



Ganges Historical Walking Tour



Salt Spring Historical Society



Ganges Historical Walking Tour

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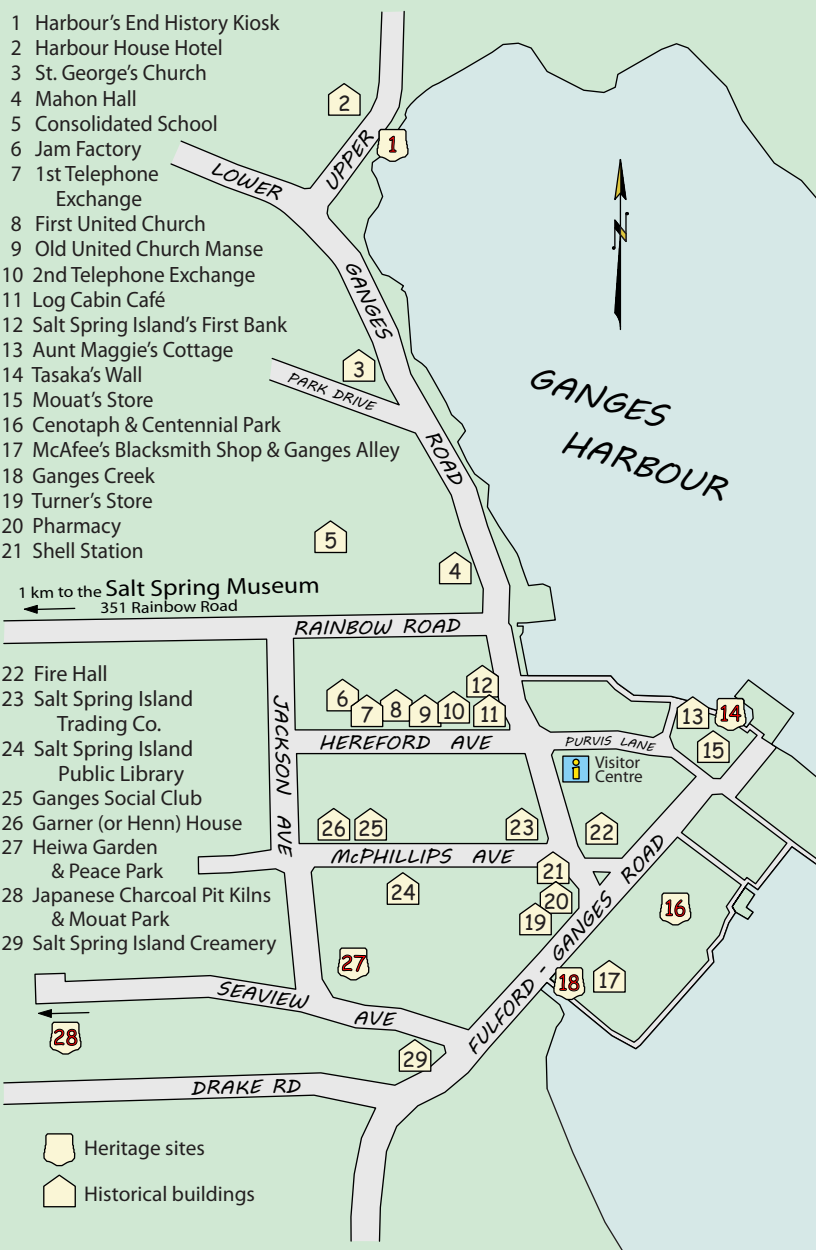
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Cover photo: 1930 Ganges



Ganges Historical Walking Tour

Places of Historical Interest in Ganges Village



The Visitor Information Centre was moved to this site in 1966.

