

INTRODUCTION

The Gulf Islands School District has a remarkable history, which began prior to Confederation with the establishment of a school in the Vesuvius area. As time passed, small one teacher schools were established in many locations throughout the Gulf Islands, opening and closing as populations shifted and as settlements began or ceased to exist. Many early settlements were based on logging or fishing, and as the trees were cut from an area, or the fishing camp found a better site, the schools opened or closed accordingly. Some schools ceased to exist when transportation methods were improved and roads were built allowing buses to bring students from further afield. Whatever the reason for the community, the one room school had a personality that contributed much to the lives of the people whose children attended that school. This report will attempt to trace the history of each school from the time of its opening to its amalgamation into School District # 64 (Gulf Islands). All the information contained in this report has been taken from Ministry of Education records.

In the early years, agriculture was an important occupation on Salt Spring Island, and the first settlers found the many sites in the Vesuvius area suitable for small farms. One of the early settlers, Mr. Craven Jones had come to escape slavery prior to the American Civil War. Some of the pioneers were given land to farm by the Hudson Bay Company as payment for services rendered. As the settlements grew, the need for schools also grew and Mr. C. Jones provided informal education in barns, kitchens and old log cabins in two locations. In 1864, permission was granted for the establishment of two schools. One school was in an abandoned shed on the Begg's settlement, and the other at Central. Mr. Jones spent three days teaching at each settlement having to watch out for cougars as he walked between schools. He did not get any salary in these early days and he existed on the gratitude of his neighbours and the rewards of his own small farm.

Salt Spring Island School District was officially formed on July 30th, 1870 and included all of Salt Spring or Admiral Island. Mr. Jones now received \$40/month, but his salary was not retroactive for the years of past service. There were 25 children in the two settlements of who 7 resided in the North settlement. The first trustees were T.C. Parry, H.W. Robinson, and J.C. Crain. Other teachers to follow were John Britton, 1875-76, A.C. Howe 1877, E.A. Clark, 1878-79, S.G. Lewis 1880-81 and J. Shaw 1882-85. In 1882 the children in the two schools were still being taught by the one teacher, J. Shaw. However, the two schools merged in September of 1882 as the North School with only six pupils. This single school at Central was in operation until 1891 when the two schools were reformed owing to the enrolment growing to 38 pupils. The Department of Education formerly called these schools VESUVIUS (established 1887 on 100 acres) and VESUVIUS NORTH (established 1872 on one acre).

In 1886, a new teacher arrived, Mr. R. A. Purdy. The Trustees at that time were T. W. Mouat, J. Norton, and J. P. Booth. Mr. Purdy continued teaching at Vesuvius for 11 years which is remarkable considering his salary started at \$50/month and only once did he receive an increase of \$5/month during this time. The **Vesuvius North School** also had relative staff stability with L. Haskin 1891, M.F. Halliday, 1891, Nellie Wilson, 1892, Kate McKinnon 1892-4, Domitian Gallant 1895 (moved from Galiano), Katie Furness 1896-8, and M. Brethour, 1901.

The following is a list of teachers who taught in these schools:

VESUVIUS

Mr. R. A. Purdy 1886-97
Miss P. H. Page 1898-1901
Miss L. Brethour 1902-04
Miss Moore 1905
Miss C. Haley 1911
Miss O. Lester 1912
Mr. A. Yuill 1913
Miss E. Clewlow 1914-16
Miss H. Burns 1917
Miss M. Hirst 1918-20
Miss J. L. Berto 1921
Miss M. Gyves 1922
Miss J. Mouat 1923
Miss M. McGinley 1924-26
Miss P. Lambert 1927
Miss H. Horcus 1928-29
Miss A. Forward 1930-31
Miss A. Murray 1932-33
Miss B. Thompson 1934-36
Miss J. Mouat 1937-40

VESUVIUS NORTH

Miss K. Furness 1896-98
Miss M. Brethour 1901-04
Miss J. Mouat 1905-07
Mr. J. Thomson 1909 and 1911
Miss Cartwright 1910
Miss H. Cass 1912
Miss A. Dodds 1913-19

Miss H. Kir 1920
Miss V. Adams 1921
Miss W. Hill 1922
Miss P. Gardiner 1923-4
Miss R. Holt 1925-27
Miss I. Kerr 1928-30
Miss D. Shopland 1931
Miss N. New 1932-34
Miss M. Hannah 1935-36
Miss E. R. Parson 1937
Miss J. S. McLaughlin 1938-40

The Vesuvius School District was created on 18th August, 1885, and re-defined 26th April, 1892.

