HORNBY ISLAND COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER



Created by Hornby Island Local Trust Committee Resolution HO-2024-039 on September 13, 2024

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HORNBY ISLAND COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER

2024

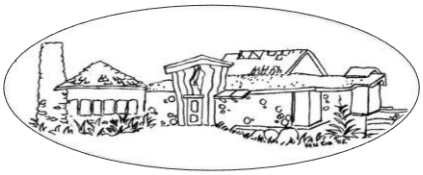
Acknowledgement

The Hornby Island Local Trust Committee respectfully acknowledges that its work takes place on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land. We pay respect to all Elders, past, present and emerging, as well as Elders from other communities who reside here today.

Introduction

The Hornby Island Community Heritage Register (the Register) is an official list of historic places which have been identified by the Hornby Island Local Trust Committee, with the generous and extensive assistance of the Hornby Island Residents and Ratepayers Association (HIRRA), as having heritage value.

The main function of the Register is to recognize and celebrate historically significant places within the community and within the Hornby Island Local Trust Area. A heritage register can be an important tool, providing support and eligibility for access to heritage conservation tools and incentives at the regional and provincial level, such as funding sources like the Heritage Legacy Fund of BC.



The Hornby Island Community Heritage Register is intended to:

- enhance public appreciation of the identity and character of Hornby Island and the Local Trust Area;
- provide public access to heritage information;
- give notice to property owners and potential buyers of recognized heritage features on their property;
- facilitate the integration of heritage conservation into community planning and community sustainability; and
- provide a tool for determining eligibility for heritage programs and incentives.

The act of being listed on the Community Heritage Register does not constitute formal protection as is afforded by other types of recognition such as a Heritage Designation bylaw. Conversely, omission from the Register does not affect heritage protection, since inclusion on a heritage register is not equivalent to heritage designation or any other form of permanent heritage protection either by a local government, the Province of British Columbia, or Government of Canada.

Eligibility

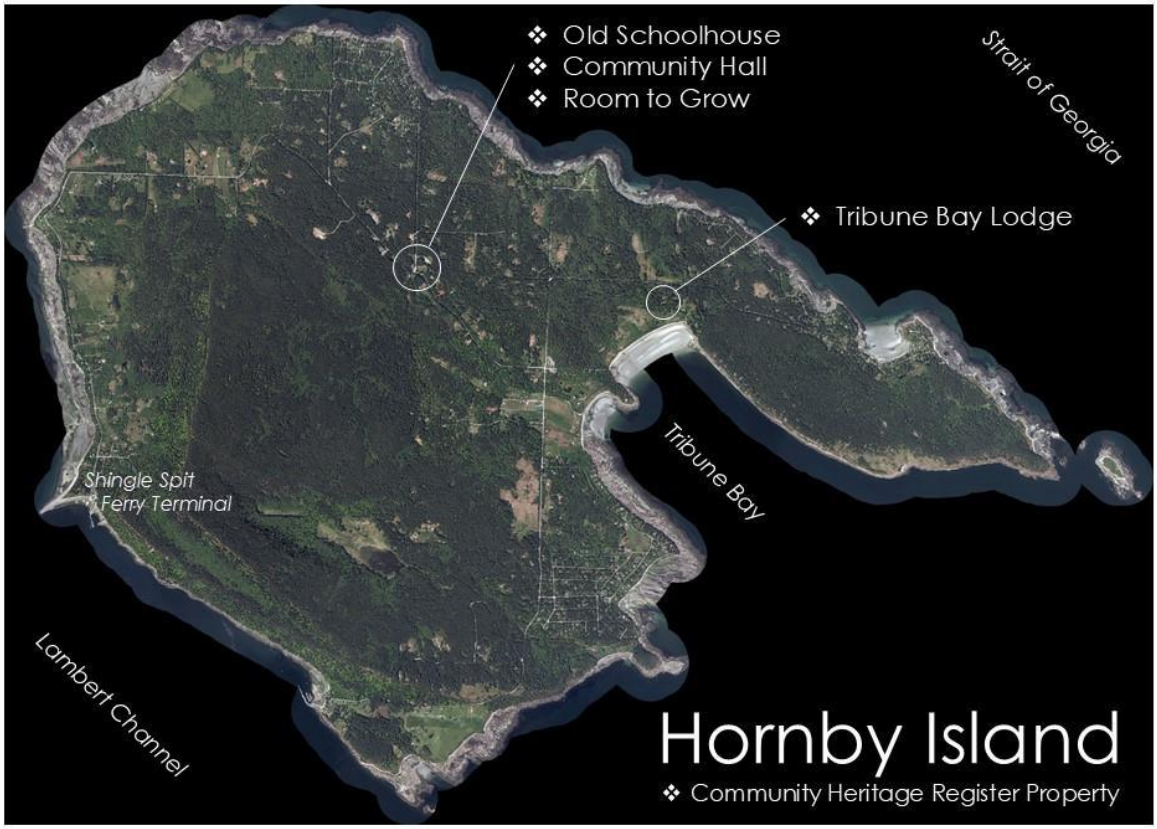
Historic places are not limited to buildings and can include other structures or entire properties, neighbourhoods or areas, cultural landscapes (such as historic farms) or spiritual places, industrial heritage sites, and both Indigenous/First Nations and settler cultural sites. Nomination for inclusion on the Register can be made to the Hornby Island Local Trust Committee at any time.

If the nominated feature meets the general eligibility criteria, it may be added by Local Trust Committee by resolution on an ongoing basis. Nominations must include a Statement of Significance which constitutes a three-part statement including the description, the heritage value, and the character-defining elements of the historic place. Please contact the Islands Trust Office for more information on the nomination process and Statements of Significance.