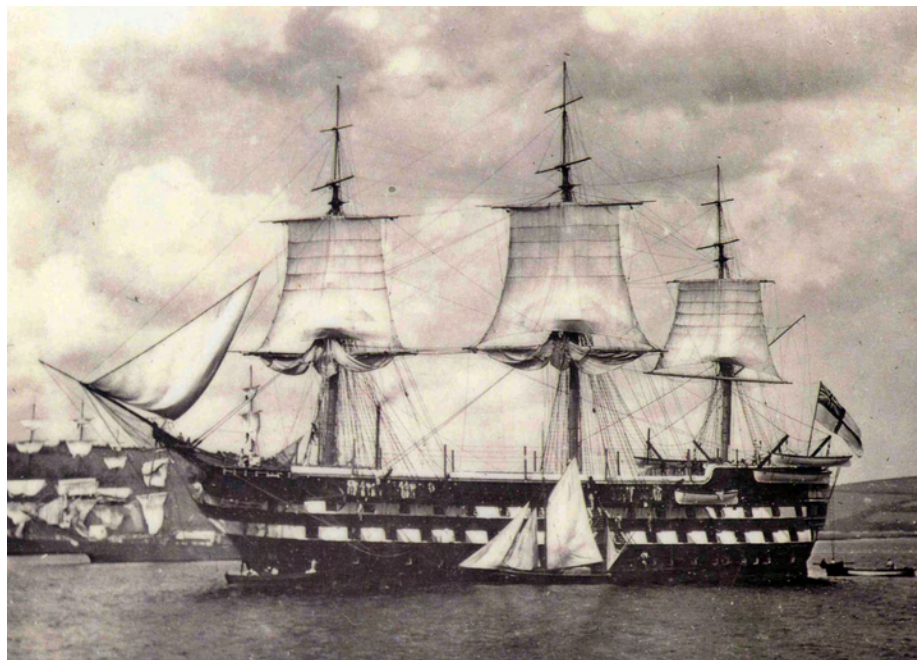
For over five thousand years, the wealth of natural resources around Ganges Harbour allowed long-term occupation and regular seasonal use by local First Nations and their relatives from Penelakut Island, Valdez Island, Nanaimo, Chemainus, Cowichan and the Saanich Peninsula. Village sites, food processing places, supernatural beings and burials are remembered in oral tradition and documented in archeological records.

Ganges Harbour is known as “Shiya’hw̓t” or “SYOWT”, meaning “place of caution” by the Hul’q’umi’num and SENĆOŦEN, possibly as a reminder of the two-headed sea creature who dwelled in the inner harbour. The area was famous for its natural resources. SENĆOŦEN considered it “the first place to come for spring herring”. Hul’q’umi’num enroute to the Fraser River harvested and processed clams and herring for trade with Interior people. Parts of the shoreline of Ganges Harbour are built above shell middens created over thousands of years of occupation. Such places are called Stl’ulnup or “ancient ground” in the Hul’q’umi’num language.

The harbour was renamed in 1859 for the HMS Ganges, flagship of the Royal Navy Pacific Squadron. Constructed in India in 1921 of teakwood, she was stationed at Esquimalt from 1858 to 1860. A battleship of 84 guns under the command of Captain John Fulford, she was too large to sail the Gulf Islands and spent much time addressing the San Juan boarder dispute. The Ganges is notable for being the last sailing ship to serve as a flagship in the Royal Navy. Note: A model replica of this ship can be seen at the Salt Spring Museum.

On July 4, 1860, a gunfight took place at the head of the harbour between local Cowichan who were gathered here and a canoe of Haisla from Douglas Channel. Many variations of this event have been told, which over time has become known as the “Battle of Ganges Harbour”. Mr. Thomas Henry Lineker, who built a cabin at the head of the harbour in 1859, was one of the few non-Indigenous witnesses to the incident. Mr. Lineker wrote a letter recounting the event to Governor James Douglas.

The Anglican Bishop John Hills visited six weeks later and was told by Mrs. Lineker that “the Cowichans owed them a grudge for some injury done years ago.” Although hostile encounters were not uncommon between northern First Nations who trespassed on Gulf Island territories, local settlers were understandably alarmed by gunfire in the new community and petitioned the colonial government for protection.