'All that portion of Salt Spring Island lying between the northern boundary of Burgoyne Bay School District, and the southern boundary of North Vesuvius School District.'

The Vesuvius North School District was created on 26th April, 1892, and consisted of, "All that portion of Salt Spring Island lying north of the line between Sections 11 and 12 extended eastward and westward to the sea shore."

The Vesuvius and Vesuvius North School Districts were incorporated into the Salt Spring United School District in 1938 and these two schools ceased to operate in 1940.

In the early 1860's there were many thriving settlements between Burgoyne Bay and Fulford Harbour, where several families had located. It was soon apparent that a local school was needed. On October 3, 1873, the Burgoyne Bay School District was formed with Mrs. Holmes as teacher. The boundaries included, " All that tract of land within a line commencing at a point about midway between the head of Ganges Bay and Beaver Point, on the South side, thence running westerly along the summit of the Otter Range , to the seashore, thence following the shoreline, Southerly, to the point of commencement and including Moresby and Portland Islands."

The site of the **Burgoyne Bay School** was on one acre of land , given by Mr. Sparrow. The school was erected with help from settlers in 1873. The first Trustees were T. Trage, W. Purser and G. Mitchell, Secretary and Treasurer. In 1875, J. Cairns replaced T. Trage as Trustee.

Some of the early problems sound familiar. An extract from the Department of Education in 1876 states:

"Although the average attendance has fallen below the required number, yet the school is kept in operation in order to ascertain what effect the appointment of a new and qualified teacher may have in inducing parents to send children who have , for various reasons, been kept away to an extent quite sufficient to have justified the education authorities in closing it last summer. With 22 school children, the average only reached eight..... Absenteeism therefore stands high and irregular attendance amounts to one half.....Every pupil attending school costs \$35, and each of the 8 making the average twice that amount,.....the whole amount expended being \$560."

The following is a list of teachers serving Burgoyne Bay School:

A Holmes 1873-75
 R.H.Holding 1877
 J. Thain 1878
 G. Stainburn 1880-81
 E.J. Gardiner 1883
 A.Shaw 1884-85
 D.Irwin 1886
 J. Dougan 1888-90
 K. Furness 1900-02
 M. Offenhouse 1905-07
 J.Thomson 1910
 M Williamson 1912
 C. Gyves 1914-16

 R.Castle 1920
 E.Lucas 1922 and 1925
 A. Smith 1926-27
 J. Campbell 1930
 P. May 1933-36
 G.E. Knight 1938

A.H.Williams 1876
 W.Kermode 1878
 N.Mc Naughton 1879
 A. Dodds 1882
 B.H. Smith 1884
 W.T.Kinney 1886
 W.A. Levinge 1887-88
 A.W. Cook 1891-99
 R.Renwick 1903-04
 L.Belyea 1908-09
 A.Rudd 1911
 H.Fowley 1913
 H. Marling 1917-18
 M. Simster 1919
 J. Mouat 1921
 I. Dohlmann 1923-24
 H.J.Bradley 1928-29
 I.Moses 1931-32
 W.R.Ashford 1937

The Department of Education does not report a teacher present for 1939, most probably because the school was incorporated into the Salt Spring United School District in 1938. However, in the years 1940-1, Florence Hepburn is recorded as being the teacher prior to its closure in June 1941.

