built their own church between 1953 and 1955 on the corner of 56th Street and 12th Avenue. In 1970 the congregation moved to a larger church, and the old building was adapted for recreational use as part of the Winskill Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Winskill Park.

10 Early First Nation Settlement



The plaque marks the southern end of an aboriginal village built on an ancient beach above Boundary Bay. Sixty years ago you could still see the middens left by their activities. (The air photo above shows the midden area along 56th Street and 16th Avenue in 1957). Urban growth has largely destroyed this important archaeological site.



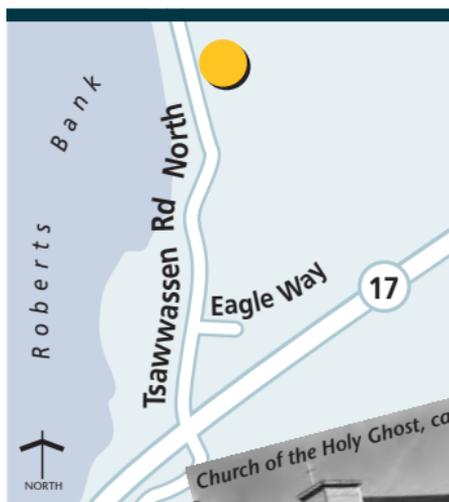
View Crescent,
Delta, BC

*Ceremonial stone bowl,
2000-3000 years old*





Church of the Holy Ghost



146 Tsawwassen
Drive North,
Delta, BC

Church of the Holy Ghost, ca. 1930



The Tsawwassen First Nation Reserve was created at the winter village site of this Coast Salish tribe. Cut off from their traditional territory, the Tsawwassen people found it difficult to sustain themselves with traditional hunting, fishing and gathering. The village longhouse, the centre of cultural activity, was destroyed when Highway No. 17 was built.

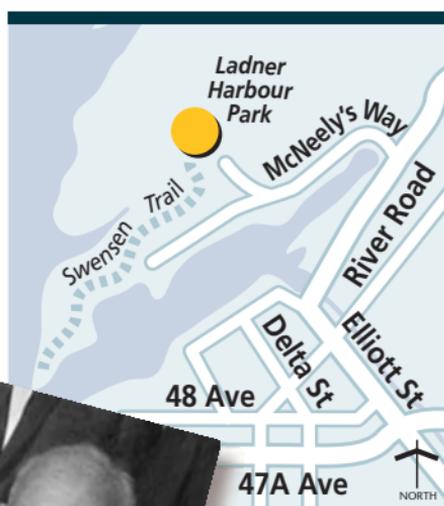
12 Harbour Park & Swensen Trail



Delta Centennial Committee, 1966-67

Front row, left to right: William MacDonald, Clarence Taylor, Arthur Swenson (chairman), Mrs. Harry Christiansen, Douglas Oliver; Back row: Chris. Winskill, Roy Thorstenson, Fred Gingell, George Mackie, Edgar Dunning, Norman Habing. (Mrs. George Massey, secretary, absent.)

Ladner Harbour Park was Art Swensen's dream. In 1958 he envisioned a family park on the island opposite downtown Ladner. Art served three terms as Chair of the Delta Centennial Committee and, in 1971, finally convinced the committee to support the development of the park. Ladner Harbour Park is located on old dredging spoils. Art Swenson took pleasure in noting that "every time the river channel is dredged the park gets bigger."



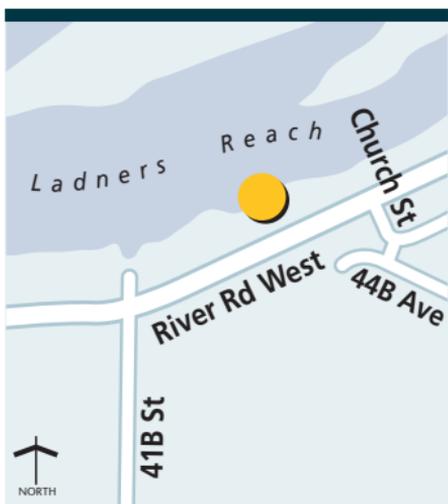
Ladner Harbour Park,
McNeely's Way,
Delta, BC



Arthur Swenson, ca. 1967



Port Guichon, ca. 1903



Plaque located on wall of Pump Station,
 4200 Block River Rd West, Delta, BC

When the railroad reached Port Guichon in 1903, the town eclipsed Ladner as Delta's transportation centre. Originally the train stopped on the wharf to meet steamships from Victoria. In 1924, the train station was moved to nearby Savoy Street. The train continued to serve Port Guichon's sawmill, hotel, farms and canneries into the 1930s.