HMS Ganges at Falmouth Harbour, England

1. Harbour's End Kiosk

- at the head of Ganges Harbour

The Harbour End Kiosk was constructed in 2015 as part of an ongoing project by volunteers with Island Pathways. The kiosk provides an overview of some of the environmental features of the harbour and information about the First Nation history here, illustrated by Salt Spring resident Briony Penn. The Salt Spring Island Historical Society and Archives contributed photos and stories to this triptych piece regarding the European settlers or Hwunitum, “people who came out of nowhere”.



2. Harbour House Hotel

- 121 Upper Ganges Road

In 1903 newlyweds Alfred Crofton and Nona Wilson bought a 100-acre seafront farm at the head of Ganges Harbour. They set about raising livestock, fruit, vegetables and their quickly growing family. When Fred went off to fight in WWI in 1916, Nona began taking in overnight travelers and the Harbour House Hotel was born. As there was no refrigeration and no regular ferry service to the Island, the farmhouse was largely self-sufficient. Guests were treated to picnics, fishing trips, scavenger hunts and high tea served on the vine-covered veranda. The hotel was expanded in the 1920's with an addition of twelve rooms built alongside the farmhouse. Visitors came from far and wide to enjoy this rustic



yet elegant hospitality. Twin red clay tennis courts, built to Canadian championship standards, were popular until 1939 when the Crofton brothers (who maintained the courts) went off to war. Canada's #1 ranked men's player played here, as did the USA's #2. A woman who practiced at these

courts went on to compete at Wimbledon. Many people commented that these were the best clay courts they had ever played on. The Crofton family sold the hotel in 1964. A major fire in 1972 destroyed the original farmhouse portion of the building. Over the years a series of owners have modernized and improved the hotel, which continues to hold a prominent position in Ganges Village.

3. St. George's Church

– 110 Park Drive

The former St. George's Church, built in 1940, was carefully moved from across Park Drive and incorporated into the uphill portion



of the re-modeled All Saints By-the-Sea. The

work involved thousands of hours of volunteer labour and was completed in 1994. All Saints By-the-Sea is now the main church and office of the parish, and the location of regular services and community events.



4. Mahon Memorial Hall

– 114 Rainbow Road

The Islands' Agricultural Fruit Growers Association contracted Reid Bittancourt to build this hall in 1901, with the help of a \$1000 loan from Ross Mahon on land purchased from Frank Scott. The loan became a bequest when Mahon died tragically in 1903. There was only one condition from his aristocratic Irish family "...that a brass plate bearing the words 'Mahon Memorial Hall' be placed on the building." The hall was opened - debt free - in 1904. Used as an exhibition hall and sometimes as a school building, it has also been the scene of many community social events, plays and concerts. For over fifty years, Mahon Hall has accommodated an annual summer arts and crafts sale showcasing local works.



5. Consolidated School – 122 Rainbow Road



This school opened in 1940, built largely with volunteer labour. It was designed to merge the many small schools scattered across the island. The Consolidated School also replaced the old high school building, built in 1926, which stood between here and Mahon Hall. This old high school was known as the “Chicken House School” as

it was used to house poultry during the Fall Fair. The Consolidated School became Salt Spring Elementary School in 1966 when grades 9 -12 moved to a new building on the hill behind. The oak tree by the east entrance is one of several sent to Salt Spring from Windsor Castle, England to commemorate the coronation of King George VI in 1937.

In 2018 a Coast Salish Welcome Pole was raised at the south-west corner of the school grounds. It was created and carved by First Nation artist Quentin Harris along with staff, family and community members and students from the entire Gulf Island’s SD64 region. The pole faces toward the ocean to welcome visitors and every sunrise.