Early records reveal the following student achievement:

Year	Deportment	Punctuality	Proficiency
1885	Arnie F`urness	Nellie Wilson	Martha Akerman
1886	George Furness	Nellie Wilson	Martha Akerman
1887	Sue Horel	Kate Furness	Nellie Wilson
1888	George Furness	William Akerman	Nellie Wilson
1889	Katie Furness	Eliza Maxwell	Nellie Wilson
1892	Lizzie Wilson	Thomas Akerman	Katie Furness
1893	William Furness	Alex Wilson	Lizzie Furness
1894	George Furness	Alex Wilson	Lizzie Wilson
1895	Mary Rogers	William Lee	Elizabeth Wilson
1896	Maud Lee	George Nightingale	Alex Wilson
1897	Mary Patterson	Ethel Rogers	Mary Horel

Isabella Point School was opened in 1905 with Mrs. A. S. Baily as the first teacher. The Trustees at the opening of school were W. Hamilton, W. Lumley and J. Pallow. The teachers who taught at **Isabella Point School** were:

A.S. Baily 1905	M.Palmer 1906-07
A.W.Cooke 1908-13 and 1915-20	A. Brittancourt 1914
M.Gyves 1921	F.Akerman 1922
L.Johns 1923	R.Holt 1924
O.Rogers 1925-26	E.Gropp 1927-29
I.Vye 1930-35	C.R.Morgison 1936-37
G.Smith 1938	I.A.Bings 1939-40
H.Potter 1941	F.Hepburn 1942
F.Carlin 1943	M.Breton 1944-45.

The Ministry of Education did not report the names of teachers after 1945 appointed to Isabella Point School. The school closed in 1951.

Cranberry Marsh School was opened in 1911 with teacher G. F. Harris and Trustees E.J. Seymour, J. Rogers and T. Clark. The school located in the vicinity of Wright and Nobbs Road, was in continuous operation from 1911-24, closed from 1924-6, then reopened briefly for 1927-8.

The teachers who taught from the commencement of the school were:

G. Harris 1911
E. Morley. 1913
L. White 1915
H. Draper 1919-21
H.Fracy 1923
W.L. Rogers 1927

A. Dodds 1912
J. Macgregor 1914
J. Mouat 1916-18
F.N. Rowse 1922
closed 1924-26
C. Gilland 1928.

The pupils went to the Divide School when the Cranberry Marsh School was closed in 1928.

Often, schools in the Ganges area had their names interchanged as the schools were all in the general area of Ganges Harbour. For example, Divide School and Ganges School were interchanged; as were Divide and Cranberry Marsh Schools. The information used in this report has been compiled from Ministry of Education records.

Divide School was opened in 1921 with teacher Miss M.M. Buss. The school was located on Blackburn Road approximately where a panabode house is currently located. The teachers in order were:

M.M. Buss 1921
R. Holt 1923
E. Curnow 1925-26
A.L. Vye 1928-29
M.M. Purdy 1931-32
F. Grove 1934-36
A. Hamilton 1940

H.E. Mayers 1922
H. Fracey 1924
H. Curnow 1927
M. Harris 1930
M. Miller 1933
R. Oulton 1937-39

The **Divide School** was incorporated into the Salt Spring High School Area in September 4, 1936, and ceased to operate in 1940.

The **Beaver Point School** was officially formed on August 18, 1885, and was defined as , " Commencing at the point in which the western boundary of Section 88, Salt Spring Island reaches the sea; thence easterly and along the sea shore to the point of commencement, and including Russell, Portland and Moresby Islands".