Eligibility Criteria (one or more of the following):

- importance in the evolution, cultural traditions, community identity and history of Hornby Island;
- possession of unique, uncommon or endangered aspects of cultural or natural heritage of Hornby Island;

- special association with a historical event or with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- demonstrates importance because of its aesthetic significance or importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period;
- special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Hornby Island's history; and
- potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.



Statement of Significance

OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

Building Name:	Old Schoolhouse; also known as: Hornby Island School/Preschool; Betty Smith Centre; Fabricators Building
Building Address:	1765 Sollans Road, Hornby Island, BC V0R 1Z0
Building Owner:	Hornby Island New Horizons Society
Building History:	Built 1891; Modified 1972; Relocated 1984; Modified 1993, 1998
Historic Uses:	School 1892-1984; Weaving Centre 1988-present
Current Use:	Hornby Island Fabricators, a weaving and spinning collective

Introduction

The Old Schoolhouse has significant heritage value in the context of Hornby Island community history and culture. It is Hornby Island's second oldest standing building[1] and has served as a community education and social centre since its doors opened in 1892. Constructed in 1891 at the corner of Central and Sollans Roads and relocated to its present location at the New Horizons Centre in 1984, the structure has sequentially housed an elementary school (1892-1973), a preschool (1973-84), and a weaving centre (1988-present). Since 1984 the Old Schoolhouse building has been owned and managed by the Hornby Island New Horizons Society, which provides social and educational opportunities for people 50 and older. In 1988, New Horizons named the relocated building the Betty Smith Centre in memory of Hornby Island historian, New Horizons member, schoolteacher, and weaver Elizabeth (Betty) Smith (1901-89). Today the Old Schoolhouse is home to the Fabricators, a weaving and spinning collective.

[1] The Maude Farmhouse, constructed circa 1875, is still standing as part of the larger Tribune Bay Lodge. The 14-acre Lodge property, located within Tribune Bay Provincial Park, was listed on the BC Register of Historic Places in 1979 and given the provincial heritage designation DjSd-16 (Ovanin 1984: 24; see also https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=18066).

1891-1984 – Public School

Hornby Island's first public school—the Old Schoolhouse—was built in 1891 on a donated one-acre parcel of land at the corner of Central and Sollans Roads.[2] The building, constructed by J.A. Coates of Comox for $720.00, was commissioned by the newly established Hornby Island School District, formed in 1889. The one-room schoolhouse measured 20' x 34' and consisted of pole floor joists, square nails, a high peaked roof, clapboard, rough lumber, and white paint (Figures 1 and 2).

The school opened for classes in the spring of 1892 and was the social centre of the island until the community hall was built in 1927-28 (Ovanin 1984: 23); "Most of the Island's social life took place in the one-room schoolhouse. Dances were held there Public meetings, church services, political gatherings and entertainment evenings took place at the school and, as the population of the Island increased, the need for a larger public building became apparent. In 1922, 'a committee was formed to inquire into the cost of lumber, etc., to erect a community hall'" (Smith and Gerow 1988: 39).

The Old Schoolhouse building was modified in 1972 when an enclosed front porch with a distinctive octagonal window was added (Ovanin 1984: 23). Rectangular windows were added along the sides and rear at the same time. The foundation was replaced, as were the log floor beams (Helliwell and McNamara 1978: 473). Over the next decade, numerous new, larger school buildings were erected around the one-room schoolhouse to accommodate the island's growing student population. Too small to use as a regular classroom, from 1973 to 1984 the building was used by the Hornby Island Daycare Society for a preschool. Figure 3 shows the modified Old School building in 1982, surrounded by the newer, larger school buildings.

[2] Although sometimes referred to as Hornby Island's "first schoolhouse" (Ovanin 1984: 23), the Old Schoolhouse is technically the island's second school. The first school was constructed circa 1880 near the ferry landing at Shingle Spit under the direction of the Ford family, which had the island's first children (Corrigall and Arthurs 1978: 35). Just as the Shingle Spit school has been referred to as Hornby Island's 'first private school,' the Old Schoolhouse may be considered Hornby Island's first public school.



Figure 1. Old Schoolhouse exterior, circa 1920. Source: Hornby Island Archives Photograph Collection, box 3, file 11, item 2.



Figure 2. Old Schoolhouse interior, circa 1920. Source: Hornby Island Archives Photograph Collection, box 3, file 11, item 1.



Figure 3. The Old Schoolhouse (second from right) in 1982 at its original location and surrounded by newer school buildings. The 1972 modification to the front of the building is clearly visible. Source: Hornby Island Archives Photograph Collection, box 3, file 11, item 13.

1984-present – Relocation and New Horizons

The Old Schoolhouse was slated for demolition in 1981 to accommodate new school expansion. In response, the Hornby Island New Horizons Society—led by its Archives Committee under the leadership of local historian and New Horizons member Betty Smith—began discussing ways to save the building. On March 15, 1982, New Horizons formally petitioned the District 71 Board of School Trustees in Courtenay (Figure 4). Their letter states: "The Hornby Island New Horizons Society at its regular meeting in February discussed the preservation of the little original school building now being used as a pre-school here. Our members were in unanimous agreement that we should request your Board to ensure that the original building is not destroyed when the new school buildings are erected. If it is necessary to remove the old school we request that it be moved to the New Horizons land and that our Society be responsible for its care and preservation" (Smith and Brown 1982).

New Horizons' rationale for preserving the Old Schoolhouse was twofold: (1) it had "educated four generations of Hornby children" as it was an active schoolhouse for 92 consecutive years and (2) "the [School] Board encourages the placing of schools built before 1930 under Heritage designation." New Horizons maintained the Old Schoolhouse was "definitely a Heritage Building" and it "would be a shame to bulldoze or otherwise destroy this landmark" (Smith and Brown 1982).