6. Jam Factory – 126 Hereford Avenue

The Gulf Islands Co-operative Jam Factory Association was founded in 1921. Before the establishment of the orchards in the Okanagan Valley, Salt Spring Island provided much of the fresh fruit for the Pacific Northwest. However, it was always difficult to transport fresh fruit to market in good condition. The short-lived Jam Factory used the surplus and lower grade fruits and berries that could not be sold to market. Operation commenced in 1922 with 107 shareholders and a subscribed capital of \$2700. Shares cost 25 cents each. Jam was shipped from the facility in 4 lb. cans. In 1924 the Sidney Herald reported



that the factory had produced 600 cans of strawberry and raspberry jam. The operation struggled until 1928, when the directors were worried because there had been no strawberries produced for the past two years. By 1929 production had ceased and the building was put up for sale in July 1929.

7. First Telephone Exchange Building – 122 Hereford Avenue



The first telephone line was strung in 1896, between Broadwell's General Store and Post Office, near Central Hall, and Reverend Wilson's house which stood where the Golf Club is now. The switchboard served just a five-kilometer radius. The first telephone cable to Salt Spring from Vancouver Island was laid in 1901. Ganges and Victoria were

connected by telephone the following year. The switchboard was moved in 1904 to Malcolm & Purvis' Store in Ganges. The telephone wires had to be patrolled on horseback for maintenance, and the service was spotty at best. The purpose-built telephone exchange on Hereford Avenue began operating in 1914, run by the Dominion Government Telegraph and Telephone Service, British Columbia Division. Up to seven households were served on one "party" line. The exchange remained at this location until 1945.



8. First Ganges United Church – 120 Hereford Avenue



This building started off as the Methodist Church, built in 1905 at Central. The front part of the old church was moved to this

lot in 1926, board by board, when several Protestant churches joined to form the



United Church. It served for another thirty years until 1958 when the building was traded with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 for a sum of money and the lot across the road, where the Ganges United Church now stands. The Legion added the extension and used the building until their new location on Blain Road was ready in 1988.

9. Old United Church Manse – 112 Hereford Avenue



The church manse was built in 1930 for Reverend William Allen and his wife, who moved to Salt Spring in 1929 after the United Churches on Salt Spring became part of the Pastoral Charge

of the presbytery in Victoria. Previously the parsonage was a rented house in the Burgoyne Valley, and one minister famously paddled from Nanaimo to Vesuvius to serve the parish.



10. Second Telephone Exchange Building – 108 Hereford Avenue



The Dominion Government Telegraph and Telephone Company constructed this building in 1945 to house the telephone exchange, which moved along the street from the smaller building at 122 Hereford. The switchboard became redundant when the system changed over

to dial phones in 1964. Left behind were the days when “somebody would phone, and they’d want So and So, and we’d know that she was out playing Bridge or at tea, and say “Oh, well, try Mrs. So and So, she’s over there” (from the audio reminiscence of Betty Stone - 1977).



11. Log Cabin Café

– 132 Lower Ganges Road

H.W. Bullock, the “Squire” of Salt Spring Island, built the Log Cabin Café in 1937 to provide employment for one of “his boys”, cook Alf Hougen. Mr. Bullock sponsored orphaned and underprivileged boys to live and work on his farm, generously providing them with the means to better themselves and have a good start in life. A second floor was later added to provide accommodation.



12. Salt Spring Island's First Bank

– 136 Lower Ganges Road



The Merchants' Bank of Canada built Salt Spring's ill-fated first bank in 1913 to replace earlier rented quarters. The Bank closed early in 1915 due to lack of business, as much of the island's

commerce was done in trade. It later became the residence of Stanley Wagg, the long-time manager of the Salt Spring Island Trading Company.



13. Aunt Maggie's Cottage

– 106 Purvis Lane (behind Mouat's store)

Mouat Brothers Ltd. built this structure in the early 1920's to house its first electric light generator. When an additional generator required a larger building, they used the shed for making sausages and preparing hams



to smoke for Mouat's butcher shop. In 1935, the building was renovated into a cottage which became the home of Miss Margaret Manson, a younger sister of Mrs. Jane Mouat. She was known to the family as Aunt Maggie. She lived here for nearly twenty years. Later another well-known islander, Miss Helen Dean, lived here until 1969. The plum tree which grows through the building was originally part of the front yard.