The Trustees present at the inauguration were Theo Trage, H. Ruckle and J. Peavine. The following is a list of teachers who were employed at the Beaver Point School:

M. Jackson 1886
W. Levine 1888-89
R. Watkin 1890-93
G. Kirkendall 1895-97
N. Morrison 1901
B. Trage 1904-07
K. Seymour 1910
M. Davis 1912
J. Kennedy 1914-15
T. Macfie 1917
J. Monk 1919-22
J. Smith 1924
I. Pellow 1928
D. Morgison 1930
J. Bowett 1933-35
G. Hartley 1940
H. Morrison 1942
M. Wrigley 1945

W. Silverwright 1887-88
F. Fraser 1889-90
K. Furness 1893-94
R. Watson 1897-1900

A new school house was built 1902-03

M. Sommerville 1908-09
R. Thomas 1911
M. Bissett 1913
T. Woodcock 1916
M. Hammill 1918
G. Jagger 1923
I. Dohlmann 1925-27
D. Dewar 1929
E. Morton 1931-32
E. Morbey 1936-39
L. Le Cocq 1941
M. Cook 1943-44

Beaver Point School was amalgamated in 1945 into School District #64(Salt Spring), and finally closed in 1951 along with Isabella Point School.

The Department of Education recognizes the following students who attended Beaver Point School:

Year	Deportment	Punctuality	Proficiency
1886	Clara Trage	Emma Pellow	Charles Beddis
1887	Clara Trage	Alfred Ruckle	George Elliot
1888	Clara Trage	Adolphus Trage	John Beddis
1889	Ellen McLennan	Clara Trage	Alfred Ruckle
1892	Ellen McLennan	Bertha Trage	Ella Ruckle
1893	Alex McLennan	Adolphus Trage	Ella Ruckle
1894	James White	Bertha Trage	Clara Trage
1895	Bertha Trage	Douglas McLennan	Ellen McLennan
1896	Ellan McLennan	Douglas McLennan	Abel Douglas
1897	Bertha Trage	Jessie McLennan	Angelina Stevens

The Salt Spring Island Schools.....

The settlement at Ganges began to grow and flourish during the decade prior to 1900 and the need for a school soon became apparent. Thus, in August 1896, with monitor Mrs. C Webb, a school was established. The first Trustees were E. Walker, S.T. Connery and A.C. Cartwright. In 1897, the following students were recognized; Lionel Beddis for Deportment, Florence Connery for Punctuality, and Socrates Connery for Proficiency. The school became recognized as a "Common school" in 1899. The Trustees at this time were E. Walters, S.Connery and A. Bittancourt. The inspection report of November 1900 states: " Classification good, progress fair only; order good; pupils are quiet and fairly attentive". The teachers in order were:

C. Webb 1897	E. Shrapnell 1898-99
A. Cooke 1900-07	M. Robertson 1908
B. Trage 1909	G.Ketcheson 1910
school closed 1911-13	M. Seymour 1914
M.Morris 1915	M. Mercer 1916
C. Rae 1917	T. Burns 1918

This school was referred to as Divide School by the residents at that time. In 1918, two schools existed, Ganges (Divide) and Ganges Harbour. In 1918, Miss T. Burns was the last recorded teacher of Ganges School while Miss Stubbs was the first recorded teacher of the Ganges Harbour School. Miss Burns transferred to the Ganges Harbour School in 1919.

Ganges School: T. Burns 1918

Ganges Harbour:

Miss Stubbs 1918

T. Burns 1919-21

M. Byrne 1924-25

I. Parfitt 1925

J. Gray 1922-23

G. Brand 1924

In the 1920's, Ganges had become the hub of the island and all of the public secondary education programs were founded there. In 1925, the increased enrollment caused the high school students to be moved to a chicken house that once was used to exhibit poultry by the Farmer's Institute. This school was fondly called the Chicken House by the students.

Ganges Harbour School teachers:

1926	V.Byrne	F. Eagle	A.Robertson
1927	J.Smith	F. Eagle	A.Robertson
1928	R.Holt	F.Eagle	A.Robertson
1929	M.Pellow	F.Eagle	A. Robertson
1930	C.Burbridge	J.Nicholls	R Freeman
1931	E.Whittingham	J. Nicholls	K.Dane

In 1932, Ganges Harbour School enrolled Grade 12 students and Mr. Whittingham taught the senior grade. In 1934, the Ganges Rural High School was formed.

