

Saahtlam PARK

HISTORY - St. Andrews Lodge & Glen Cottages

The site is located within the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people including the Qualicum First Nation. Qualicum Beach's river, streams, and coastal areas were central to the Qualicum First Nations' way of life. The Qualicum people were hunter gatherers with permanent sites of "big houses" at the mouths of several rivers and bays within the traditional territory, which once spanned from Cook's Creek to the Englishman River.

In September 2022 the Town gratefully accepted the name Saahtlam, gifted from the Qualicum First Nation, which refers to the green at the mouth of the river.

The park is 9,800m² (2.4 acres) in size and is characterized by an established canopy of cedar, fir and maple trees, which contribute to a quiet, passive, and reflective sense of place. Beyond the legal boundary of the north edge of the site, is an extended foreshore, gravel point, and lagoon, with broad views of the waterfront.



The St. Andrews Lodge opened in 1938 by Simon (aka Sam), Dora, Robert, and Elizabeth Little and was subsequently operated by Elizabeth for over 80 years. The Lodge and seven cottages were designed by Elizabeth's father, Sam, a naval architect. The Little family was well-known in Qualicum Beach and is credited with many significant contributions to community life. The lodge harkens back to the time when the village was a vacation destination for the likes of John Wayne, the King of Siam, Ava Gardner, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and many other celebrities. This location held a unique significance as a gathering spot where individuals converged to forge lasting memories.

Elizabeth Little was named the Town's citizen of the year in 1983 and was also bestowed the honour of Freeman of the municipality in 1998.

The St. Andrews Lodge Historical and Cultural Society (SALHACS) was formed in late 2020 to restore the historic Lodge. SALHACS entered into a lease agreement with the Township and has undertaken the task of returning the Lodge to its former beauty and usefulness while retaining the heritage features that make it a unique community treasure. The Lodge is to be included on the Community Heritage Register.

REVISIONING

The Town of Qualicum Beach purchased the property in 2018 for use as a public waterfront park.

In 2019, the Town began the planning and visioning for a new waterfront park at the site. After extensive public consultation, a concept plan was released in February 2020 that revealed the public's desire for a natural gathering place.

"Saahtlam Park is a gateway and anchor to the Town's waterfront that connects people with nature, community, family, and site history. Visitors of all ages are invited here to relax, build community connections, be active outdoors, access the waterfront, and celebrate natural coastal features for generations to come."