In 1984 New Horizons got its wish and the Old Schoolhouse was relocated a few hundred metres up Sollans Road (Figure 5) to its present location in the New Horizons Centre. In 1988, New Horizons honoured Betty Smith's community works by naming the building the Betty Smith Centre (Figure 6).[3] The building has since been used by the Fabricators, a weaving and spinning collective (Figure 7).

[3] For a biography of Elizabeth (Betty) Walker Smith, nee Paterson (1901-89), see https://hornbyislandarchives.ca/finding_aids/betty-smith-collection/. Smith taught in the Old Schoolhouse for a single year in 1921 (Smith and Gerow 1984: 21).

Hornby Island
New Horizons Society

RECEIVED
MAR 18 1982
SCHOOL DISTRICT
#71 (COURTENAY)

Hornby Library Cen.
Solan Road
Hornby Island, B.C.
V0R 1Z0

March 15,1982.

Mr William Burns,
Secretary-Treasurer,
District 71 Board of School Trustees,
Courtenay, B.C.

Dear Mr Burns,

The Hornby Island New Horizons Society at its regular meeting in February discussed the preservation of the little original school building now being used as a pre-school here. Our members were in unanimous agreement that we should request your Board to ensure that this original building is not destroyed when the new school buildings are erected. If it is necessary to remove the old school we request that it be moved to the New Horizons land and that our Society be responsible for its care and preservation.

The little school presently occupied by the pre-school children was built where it stands in 1891 and has educated four generations of Hornby children to date. Last October we hosted a reunion of pioneer Hornby students and realized how much the little building was a part of Hornby, both for schooling and community enjoyment.

We know that your Board encourages the placing of schools built before 1930 under Heritage designation. This is definitely a Heritage Building and we feel that it would be a shame to bulldoze or otherwise destroy this landmark. On the other hand we recognize that more space is required for the expanding school population today.

The New Horizons land is close to the School property. It consists of 3½ acres of land, ample space on which to put the old school building if it has to be moved. Our Society would then restore it to its former appearance and use it as a museum.

Our society now has a lovely debt-free building comprised of a large cosy well-furnished recreation room with a large fireplace, and a splendid library of which we are justly proud. We are in the process of enlarging the building to take care of an archives section, kitchen and an office. The library will be expanded to make room for a special children's section. The archives is being built according to accepted archives standards.

The little school we understand is the oldest school in British Columbia being used for children learning . Our society would be glad to cooperate with you in its preservation .

Yours sincerely,

cc. David Gerow.
H.I. Education Society
Hornby Island Trust .

Betty Smith - Archives Committee.
Hilary Brown - President.

Betty Smith p.p. - Hilary Brown.

Figure 4. Letter dated March 15, 1982, from New Horizons Society to District 71 Board of School Trustees petitioning for the preservation of the Old Schoolhouse. Hornby Island Archives/New Horizons Collection.



Figure 5. Relocating the Old Schoolhouse with truck, 1984. The 1972 modifications (front entry and windows) are clearly visible. Hornby Island Archives/New Horizons Collection.



Figure 6. The Old Schoolhouse was named the Betty Smith Centre at this event in 1988. Betty Smith is seated at far right. Photo by Bob Cain, 1988.



Figure 7. Members of the Fabricators collective working in the Old Schoolhouse today. Photo by R.M. Hutchings, 2023.

The Old Schoolhouse was modified twice in the 1990s. In 1993 a room measuring 12’ x 20’ was added to the back of the building, along with a small deck. This modification is detailed in a Fabricators’ heritage photo album dated 1993. In 1998, a composting toilet/bathroom was added to the back end of the 1993 addition.

Based on its current appearance (Figure 8), New Horizons has lived up to its promise to care for and preserve the Old Schoolhouse. The building’s history is recognized on a commemorative plaque on the front door that identifies it as the Betty Smith Centre and Hornby’s Original Schoolhouse (Figure 9).



Figure 8. Outside of the Old Schoolhouse today. Photo by M. Birch, 2023.

One Fabricator interviewed for this project described (1) being brought up the road from school to the building in the 1990s for an introductory lesson in spinning and weaving, (2) subsequently joining the collective, and then (3) witnessing their own children participate the same field trip a generation later.



Figure 9. Commemorative plaque on the front door of the Old Schoolhouse. Photo by R.M. Hutchings, 2023.

Summary

The Old Schoolhouse is the embodiment of Hornby Island community heritage, particularly as it relates to education and the transmission of local cultural knowledge. The Old Schoolhouse:

- is the second oldest standing building on Hornby Island (built 1891);
- served as a public-school building for 92 consecutive years (1892-1984); and
- has served as a community education centre for 131 consecutive years (1892-present).

The building's character-defining elements are:

- One-room building measuring 20' x 34';
- High peaked roof;
- Front entry with distinctive octagonal window; and
- Location on Sollans Road near its original site.

Postscript

This statement's narrow scope—geographically and historically—obscures larger regional, social, economic, and political contexts (Hutchings 2017; Hutchings and Williams 2020; Stewart 2017), including the relationship between heritage, architecture, and the social construction of place in settler-colonial contexts (Rayner 1995; Smith 2006; Tucker 2014). Toward this, the author respectfully acknowledges the location of the Old Schoolhouse on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation (KFN 2023).

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Author contact: rmhutchings@alumni.ubc.ca



Statement of Significance

COMMUNITY HALL

Building Name:	Hornby Island Community Hall
Building Address:	4305 Central Road, Hornby Island, BC V0R 1Z0
Building Owner:	Hornby Island Residents' & Ratepayers' Association (HIRRA)
Building History:	Built 1927; Major Additions 1974, 1982
Current Use:	Community Hall

Introduction

The Community Hall has significant heritage value, locally in the context of Hornby Island history and culture and regionally in the context of Pacific Coast vernacular architecture. Built in 1927 as a 25' x 40' hall and radically redesigned in the 1970s and 80s in the Pacific Coast vernacular style, the Community Hall embodies Hornby Island's spirit of civic volunteerism and artistic creativity. The Hall's early history is intertwined with the adjacent Community School property, particularly the Old Schoolhouse. Prominently situated at the junction of Central and Sollans Roads, the Community Hall today is Hornby Island's most distinctive and visible building.