14. Tasaka Wall

Isaburo Tasaka moved from the island of Sashima, Japan to Portland, Oregon in 1893. Isaburo moved permanently to Steveston, BC when his business with partner Mr. Shiozaki – that of exporting salted dog salmon to China and Japan – became more profitable than working in the forest industry in Portland. Among Isaburo's significant ventures was the production of charcoal. He sold his charcoal in Steveston to fish canneries, in Victoria to a soap factory and to his neighbour W.A. McAfee at his blacksmith shop on Salt Spring Island (see 28. Japanese Charcoal Pit Kilns). Isaburo Tasaka was also skilled in building traditional Japanese dry-stone walls. In the late 1920's Mouat Brothers Ltd. commissioned him to construct a seawall beneath Mouat's Hardware. At low tide a section of the wall can be seen under the boardwalk.



15. Mouat's Store – 106 Fulford-Ganges Road

The original Mouat's Store opened in 1907. Gilbert Mouat, with the active support of his widowed mother Mrs. Jane Mouat, acquired and redeveloped the Malcolm & Purvis Store beside the wharf in what was then the tiny harbourside hamlet of Ganges. In 1909 Gilbert's older brother, William, joined the company which was incorporated as Mouat Brothers & Co. Ltd. in 1911. The building



proved too small to handle the growing business, and the present store was constructed in 1912. The larger Mouat's Store had almost everything under one roof and supplied the entire Island. The original store became “Granny's Boarding House”, and later was known as the Ganges Inn. By 1930 Jane Mouat's grandchildren

were becoming involved with the running of the store and it continues to be operated by family members to this day. The “Hall of History” in the lower corridors of the Mouat's building features historical photos and artifacts, including those of First Nation peoples, Hawaiians, and African Americans who were the early settlers of Salt Spring Island. Enter from the side entrance labelled “Seaside at Mouats” or through the dockside entrance.



16. Cenotaph & Centennial Park

Created in honour of Salt Spring Islanders who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars the Cenotaph once stood on the pavement triangle dividing Lower Ganges and Fulford Ganges roads. It was moved to Centennial Park and rededicated in November 1966, where it remains a token of respect and a gathering place on Remembrance Day.



The ground on which Centennial Park is built did not exist until 1965, when the harbour was filled in with silt left over from the dredging of the Boat Basin. The Fulford Ganges road once ran along a causeway to Mouat's Store. The other side of the causeway was filled in 1971, creating the land for the post office, parking lot and shopping centre. Planning for the park began in 1964 after the Centennial committee considered sixty or seventy proposals for a Centennial project which would have a lasting impact for the community. They settled on providing a large public park on the area of fill. Much of the finishing material

was donated by residents, including topsoil, shuffleboard, lawn bowling and the children's playground. The park was dedicated in 1967 for Canada's 100th Centenary. The Committee planted more than one hundred trees in memory of some of Salt Spring's early pioneers. In 1972 the Island's first Saturday Market was held there, creating a tradition that continues today. The Tasaka rock wall which is now under the Fire Hall can be spotted in this old image of the causeway leading to the wharf and Mouat's Store.



17. McAfee's Blacksmith Shop & Ganges Alley

– 149 Fulford Ganges Road

William A. McAfee's blacksmith shop was a cornerstone of Ganges village through the 1920's and 30's. Mr. McAfee was known as a kind and friendly man, and his shop was often visited by the local children on their way home from school. His forge was the only one in Ganges and besides being a social hub, he provided "ploughs, harrows, separators, fencing and other farm requisites", using charcoal from the kilns run by the Tasaka family. W.A. McAfee was influential in the growth of the village buying, subdividing, and selling plots of land, as well as contributing to the creation of Mouat Park. The area around the former blacksmith shop was significantly changed in 1956 when it was levelled and extended for Salt Spring Motors, an automotive shop. The building and surrounding area is now known as Ganges Alley and continues to serve the community through various small shops and services.



