

Heritage BC



Squamish Heritage Report

November 2019

Heritage Workshop

Squamish Historical Society

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Introduction

On November 2nd, 2019 Heritage BC and the Squamish Historical Society (SHS) facilitated a Heritage Basics and Values workshop for a group of representatives from other local organizations including the library, District of Squamish, museums and arts groups as well as interested citizens. This workshop gathered information from them on the evolution of the community to what it is today. This information forms the starting point for the articulation of the current heritage values of Squamish and area, which were used to generate this report and will be used going forward in community consultation and engagement, and hopefully the creation of a heritage program in Squamish.

Participants were asked to share their thoughts on what makes Squamish and the surrounding area unique. They were asked to think about heritage values – the significant phases, eras, themes, people and events of Squamish’s history and development that matter to them and which they feel are significant to its heritage. In turn, participants were asked to identify places that embody those values. These places could include neighbourhoods, parks, landscapes, views, trails, roads, streets, buildings, and structures, to name a few. By understanding which places matter to the people of Squamish, and why, decisions can be made on how to best conserve these important places and ensure that heritage values endure as community development occurs. This process also ensures support and buy-in from a community that is feeling the pressures of increasing development.

Values Based Heritage Management and Conservation

Best practice for heritage conservation planning in British Columbia follows a values-based approach to the stewardship and management of historic places. This approach allows the community to clearly articulate why historic places matter, and ensures confidence that identified heritage values remain for present and future generations. Historic places are no longer recognized, protected, and conserved based on just their architectural superiority or historical associations. Instead, a values-based approach considers all aspects of a community’s development and evolution over time. It allows, in theory, conservation of historic places to be an activity that is relevant to all members of a community, rather than an activity only understood by heritage “experts”. Understanding what a community values in terms of its heritage allows for a stronger justification for ensuring that historic places remain as a community develops and changes over time.

Heritage values are defined as the historic, aesthetic, spiritual, social, cultural, and scientific significance or importance of a place for past, present, or future generations. When beginning a values-based management system, it is best to have an understanding of the heritage values of the community as a whole before trying to understand the significance of individual places. The heritage values context study develops this big-picture understanding of why citizens care about the character and identity of the community, and how that has been shaped over time.

Heritage conservation planning is a land-use decision-making process that takes into consideration the embodiment of values in its historic places. It integrates the conservation of historic places and community development, so that the two are seen as one activity, rather than processes that occur on opposite ends of a spectrum. Context planning is designed to honour how a community evolved over time, and how the major events and eras of history have shaped what the community is today. By undertaking a heritage values context study, the community recognizes that the significant elements of

its past (as seen in its historic places) need not be sacrificed in order for development and change to continue.

Thematic Framework

By understanding the qualities of life, events, people, and periods of development, growth, and change that make Squamish what it is today, decision makers can have a better understanding of what the community values and why those places should be conserved. Developing a contextual understanding of the community comprises more than simply identifying historic places. First, a thematic framework must be identified in order to create a basis of understanding of the significant aspects of the community's history that the community values.

A thematic framework is a way to organize or define history to identify and place sites, persons and events in context. The thematic framework which guided the Heritage Values workshop session format for Squamish was developed from the Parks Canada model which was first established in 1981. The Parks Canada process identifies five key areas of relevance into which all places of historic significance can be categorized. These five themes are:

- Peopling the Land
- Developing Economies
- Governance and Institutional Life
- Building Social and Community Life
- Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life

Workshop Format

The day began with a presentation covering current thinking in heritage conservation and values based management, as summarised above, as well as the legal heritage tools available to local governments through the Local Government Act.

The Heritage Values session, which followed the heritage basics presentation, featured five thematic stations. Participants were invited to visit the five thematic stations in any order. These themes were tailored to fit the unique qualities of the community. The most effective values-based responses consider how each theme is relevant to all people, places, and times in Squamish's evolution. For example, the routes in and out of Squamish are a key part of not only the arrival of people in the area, but also the economy and the social and cultural life in Squamish. Therefore, the waterways, railway, trails and highways are part of the subthemes for the "Peopling the Land", "Developing Economies" and "Building Social and Community Life" themes.

Each of the five thematic stations featured a brief description of the theme. Participants were invited to think about the themes as they related to the development of Squamish and encouraged to note places that represented or were tied to the themes and values on the maps provided at each station throughout the room.