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Homer Stevens Park

Members of the Martinolich, Bussanich & Radoslovich families, boat building and fishing families of Port Guichon, ca. 1913



This modest park complements the distinct character of the Port Guichon neighborhood in which Homer Stevens grew up. Homer, and his father Nick Stevens, championed the rights of working people and the union movement that gave voice to their aspirations. Commercial fishing continues to this day along the dyke opposite the park. Visitors can still see the remnants of the original fishing wharves and net lofts that belonged to the fishing and boat building families of Port Guichon.

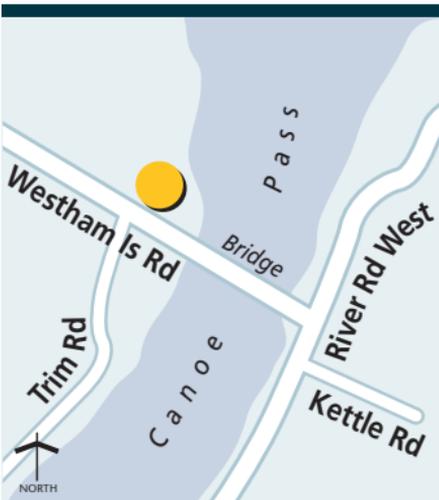


Stevens Park,
4440 River Rd West, Delta, BC



Westham Island Bridge, near Ladner, B.C. No. 4.

Ca. 1914



3317 Westham Island Road, Delta, BC

Ever since the first farmers and fisher folk settled here in the 1870s, Westham Island residents have maintained pride in their separate identity. Officially opened in March 1910 with a lavish banquet, the Westham Island Bridge ended the residents' isolation. Today, visitors still cross this bridge to see the Reifel Bird Sanctuary and to buy produce from the local farms.

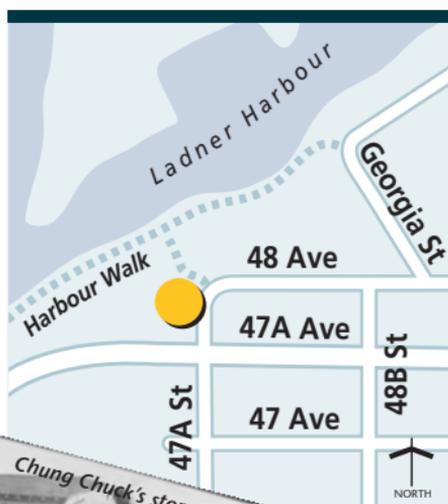
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Ladner Chinatown



Ladner Chinatown, ca. 1955

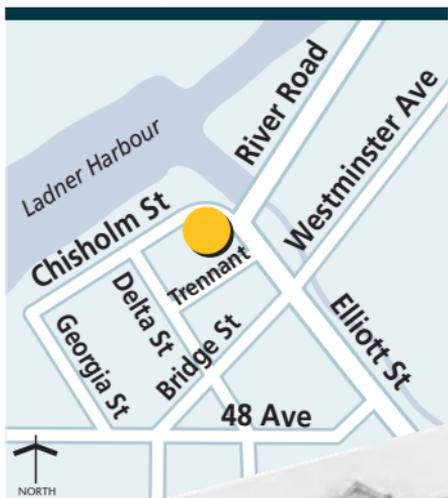
Urban growth has completely altered the landscape at the west end of 48th Avenue (Westham Street). It would be impossible, without photographs and old maps, to tell that Ladner's once thriving Chinatown lined the dyke here in the late 1800s. After much of Chinatown burned in 1929, Chung Chuck bought land inside the dyke for his potato field. The field and dyke are now covered by a condominium and marina complex.