18. Ganges Creek

This outflow area of Ganges Creek was also an important First Nation resource spot, particularly for the abundance of herring that arrived here in the spring. People travelling from Vancouver Island and the south end of Penelakut Island used an overland route to bring their canoes across from Stle'lan, now known as Booth Bay, saving many hours of paddling around the north end of the island. The SENĆOŦEN speaking people refer to this same Booth Bay region as TOMMEL or “warm water” area. Such overland canoe routes



are called sh-shuts'o'ulh, literally “something done with a tool/action of dragging a canoe”. In the steepest part of the route, at Atkins Road, small fir trees were peeled of their bark and laid in a corduroy track known as tse'lumun, “poles placed on the ground for the canoe to skid over”. The route was used as a short-cut until the 1870's. Reverend Dr. Ebenezer Robson used it to bring a canoe overland in 1861 and Hul'q'umi'num elders explored remnants of it in

the 1930's. Coast Salish families came to this area every summer enroute to the Fraser River sockeye fishery. While in Ganges Harbour they harvested and smoked clams for trade with people from the Interior.

19. Turner's Store

– 104 Lower Ganges Road

Turner's Store was established in 1924 by Mrs. F.C. (Betty) Turner. The first store was a small shop located overtop of



what was once foreshore, approximately where the present-day Visitor Centre is now. The business expanded and moved to Lower Ganges Road, where it enjoyed another oceanfront position until the

harbour was filled in. In 1950 Betty's daughter Norah took over the store which grew under her management into a much-loved local establishment. Turner's Store was operated at this location by the Turner family for 50 years until 1977, when it was purchased by Les and Keith Ramsey.

20. Pharmacy – 104 Lower Ganges Road

Ganges Pharmacy opened in the early 1940's. Les and Sue Ramsey purchased the building and shop in 1963, taking over operations from Margaret Wells, a popular pharmacist who had worked there for 15 years before moving to Victoria. The Ramseys were active in their new community and sponsored many events, including a beard-growing contest



in 1967 for a Centennial Park fundraiser. Tickets were two dollars and the top prize was a razor. Les' brother Keith arrived in 1970 with his own family and helped amalgamate Ganges Pharmacy with the Western Drug Mart chain, which soon after became Pharmasave. The store is still owned and operated by the Ramsey family, and has won many awards for service.

21. Shell Station - 112-100 McPhillips Avenue



Reid Bittancourt built and operated the first Shell gas pumps in 1923, near the present-day Thrifty Foods. At his original service station, he sold gasoline by the bucketful in a time when there were more horses than cars and four

customers a day was considered busy. He moved his business to this spot in 1931 and his son Bert ran it until his death in 1947. A series of owners modernized the station with more pumps and service bays. When the Shell station closed in 2011, it would have been one of the oldest stations in constant service in British Columbia.

22. Fire Hall – 105 Lower Ganges Road



Fire Hall No. 1 was constructed in 1961 after a series of devastating fires led to the formation of the local fire district. Formerly without a central location, the fire response was run by citizen volunteers coordinated by Donald “Goody” Goodman from 1946 to 1959, using an unreliable 1945 Ford stored in a shed behind the Salt Spring Island

Trading Company. Until dial telephones came into service in 1964, calls reporting a fire were simply made to the switchboard telephone operator, who would call up anyone nearby the fire to attend a bucket-brigade until the volunteers arrived. Goodman became the first chair of the board of trustees. The new fire hall was designed by architect Hank Schubart, with two firetruck bays and an office. It was built on wetland foreshore that had been filled in. A 1959 La France fire truck was ordered from Toronto, Ontario and arrived in Ganges by steamboat before the hall was finished. Dave Smith was the first paid fire chief. In 1974 the fire hall was renovated adding two more bays, larger office space, a fireman’s lounge and a workshop, along with a training room and a hose drying/clock tower. Salt Spring now has a large roster of professional firefighters.