1922-28 – Planning, Construction, and Opening

Prior to the opening of the Community Hall in 1928, most of Hornby Island's social life took place in the in the one-room schoolhouse located on Hornby Island Community School property at the corner of Central and Sollans Roads (Ovanin 1984: 23). "Dances were held there. ... Public meetings, church services, political gatherings and entertainment evenings took place at the school and, as the population of the Island increased, the need for a larger public building became apparent" (Smith and Gerow 1988: 39). A committee was struck to build a community hall in 1922.

While volunteers began immediately clearing land at the corner of Central and Sollans Roads, it would be a number of years before construction began. The property was donated by the government and money for lumber was raised by the Social Club, Football Club, Farmers' Institute, and Women's Institute. Indeed, "All the work on the new hall was done by voluntary labor…. Mr. Leon Savoie who ran a boat to Courtenay hauled the lumber free. Harry Carmichael was appointed foreman for the foundation and laid out the work. Each family donated some money" (Corrigall and Arthurs 1978: 41). Construction started in 1927.

The *Comox Argus* newspaper described the June 1928 opening of the Community Hall (Figure 1) as follows: "All Hornby Island was there and a boat-load from Union Bay and Cumberland. The new building is 25' x 40' and was built entirely by volunteer labour. Soon after eight o'clock, the crowd began to arrive. Mr. Savoie brought fifty over from Denman and fourteen came with MLA Dr. McNaughton. After speeches, prizes were awarded for best costumes. Jack Parnell won the Gentlemen's First as a Spanish bullfighter. Then the dancing, with music by Jackson Arthurs and Albert Savoie. There were one hundred and twenty crowded into the new Hall" (Smith and Gerow 1988: 39).



Figure 1. The 25' x 40' peaked-roof Hornby Island Community Hall opened in 1928. Source: Smith and Gerow 1988: 39.

1974 – The Round Room Addition

By the early 1970s, population growth had rendered the Community Hall too small. The solution was the Round Room addition, designed by Jé Titus, who envisioned a "conical cedar roof hovering over a circle of stone" (Helliwell and McNamara 1978: 473). Limited funds meant "the project had to be labour intensive and use locally available materials: stone to be hand gathered, beach-poles collected for the structure and cedar bolts to be hand-split for the roof shakes." Construction of the Round Room (Figure 2) began in the spring of 1974. The design called for a "24ft diameter circle of 12 beach log posts, each holding a log rafter radiating from [an] old truck wheel. A piece of salvaged logging cable acts as tension ring to absorb the horizontal thrust. 1½in cedar decking, rigid insulation and shakes, complete the conical roof structure. After foundations, this roof was erected; then came the stone walls and fireplace, windows, and finally, the floor and interior finishing" (1978: 473).



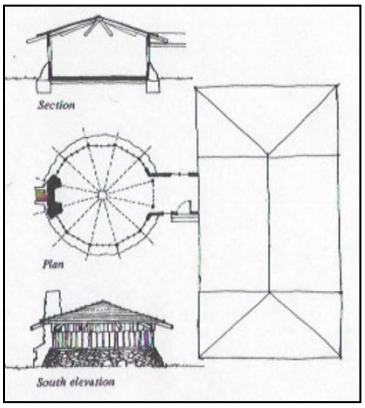


Figure 2. The Round Room was added on to the side of the original hall in 1974.
Photo source (left): Kahn 2008: 34.
Sketch source (above): Helliwell and McNamara 1978: 473.

1982 – The Green Roof Addition

By the early 1980s, population growth had once again rendered the Hall too small for the community, resulting in the 1982 Green Roof addition/renovation (Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6). Planning started in 1981 and "showed how the old roof could be resupported and the main hall widened so as to form raised aisles or sitting-out spaces along both sides. Altogether the floor area would be increased by almost 50% and, with most of the outside walls new, and a new heating system, the new-old Hall would be ready to start another long life of service to the Island" (Smith 1981: 3). Construction started in 1982 and Anne Ngan provided regular updates in *The First Edition* (Ngan 1982a, 1982b. 1982c).

The addition included three distinctive components: a green roof, a grand entryway made of an upturned stump, and exterior siding made of cut log rounds. Goya Ngan (2014: 6) discusses the Hall's green roof in light of Hornby Island and North American architectural history: "Green roofs were so common on [Hornby Island] by the early 1980s, that when the Community Hall was expanded, there was no question—it would have a green roof. The members of the design committee, Ernst Snijders, Lloyd House, and Michael McNamara, were all versed in green roofs." According to Ngan, the initial idea in the 1950s "to put sod on a roof on Hornby Island began with none other than our visionary architect, Arthur Erickson. His design for a modest cabin at Shingle Spit included a green roof" (2014: 5).

Lloyd House describes the origin of the Community Hall's grand entry: "Bo Helliwel found a huge log on the beach, and said, 'You better come and look at it, Lloyd.' We went to the beach and cut the doorway in the log. Then we split it in half, brought the two halves to the site, and put them back together. This was the first thing that was put up. A local said, at the time, 'We're all on a journey and nobody knows where we're going'" (Kahn 2008: 34). House provides this practical explanation for the Hall's unusual exterior siding (Figure 6): "When we got to the siding we were nearly out of money. So we got scrap logs and cut log rounds on the bias 4 inches thick" (Kahn 2008: 34).



Figure 3. The Hall's exterior today. The peaked roof of the 1927 hall is visible back-right (with skylight). The 1974 Round Room addition is front-left (with chimney). The 1982 Green Roof addition is front-right (with grand entry at centre). Source: HIRRA.