Pathway to water from 48 Ave/47A St



Ladner's Landing, ca. 1900

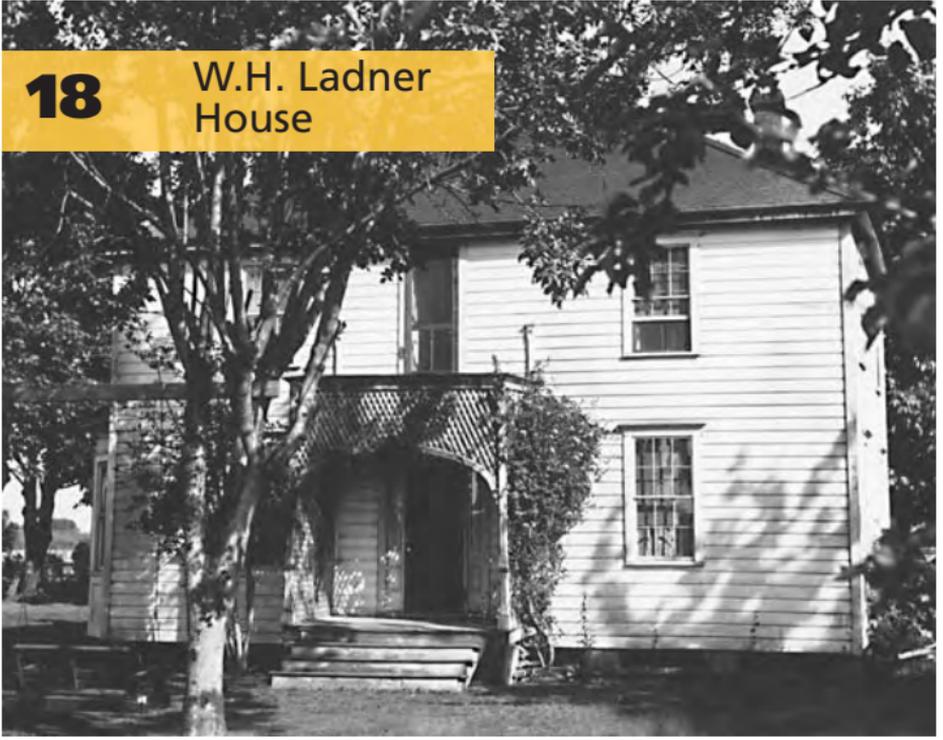


The plaque and sign are on the site of the former Delta Hotel. The Delta Hotel greeted visitors, salesmen and new settlers disembarking at Ladner's wharf from the 1880s until 1923, when the hotel burned down. The wharf was built in 1875 and this post office stop became a town in the 1880s when Donald Chisholm purchased and surveyed the site. The street still carries the Chisholm name.

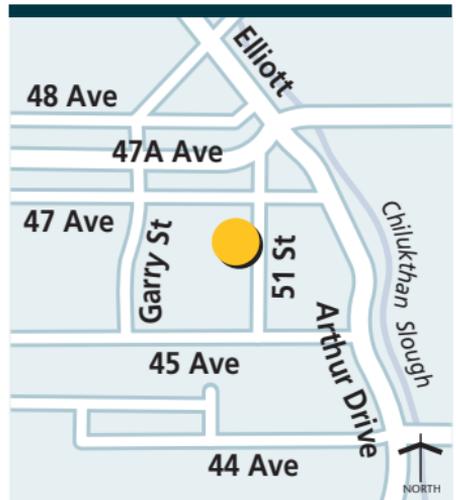
Southwest corner of Chisholm St and Elliott St