23. Salt Spring Island Trading Company – 110 Lower Ganges Road

Built in 1912 by a group of entrepreneurs including H.W. Bullock and T.F. Speed, this was a popular general store carrying a wide variety of goods from groceries to hardware to gas. Although the business was originally formed as



competition to Mouat's Store, a warm relationship developed between them. Each business had its own style and carried slightly different products. Stanley Wagg arrived in 1921 on holiday and was recruited to fill in as a temporary truck driver. Never having driven a truck, he took

the Model T on a few turns around the school grounds before heading off on his first delivery. He remained on the job for forty-six years, filling various positions, the last twenty-four of them as Manager. The Trading Company was bought by Mouat's in 1969.



24. Library – 129 McPhillips Avenue

The first lending library on the Island was at Broadwell's General Store and Post Office where books were available to borrow in 1898. A small pay-lending library was started in an upstairs room in the Mouat's building in 1930. In 1958, a group of women lead by Mrs. Stan (Mary) Hawkins met to discuss the formation of a public library. The next year the new library had its grand opening, with a collection of over a thousand books and \$7.68 in funds. In 1960, the Salt Spring Island Public Library Association was incorporated. By 1963



over five thousand books had been collected, and an upsize was necessary. A new library was built on McPhillips Avenue in 1964, eventually combining several properties. When Mrs. Hawkins passed away ten years later, the library



became known as the Mary Hawkins Memorial Library. The old building was torn down and replaced with the present one in 2012, reopening as the Salt Spring Island Public Library and Archives.

25. Ganges Social Club – 130 McPhillips Road



Founded in 1896, this “men’s only” club was the place to be in old Ganges. The building housed the only billiards table on the island, loaned by founding member “Squire” H. W. Bullock. Land for the social club was donated by Arthur

Ward. The club was dedicated to the “progress and improvement of Salt Spring Island” but was mostly a place for lonely young newcomers who had come to Salt Spring to learn to farm at local ranches. Many went to war in 1914, never to return.



26. Garner (or Henn) House – 134 McPhillips Avenue



Construction on this building was begun by Oland Garner in about 1930. A competent builder, Garner had worked on Emily Carr’s house in Victoria. This house was completed in 1938 by Victor Henn whose family lived here and operated the Rex

movie theatre which stood next door, now demolished. Movies were shown Friday and Saturday evenings (plus a Saturday matinee), usually with a cartoon and Movietone news before the main feature, for the princely price of fifteen cents. It was referred to as the Henn House for a time, most likely in reference to the daughters rather than their father.



27. Heiwa Garden & Peace Park - Seaview Avenue



This area, badly degraded in the 1980's, was restored by the Salmon Enhancement Society in 1990 as part of the rehabilitation of McAfee Creek. A small park was first established in 1992 as part of the Peace Across Canada project by the local Voice of Women group. Thirteen trees, representing the provinces and territories, were planted

to symbolize the life, creativity and hope for a future that thrives in peace. Inspired by Rose Murakami's 2003 presentation on her family history to the SSI Historical Society, Mearnie Summers organized a committee to create a Garden of Unity and Reconciliation. In 2004 the Japanese Garden Society was formed. This lovely garden holds panels describing the experience of Japanese Canadian families incarcerated during WWII.

28. Japanese Charcoal Pit Kilns & Mouat Park – end of Seaview Avenue

Located near the entrance to Mouat Park are two Japanese-style charcoal pit kilns. The kilns were built by Isaburo Tasaka who lived on Salt Spring Island from 1905 to 1929. The Tasaka family lived behind the Salt Spring Island Creamery, nearby their kilns. Isaburo stayed in Steveston during fishing



season and returned to Salt Spring Island to make charcoal in the off-season. He was taught how to build this style of charcoal-producing kiln by the Japanese Canadian pioneers who originally came from Wakayama, Japan. In January of 2015, PARC and the Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island began the restoration project, which was completed in November 2015.