The second half of the day featured presentations on engagement strategies such as content marketing and social media, and how to make the case for heritage using the value triangle method.

Discussion and Participant Responses

Throughout the day, participants had multiple opportunities to respond, discuss and ask questions about the material that was presented.

The concept of heritage as the management of change particularly resonated with participants, as did the role of heritage in environmental sustainability. There was discussion regarding how this information could effectively be used to help advocate for heritage to the District of Squamish and the community at large. Discussion also revolved around how participants could continue the momentum felt during the day and build upon it. It was suggested that the group meet again to learn from other communities and start working towards heritage recognition in Squamish.

Heritage Values Mapping Exercise

Below are the maps that participants used to identify historic places and heritage values.

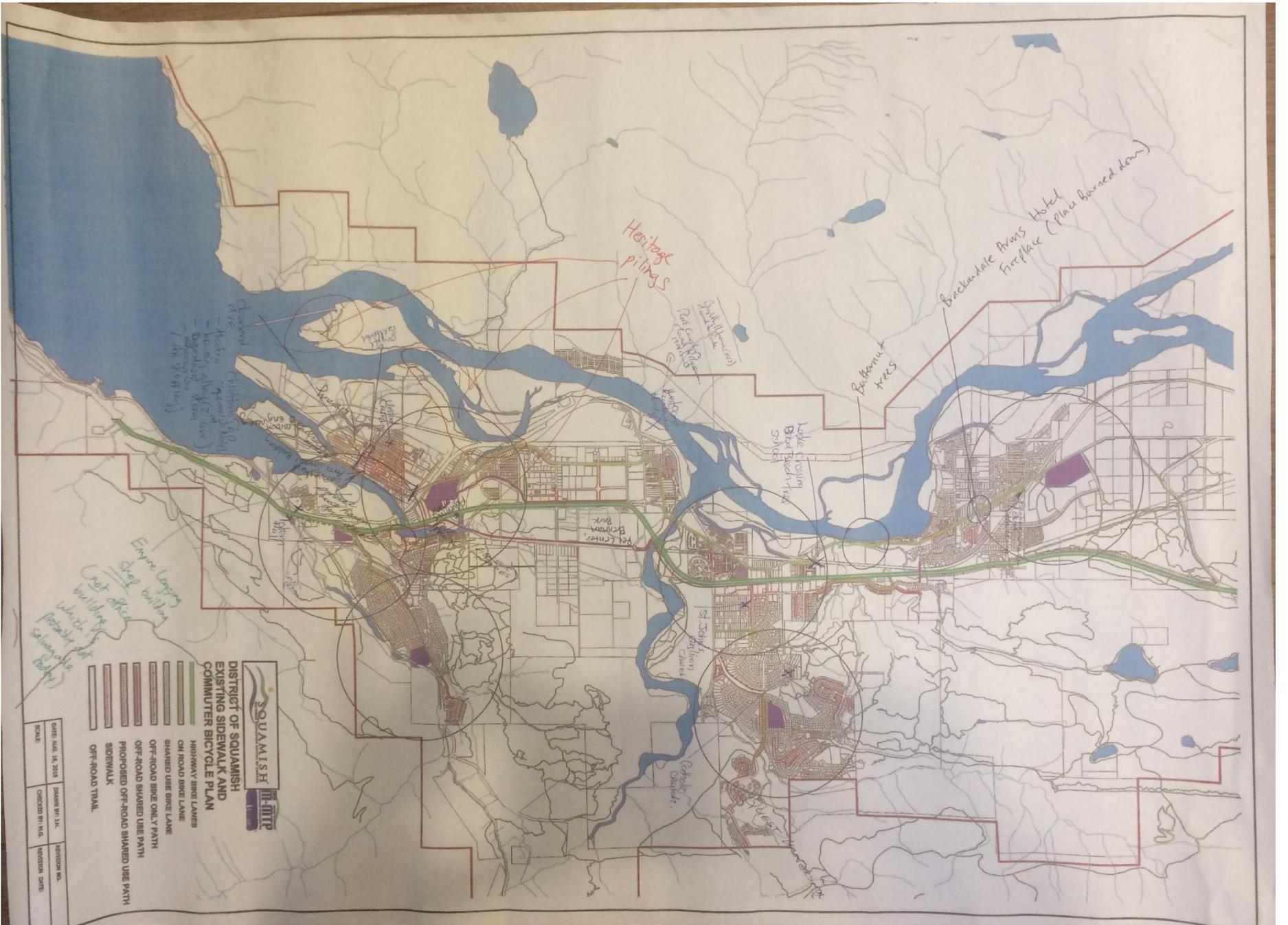
In examining the places identified on the maps, some common themes emerge. The environment is a key piece of the identity of Squamish, influencing how people accessed the area, why they came there and why they still come there, both to live and visit. Outdoor activities such as biking, climbing and fishing were also identified time and again on multiple maps. Places where the local community gathers, both indoor and outdoor, were also strongly represented on the maps.