Figure 4. Inside the Main Hall today. Source: HIRRA.

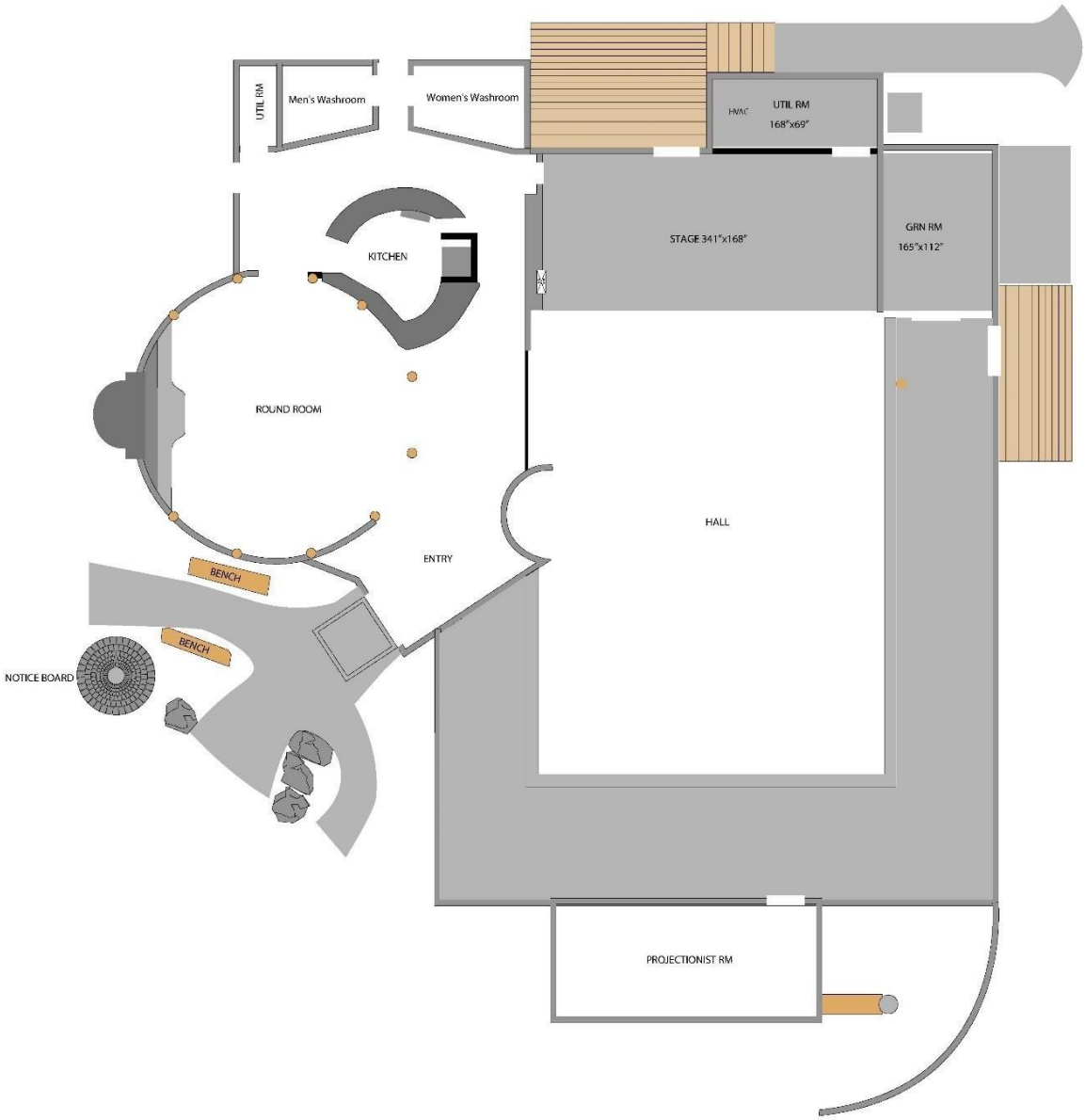


Figure 5. Planview diagram of the Community Hall complex. Source: HIRRA.



Figure 6. Close up view of the log-round exterior siding on the Green Roof addition. Source: Kahn 2008: 34.

Summary

The Community Hall has significant heritage value, locally in the context of Hornby Island history and culture and regionally in the context of Pacific Coast vernacular architecture. Locally, the Community Hall reflects Hornby Island's spirit of civic volunteerism and artistic creativity. Regionally, the Community Hall exemplifies Pacific Coast vernacular architecture (Helliwell and McNamara 1978; Kahn 2008; Ngan 2014).

The Community Hall's character-defining elements are:

- Central location at the corner of Central and Sollans Roads;
- Vernacular/local design; and
- Public accessibility.

Architectural elements of the Community Hall that exemplify the Pacific Coast vernacular tradition are:

- The Round House addition, including the radial wood roof and stone wall and fireplace, all constructed by locals with locally sourced materials; and
- The Green Roof addition, including the original hall, living roof, grand entryway made of an upturned stump, and exterior siding made of cut log round, all constructed by locals with locally sourced materials.

The Community Hall is living insofar as it represents the work of multiple generations of Hornby Islanders. "'The Hall,' as we call it, is a community centre in the truest sense of the word: centrally located, the focus of community spirit, a point from which collective energy radiates. Not only does energy radiate from the Hall, but a considerable amount of energy is put into events held there. But if the Hall is to retain its warm and welcoming atmosphere, some of our energy needs to be directed…to the building itself" (The Recreation Committee 1985: 1).



Figure 7. A public event in the Main Hall. Source: Hornby Island Conservancy.