Mouat Park was dedicated in 1961 by then-premier of British Columbia, W.A.C. Bennett, and named for the pioneering Mouat family. Thomas and Jane Mouat, immigrants from the Shetland Islands, settled on Salt Spring Island

near St Mary Lake in February 1885. They farmed there for twenty-two years and had eleven children. Thomas died in 1898 at the age of 45. Jane Mouat was by all accounts a steadfast woman and with her children established the store and boarding house which became the heart of Ganges.

29. Salt Spring Island Creamery – 174 Fulford-Ganges Road

The Salt Spring Island Creamery Association began production in February 1904. Organized as an Island cooperative under the Dairy and Livestock



Association Act, it flourished for over 50 years. Virtually every farmer on the island sold to the co-op. A series of managers ran the operation, most notably Arthur Drake who managed the Creamery from 1912 until 1949. Salt Spring Creamery butter became famous in the 1930's when was judged Canada's best at the Canadian National Exhibition

and was served to the King and Queen of England during their 1939 visit to Victoria. The Creamery typically churned 1400 lbs of butter a week, and at peak output produced 140,000 lbs in one year. Due to the decline of farming on the islands, the Creamery was closed in 1957. Constructed of local stone in 1903 by Reid Bittancourt and Robert Mason, the west side of the Creamery building still stands today.



Harbour House

on Ganges Harbour



SWIMMING POOL

TENNIS COURTS

SALT & FRESH WATER FISHING

HARBOUR HOUSE IS INFORMAL AND HAS AN

OLD-WORLD ATMOSPHERE AND CHARM

in the Beautiful Gulf Islands

Started as a guest house in 1916, the Harbour House has been in continuous operation ever since.

The advertisement at left is from 1953

Below, the fully re-furbished hotel as it is today.



www.saltspringharbourhouse.com

Mouat Bros. Co.

LIMITED

General Merchants and
Dealers

We carry a general stock of Merchandise, including Shelf and Heavy Hardware, Window Glass, Gents Furnishings, Womens and Childrens Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Lumber and Building Material and many other lines.

We draw special attention to our Grocery and Meat Department, and our prices on staple Groceries are very low.

We are open to buy Farm Produce of all kinds and pay the highest price for same.

We carry a stock of and are sole agents on Salt Spring Island for De Lavel Cream Separators, Sherwin-Williams Paints and Oils, B. C. Pottery Goods and Albion Stoves.

WE ARE ALSO AGENTS FOR THE FAMOUS
FORD CAR.

Come in and See Our Stock when You
Visit the Fair.

GANGES, B. C.

Above is the back cover from the "Islands' Agricultural and Fruit Growers' Assoc. Programme" for the 1915 fair.

Mouat's moved into their current store in 1912.



MOUAT'S
DOCKSIDE SHOPPING
SINCE 1907 -


Home
hardware


mouat's
clothing

OLD
SALTY
- STORE -

www.mouatstrading.com



"Downtown" Ganges pre-1911

The Ganges Historical Walking Tour is produced by the **Salt Spring Archives**. Our mandate it is to collect, preserve, digitize and provide access to archival materials that pertain to Salt Spring Island and local areas. The Archives are housed in the Salt Spring Library.

For further information please visit: www.saltspringarchives.com



Visit the **Salt Spring Museum** located in the historic
1884 Bittancourt House at 351 Rainbow Road

The Salt Spring Island Museum presents a look into the lives of early settlers from around 1850's to 1950's. Consisting entirely of local artifacts, donated or loaned by Salt Spring families, it illustrates the many aspects of early agricultural development and life on Salt Spring.

Please visit: www.saltspringmuseum.com

The whole of Ganges is an ancient village site, continuously inhabited by First Peoples for over five thousand years. None of the Southern Gulf Islands including Salt Spring has ever been ceded or given up the the Hul'q'umi'num' and SENĆOŦEN speaking Coast Salish Peoples.