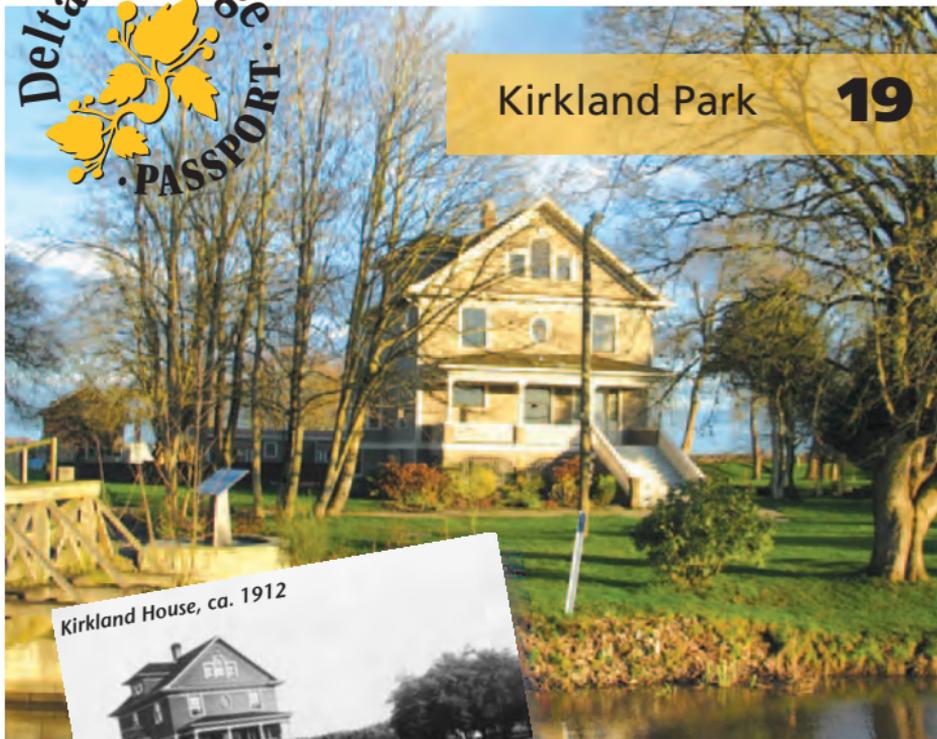
Delta Hotel, ca. 1913

18**W.H. Ladner House***W.H. Ladner House, ca. 1925*

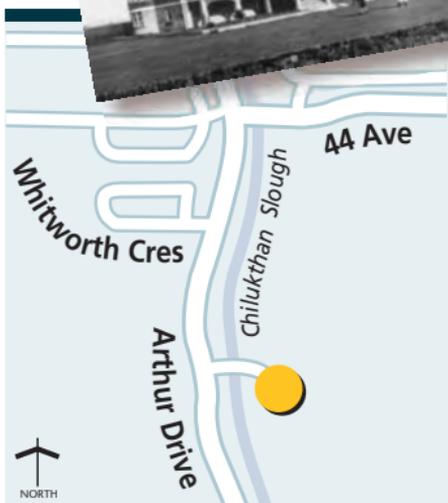
The plaque tells us that we should see a house in front of us; however, the plaque was erected one year before the historic William Ladner house burned down, likely the result of arson. The house, Ladner's third home, was built in 1882. Paul Ladner, his son, planted an orchard of pear and holly trees on the farm surrounding the home. We enjoy these same trees to this day.



4661 - 51 Street, Delta, BC



Kirkland House, ca. 1912



4026 Arthur Drive, Delta, BC

The Kirkland family were early pioneers in Delta and were active in the economic, social and political life of the municipality as early as the 1870s. This large family home was constructed in 1911 for William and Edna Kirkland and their six children on their farm called Hawthorne Grove. Volunteers of the Kirkland House Foundation are restoring it for public use.

Notes



Ladner baseball team, 1926



Using this Passport

Each site identified in this passport is marked with a plaque or sign. The **Delta Heritage Advisory Commission** invites you to visit each location and learn why it is historically significant to Delta.