Postscript

This statement's narrow scope—geographically and historically—obscures larger regional, social, economic, and political contexts (Hutchings 2017; Hutchings and Williams 2020; Stewart 2017), including the relationship between heritage, architecture, and the social construction of place in settler-colonial contexts (Rayner 1995; Smith 2006; Tucker 2014). Toward this, the author respectfully acknowledges the location of the Hornby Island Community Hall on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation (KFN 2023).

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Statement of Significance

ROOM TO GROW

Building Name:	Room to Grow
Building Address:	2100 B Sollans Road, Hornby Island, BC V0R 1Z0
Building Owner:	Hornby Island Educational Society (HIES)
Building History:	Built 1980; Modified 1999
Historic Use:	School Classroom; Community Room
Current Use:	Community Room

Introduction

Room to Grow has significant heritage value in the context of Hornby Island history and culture. Constructed by the community in 1980 with donated funds, materials, and labour, the Room to Grow building embodies Hornby Island's spirit of independence, volunteerism, and artistic creativity. Room to Grow is located on Community School property near the junction of Central and Sollans Roads and the original site of the Old Schoolhouse, Hornby Island's first public-school building. Room to Grow's history is intertwined with the Hornby Island Educational Society (HIES), which was first established in 1980 to oversee the building's construction and long-term care.

No Room to Grow

As with Hornby Island's Old Schoolhouse and Community Hall, Room to Grow's history is a functional, material response to the stresses of population growth. In Room to Grow's case, school overcrowding led the local School District, headquartered in Courtenay, to propose bussing Hornby Island middle-school students off the island to the Union Bay School (HIES 2023a). That idea was "flatly rejected by Hornby parents" who, during a community meeting with District staff, asked, "shall we build you a school?"

Hornby Island school principal and island historian David Gerow explained the problem when he was interviewed in 1980 about Room to Grow (Ford 1980). When Gerow arrived on the island in 1970, the one-room permanent building—i.e., the Old Schoolhouse—housed 15 pupils. Ministry figures for 1978-79 show 38 pupils enrolled, and "by last spring, about 50 pupils were crammed into two small classrooms." On top of that, Gerow was facing a five-year projection that showed the school population reaching 100, "not counting any people moving to the island."[1]

According to School District 71 Secretary-Treasurer Willliam Burns, "It was obvious that we were going to have an enrolment problem come the fall. The concern was expressed that we could lease a portable classroom but that might cause problems later in getting permission to build permanently." Moreover, the cost of bringing another portable to the island was prohibitive. Burns estimated it would have cost $15,000 to lease one for a year (Ford 1980).

Having rejected the ideas of bussing students to Union Bay and leasing a portable, it was proposed by a community member that the community could build a new classroom—and then lease it to the School District until the new facility was built. In one telling of the event, "District staff likely scanned the group of obviously 'counter culture' parents with considerable doubtfulness. Over time, however, they realized this had not been a rhetorical question. This rather motley appearing crew was both creative and capable. The inspiration and impetus for the Room to Grow was launched" (HIES 2023a).

Making Room to Grow

'Counter culture' or not, the School Board agreed to the plan. Construction commenced May 10 and was completed in August. It was estimated that about 300 people volunteered on the project, with "100 of them having a hand in the actual construction" (Ford 1980). The School District praised the level of craftwork and volunteer labour that went into Room to Grow's creation: "It was remarkable how all the talent on the island showed up. There was an expert

[1] This five-year projection was quickly proven accurate, if not short-sighted, as there were already 74 students enrolled in the school by 1980. By contrast, 37 students were enrolled in 2011, rising to 43 in 2021 (Andor 2012).

for every step of the way. Stained-glass windows, a carved door and the stairways to a loft area were all made by hand."

Two of those experts were island architects Michael McNamara and Boh Helliwell, who designed the Room to Grow building (Figure 1). Their plans called for a south-facing covered deck featuring a painted mural and a south-facing loft featuring a stained glass window (Figure 2). Both of those artistic elements—created by Hornby Island artists—still adorn the building.

The mural, barely visible in the back left of Figure 3, was made by Terry Jackson, and the stained glass window by Paul Wullum.