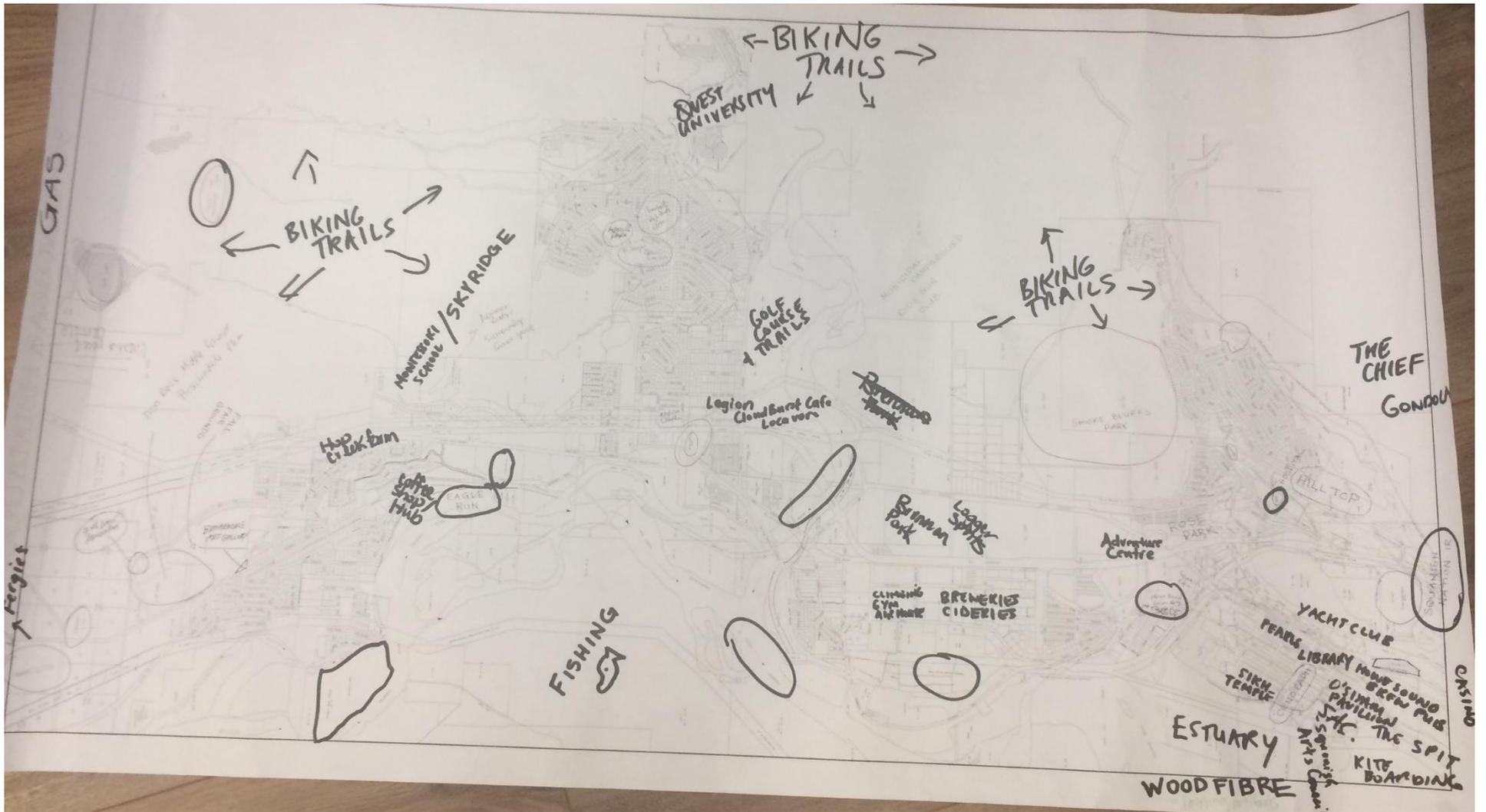
Workshop participants (above) gather around the maps (below).