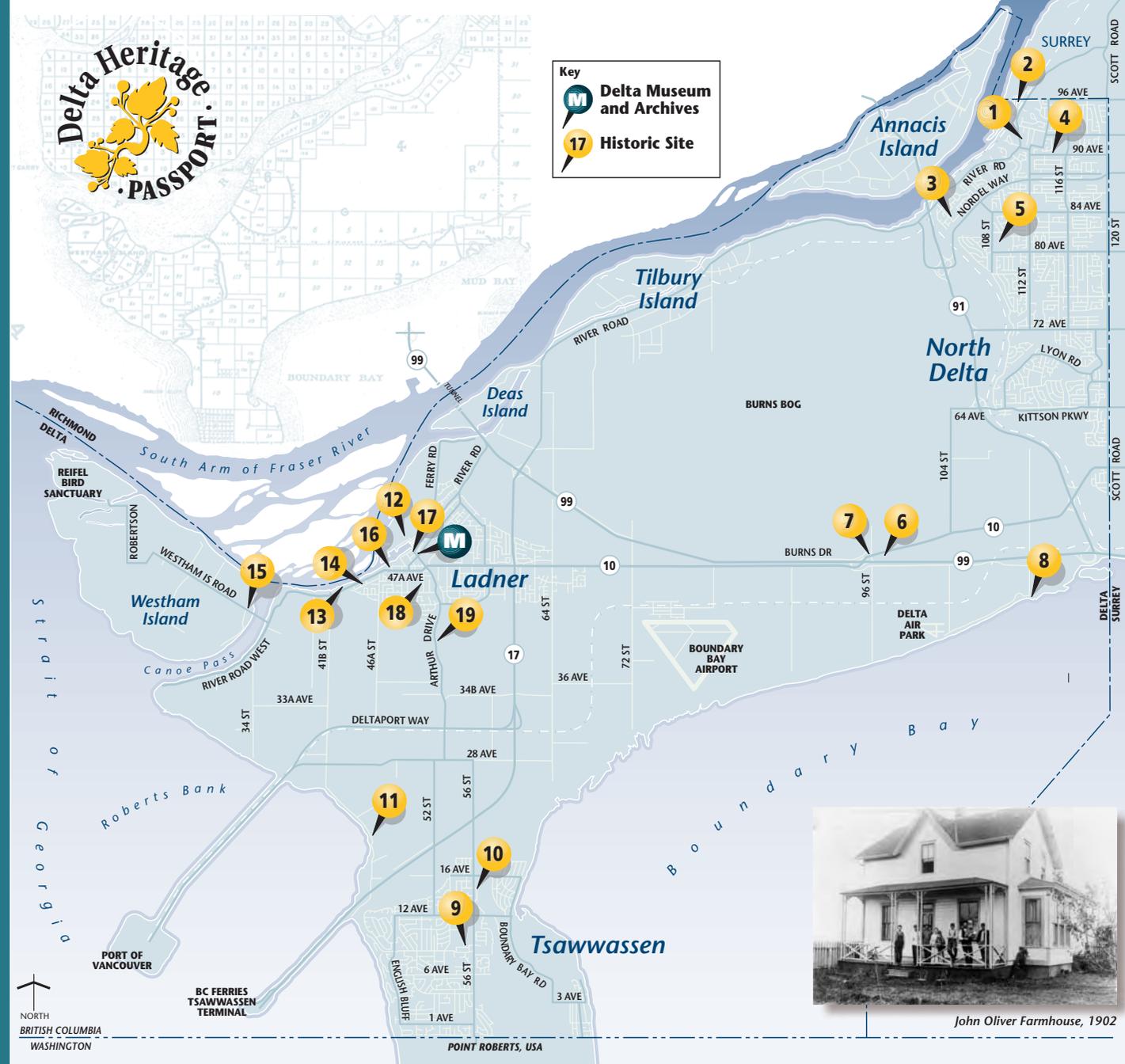
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Delta Street, Ladner
ca. 1912



John Oliver Farmhouse, 1902



NORTH
BRITISH COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON

POINT ROBERTS, B.C.



VOLUME I

Plaques & Interpretive Signs



For further information
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*Delta Municipal Hall
(Delta Museum and Archives after 1969)
ca. 1914*

Delta Museum and Archives

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*Photos courtesy of the
Delta Museum & Archives*