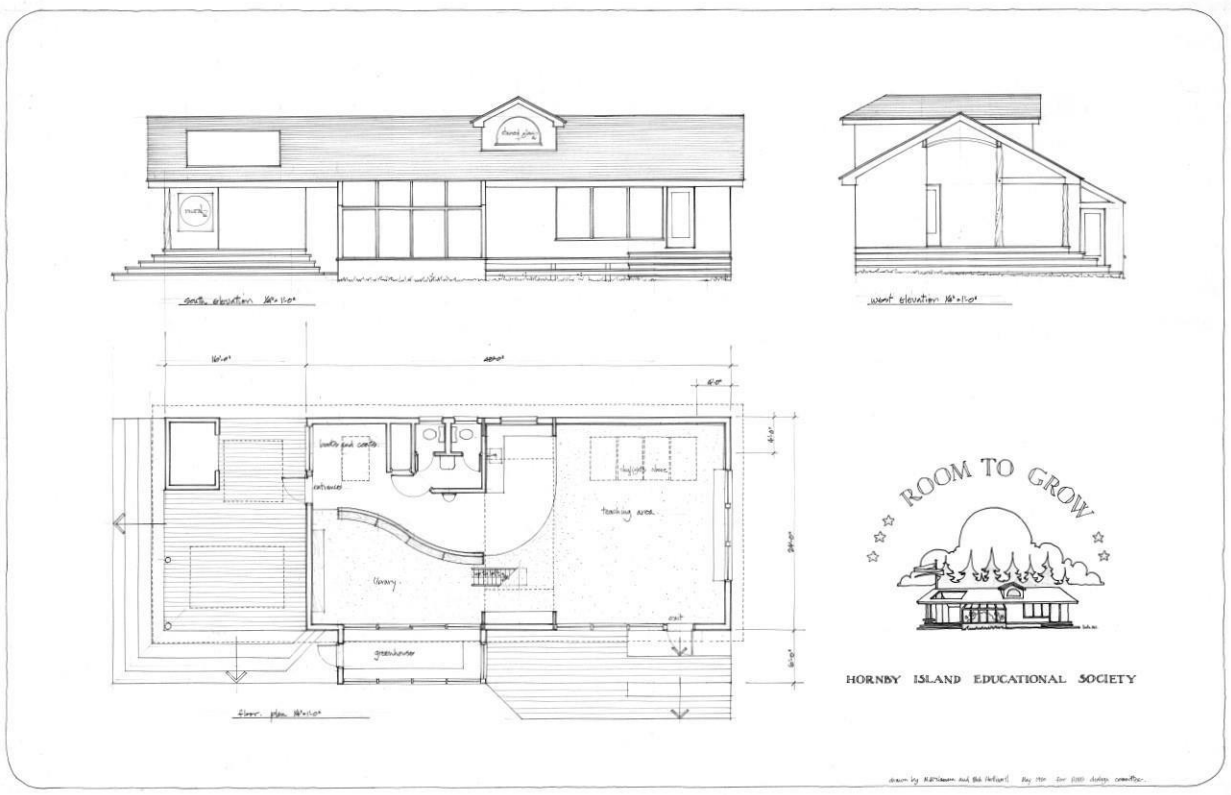


Figure 1. Room to Grow was designed by Michael McNamara and Boh Helliwell. These drawings are dated May 1980. Source: M. McNamara.



Figure 2. McNamara and Helliwell's design included a covered deck with a painted mural (left) and a loft with a stained glass window (top). Source: M. McNamara.



Figure 3. Room to Grow was built by the Hornby Island community using donated funds, materials, and labour. This photo of volunteers was taken at the building's grand opening in 1980. Source: HIES.

The mural, which features a Raven/Eagle motif (Figure 4), was created by Métis artist Terry Jackson. It was originally located on Room to Grow's back covered deck (Figures 2 and 3). Today, the mural is prominently sited at the main entry on the building's north side. It was relocated after the deck was remodeled in 1999. That renovation involved walling-in the deck to create more inside space (Figure 7).



Figure 4. Raven/Eagle mural by local Métis artist Terry Jackson.

Source: R.M. Hutchings, 2023.



Figure 5. Stained glass window by local artist Paul Wullum.

Source: R.M. Hutchings, 2023.



Figure 6. This art piece was rescued from the previous school building after the fire. Badly damaged, it was restored and relocated to Room to Grow circa 2020. It was originally located on the wall outside of the school's Natural History room; its current location is shown in the top photo in Figure 7.
Source: R.M. Hutchings, 2023.

Room to Grow went from conception to completion in just six months and, when ready for classroom use, the School District rented it for $700.00 per month. In 1984, with the completion of the new school, Room to Grow transitioned from a school room to a community room. HIES subsequently developed into an umbrella organization for community programs including the Kitchen, the Access Centre, and the Job Shop (HIES 2023a, b).

HIES has a binder it its office with details of Room to Grow's formative years.



Figure 7. Two contemporary views of Room to Grow. Source: R.M. Hutchings, 2023 (top); HIES (bottom).





HORNBY ISLAND EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

Figure 8. Title section of Michael McNamara and Boh Helliwell's 1980 architectural drawings; see Figure 1 for context. Source: M. McNamara.

Summary

Room to Grow has significant heritage value in the context of Hornby Island history and culture. Built by the community with donated funds, materials, and labour, Room to Grow embodies Hornby Island's spirit of independence, civic volunteerism, and artistic creativity. Crafted in the hand-built Hornby tradition (Helliwell and McNamara 1978), Room to Grow's character-defining elements are:

- Central location at the corner of Central and Sollans Roads;
- Vernacular/local art and architecture; and
- Public accessibility.

Postscript

This statement's narrow scope—geographically and historically—obscures larger regional, social, economic, and political contexts, including the relationship between heritage, architecture, and the social construction of place in settler-colonial contexts. Toward this, the author respectfully acknowledges the location of Room to Grow on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation (KFN 2023).

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Statement of Significance

TRIBUNE BAY LODGE



The Tribune Bay Lodge report is reproduced here courtesy of Denise Cook. It was written in 2009 and later included in a BC Parks publication. The report's source is:

Cook, Denise, 2018. Tribune Bay Lodge. In *BC Parks Cultural Heritage Conservation Handbook: A Guide for Conserving Cultural Heritage in British Columbia's Protected Areas System*, pp. 68-70. Parks Ministry of the Environment, B.C. Parks.

6a Tribune Bay Lodge
Hornby Island, B.C.
c.1870, additions 1928

Tribune Bay Provincial Park







View south from Lodge, tennis court on bench below



Orchard tree in heritage orchard behind Lodge. All photos 2009.

Historic Place

The Tribune Bay Lodge is a one-storey, wood frame house in two parts: the early homestead with a gable roof and front overhang, and the Lodge addition, a gable-roofed structure with ribbon windows and shed dormer. The Lodge is surrounded by open lawns, foundation plantings, associated outbuildings, an orchard and wetland. It is located on Tribune Bay on the eastern side of Hornby Island, in Georgia Strait near Buckley Bay on Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Values

The Tribune Bay Lodge, its context and outbuildings - a barn, cabins and washhouse - and its landscape features are valued for their historical, social/cultural, recreational, aesthetic and educational importance.

The Tribune Bay property is significant historically as one of the two first post-contact pre-emptions and farms on Hornby Island. The early part of the lodge building and the remains of the original landscape associated with the farm are still visible today.