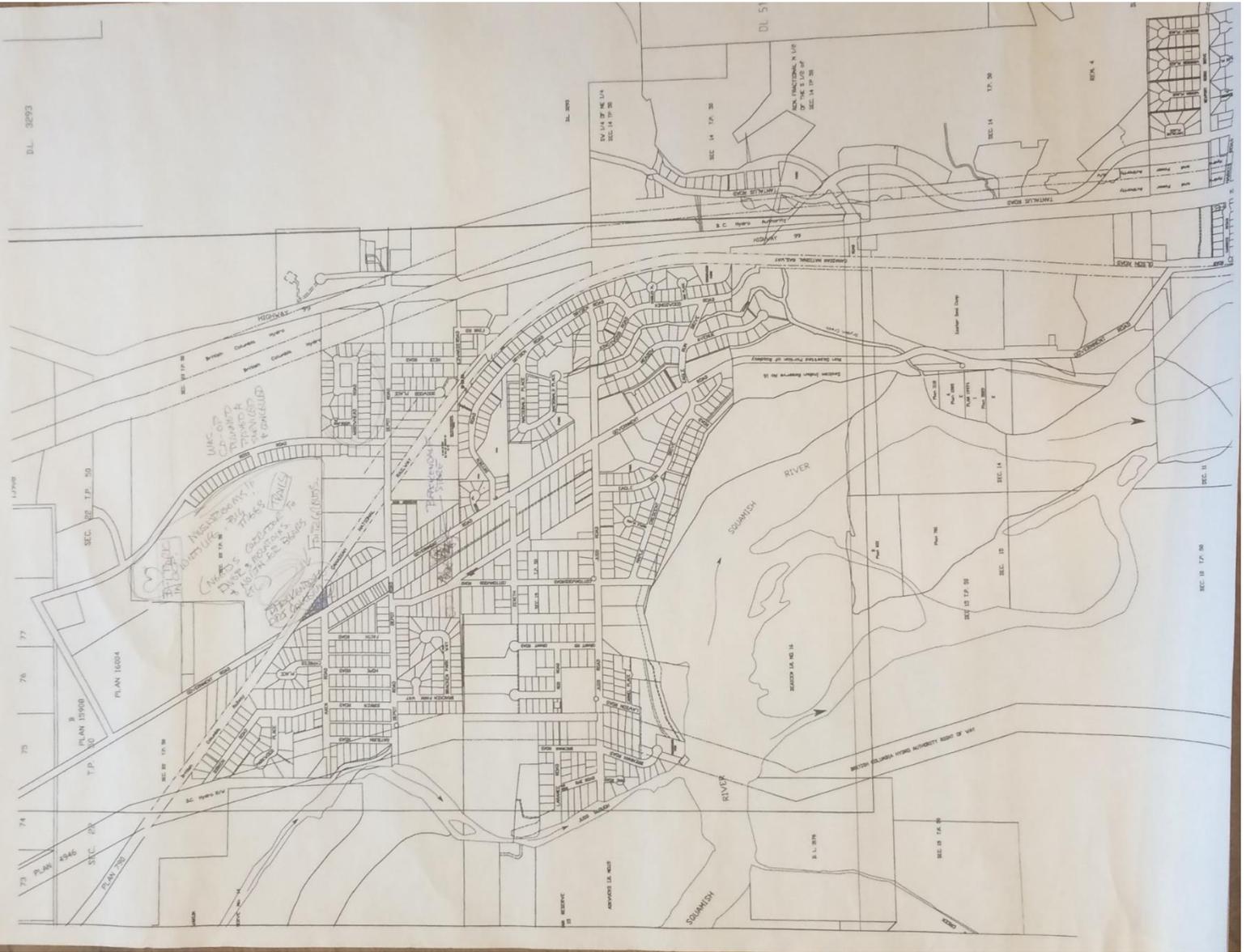


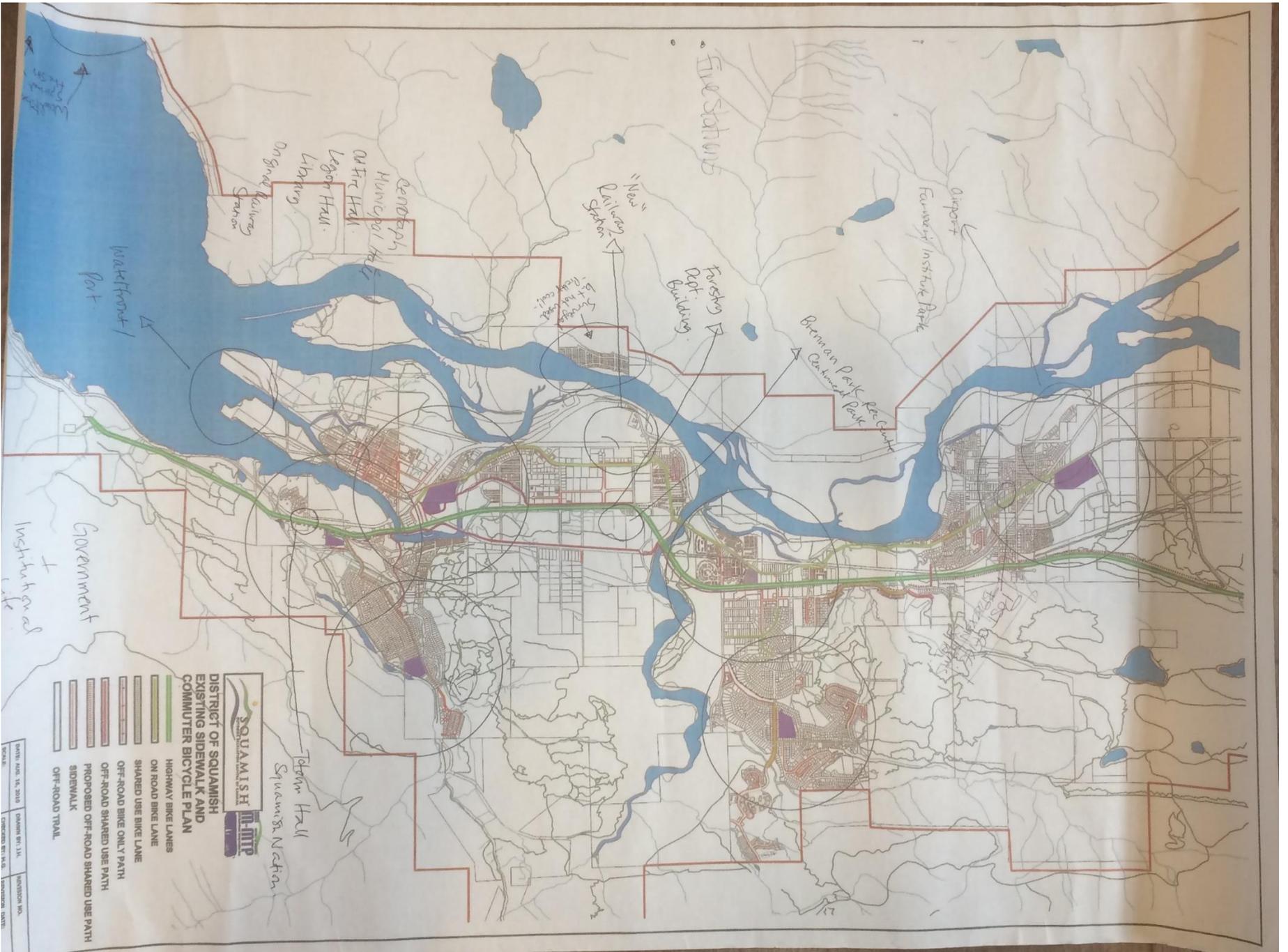
Check for





Buckner Park







Identified Historic Places

Below is a list of historic places identified by workshop participants on the maps pictured above. This list is by no means exhaustive. It has not been fact checked and there may be spelling errors. The number of maps that mention a particular place is also indicated.