One of several resorts established on Hornby Island, the Lodge is a rare surviving example of of a waterfront resort once common on the Gulf Islands. Local residents saw this form of summer tourism as an important way to develop the local economy. The distance from Victoria and Vancouver made the property attractive as a recreational resort; the rural nature of the island provided the ambiance necessary to promote the resort as a quiet relaxing place; the natural seaside setting provided natural amenities of warm shallow waters for swimming and fishing, a sandy beach, and abundant birdlife and other wildlife for viewing.

The coastline and lands south of Tribune Bay were eventually subdivided into hundreds of individual parcels; many were used as summer cottages and holiday homes. Though privately owned, the Lodge became an anomaly – a place for quiet and communal holidaying amongst friends. Many families returned annually. The natural seaside setting helped refresh tired city workers, and gave city children a chance to play freely outdoors.

Through various owners, the resort provided a healthy, low budget family vacation destination on a rural island. In the regional context, this scenario is very similar to the way in which holiday resort cabins were developed at Roesland on Pender Island, and the Union Steamship cottages were rented on Bowen Island. The simple

Tribune Bay Provincial Park

architectural style of both the original homestead and the Lodge addition reflect this use, as do the outbuildings, which include a barn, cabins and washhouse.The remaining orchard and the garden surrounded by a picket fence recall the site's early homestead use. Natural history and scientific values are found in the adjacent wetland, a demonstration natural sewage treatment project.



Garden area 2009

The Lodge property (14 acres within the park) has recreational and educational value through its use by the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Society as an outdoor educational centre since 1983. It is an is an important part of the experiential and environmental school curriculum and teacher professional development for School Districts 69 (Qualicum) and 71 (Comox Valley).

Character-defining Elements

Site

- Setting above the beach at Tribune Bay
- Outbuildings: barn, cabins and washhouse
- Orchard
- Picket fence and garden
- Wetland

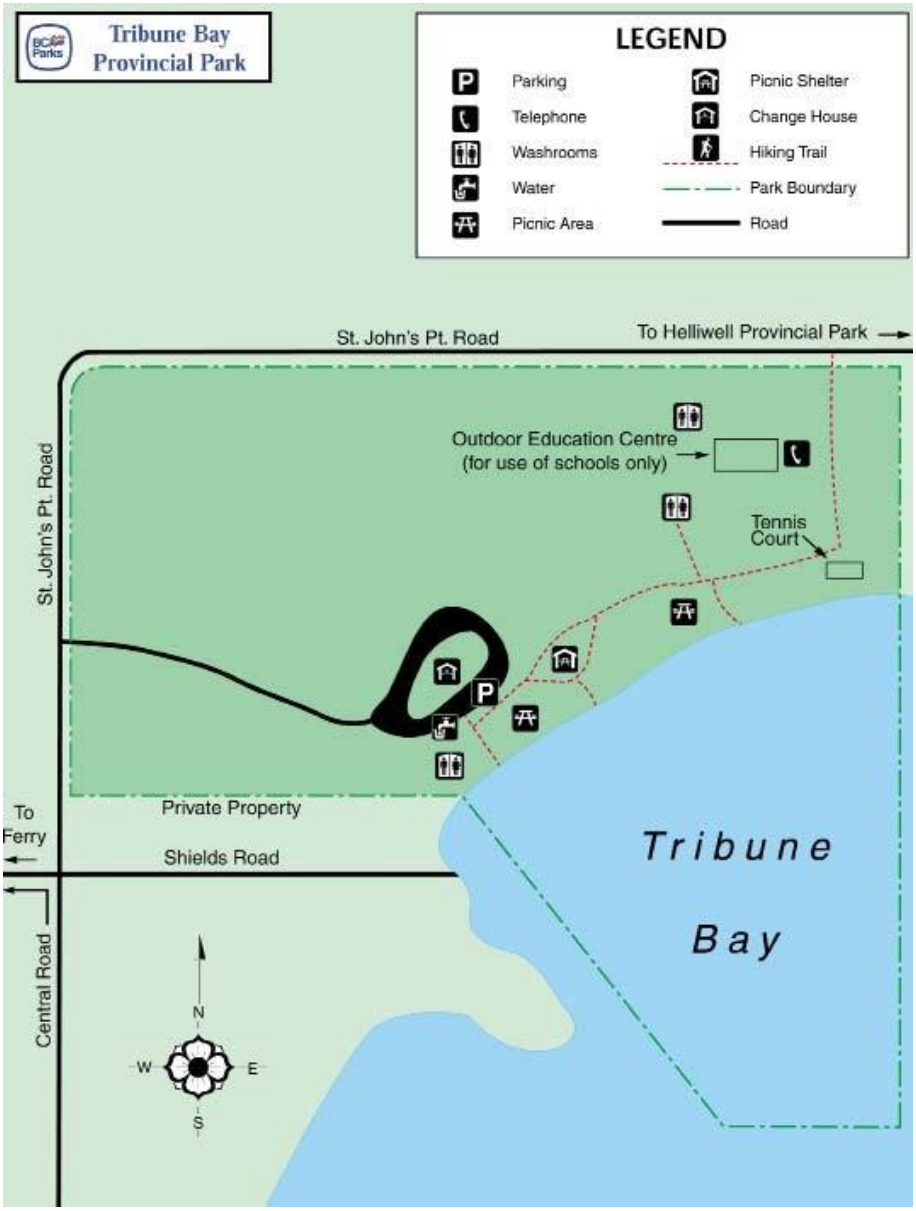
Building

- Low residential form, horizontal massing
- Two distinct parts of the building
- Gable roof with shed extension and porch on the 1875 building
- Gable roof with shed dormer on the 1928 addition
- Wood-framed windows
- Horizontal wood cladding

Location of Tribune Bay Lodge



Current (2009) aerial view of Tribune Bay



Map of Tribune Bay Provincial Park (BC Parks)

Please cite this report as:

Islands Trust, 2024. Hornby Island Community Heritage Register. Islands Trust: Gabriola Island, BC.

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Report layout and design by Richard M. Hutchings.