- Dennis DeBech's logging donkey
- Frazer Wind
- Stoltze Logging suspension bridge
- Squamish Towing and Contracting Ltd suspension bridge
- Brackendale Art Gallery (x5)
- BC Lions Society camp
- Hop Creek Farm (x2)
- Britannia Mine
- Old forest service building (x2)
- White Bridge
- Macmillan
- Dent Home
- Quarry
- Quest University (x3)
- Post Office (x2)
- Cardinal Mining
- Original cable tv site (x2)
- Brackendale Arms Hotel fireplace (x2)
- Butternut trees
- Leske Crossing
- Blood beach tree
- St. John's Anglican Church (x3)
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church (x2)
- Broghthill House
- PGIE Carshop
- West Coast Railway Heritage Park (x2)
- Brennan Park (x3)
- Rec centre (x2)
- Adventure Centre (x2)
- Rose Park (x2)
- United Church
- Government dock
- Library (x3)
- Logger statue
- Totem Hall (x2)
- Canoe shed
- Arts Council building (x2)

- Galbraith Place
- Carbon Engineering
- Cleveland Avenue
- Squamish Hotel
- The Chief (x2)
- Empire Logging shop building
- Fergies (x2)
- Squamish Timber Co logging camp
- Bailey Bridge
- Rocky Acres A-frame
- Day-Walsh sawmill
- North Vancouver Outdoor School
- Cheekye Log Flume route
- Squamish Community Forest
- Cemetery (x2)
- Centenary Grove
- Easter Seal Camp (x2)
- Bag
- Valley Cliff Red Cross Building
- Fishing (multiple)
- Eagle run
- Breweries and cideries
- Biking trails (multiple)
- Salmon spawning (multiple)
- Golf course and trails
- Norman Rudy's
- Coffee shop hub
- Climbing (multiple)
- Cheakamus Centre
- 7th Day Adventist Church
- Don Ross Middle School
- Brackendale Elementary School
- Airport (x3)
- Montessori School/ Skyridge
- Aikwucks Reserve
- Fall Fair Grounds
- Merrill Park
- Garibaldi Highlands Elementary School
- Legion (x2)
- Cloudburst Café
- Locavore
- Logger sports
- Smoke Bluffs Park

- Hill Top
- Yacht Club
- Pearls
- Sikh Temple
- Cenotaph (x2)
- Estuary
- Squamish Elementary School
- Woodfibre (x2)
- Howe Sound Brew Pub
- O'Siyam Pavilion
- The Spit
- Kiteboarding
- Casino
- Squamish Nation Reserve
- Hospital
- Squamish River
- Mamquam Elementary School
- Mamquam River
- Municipal Campground
- Rod & Gun Club
- CN Railway Yards
- Howe Sound Secondary School
- Eagle Eye Theatre
- Macnaughton Park
- Gondola
- Weldwood Log Sport
- Stawamus Reserve
- Brackendale Store
- Farmers' Institute Park
- Centennial Park
- 'New' Railway Station
- 'Old' Railway Station
- Fire Hall
- Municipal Hall
- Waterfront (x2)
- Ferries
- Railway
- Watershed Grill

Conclusion

Squamish enjoys a diverse, rich heritage that reflects a multitude of values. The community and sustainability are central to the articulation of heritage values and the success of a heritage program, a

premise which resonated with the workshop participants. They also left with an excitement about heritage as the management of change and felt this concept would be central to the success of their efforts, committing to meet again and continue the momentum.

Next Steps

1. Continue meeting with workshop participants and other community members who have an interest in heritage to share information and knowledge, learn, and strategize on the best way to advocate for the creation of a heritage program in Squamish.
2. Bring this document and others that have been/will be produced to the community of Squamish and run workshop sessions on mapping heritage values.
3. Conduct a heritage inventory of Squamish and the surrounding area, using the feedback from the workshop and community engagement as a starting point.
4. Use the heritage inventory and information gathered on the impact of heritage to document heritage in Squamish for the community and to advocate for the creation of a Community Heritage Register.

About Heritage BC

Heritage BC is a member based, not for profit charitable organization supporting heritage conservation in British Columbia through advocacy, education and funding.

Heritage BC supports all people of British Columbia who champion the preservation and conservation of all forms of cultural heritage, developing awareness, appreciation and respect for B.C.'s built and intangible traditions.

Heritage BC offers several workshops, webinars, and other heritage education and training opportunities for communities and organizations, to educate and enhance the capacity for heritage conservation in British Columbia.