The Department of Education writes in the 1936-8 "Educational Movement and Change",

"The gradual development of Salt Spring High School Area, although not a school district, is a phase of the growth of larger units of administration for school purposes. On August 30th, 1935, the Ganges - Vesuvius High School Area was formed. On July 17th, 1936, the High School Area was extended to include the North Vesuvius Rural School District. Burgoyne Bay and Divide Rural School Districts were brought within the Area on September 4th, 1936 and the Area renamed as the Salt Spring Island High School Area."

A new larger school, the present Salt Spring Elementary School, was opened in 1936 as the home of the Salt Spring High School. The school, according to local residents, had its first pupils in 1940. On June 15, 1938, a special meeting of the qualified voters of the Ganges Harbour School District met to vote on the following resolution.

"That the district was in favour of consolidation of the Rural School Districts of Burgoyne Bay, Cranberry Marsh, Divide, Ganges Harbour, North Vesuvius and Vesuvius, provided the Department of Education gives sufficient assistance to the Consolidated District to enable it to finance at the tax rate of not more than 6 mills."

The taxpayers voted on this resolution and the result was 103 in favour and 6 against. The Department of Education formed the Salt Spring United School District with Burgoyne Bay, Divide, Ganges Harbour, Vesuvius and Vesuvius North.

1935 **Ganges Harbour High School:** E. Wittingham, N. West, E. Porter

1936 **Ganges Vesuvius High School:** J. Foubister, N. West, E. Mohrman

1937-39 **Salt Spring High School Area:** J. Foubister, F. Groves

Ganges Harbour: N. West, E. Mohrmann

1940 **Salt Spring United High School:** Grades 9-12

O. Oulton, J. Foubister

Burgoyne Bay: F. Hepburn

Divide: A. Hamilton

Ganges Harbour: M. Dickson, E. Mohrmann

Vesuvius: J. Mouat

Vesuvius North: J. McLaughlin

1941 **Salt Spring United School District:** J. Foubister, R. Oulton, R. Dymond (H.E.), H. Dickson (I.E.)

Burgoyne Bay: Florence Hepburn

Salt Spring Island Consolidated: H. Dickson, H. Reid, E. Mohrmann, J. Shopland.

In 1945, Isabella Point and Beaver Point Schools were amalgamated into the Salt Spring Island United School District, and ceased to operate after 1951.

A major reorganization of British Columbia's schools came about in 1945 with the Cameron Report. The Royal Commission recognized that districts must be both large enough to have their own high school as well as encompass an area that is geographically, economically or socially comprehensible as a unit. The Cameron Report recommended that the 649 small schools be consolidated into 74 larger and distinct school districts. This resulted in the three Salt Spring Island Districts and the seven Outer Islands School Districts becoming one entity.

The Mayne Island School.....

In the early 1880's, Mayne Island was prosperous and the settlements started were numerous enough to warrant a school district being formed. The Department of Education, on 23rd of May 1883, established the Mayne Island School District comprising of :

"All the tract of land known as Mayne Island and that portion of Galiano Island lying west of Active Pass and East of a line running North across the Island from the South West corner of Lot 2." The portion of Galiano Island was relinquished in 1892, when the Galiano School District was formed.

The teachers in order of their employment were:

M. Monk 1883	A. Bannerman 1884-85
W. Phelps 1886-88	M. McKinnon 1889-90
W. Maudsley 1891	E. Patterson 1891-92
J. Sinclair 1893-1902	S. Rowe 1903-04
M. Brethour 1905	C. Woodward 1906-07
M. Miller 1908	M. Ruth 1909-10
A. Daily 1911	R. Gordon 1912
H. Rankin 1913	J. Rushton 1914-15
E. Goodyear 1916-20	E. Braithwaite 1921
I. Milne 1922-23	J. Steves 1924
E. Berry 1925-27	E. Hill 1928-29
B. Thompson 1930-32	I. Hawes 1933-8
M. Hardy 1939	D. Walker 1940-41
D. Merritt 1942	D. Deacon 1943-44
M. Jones 1945	

The Trustees present at the inauguration of the School District were W. Robinson, Thos. Bennett and J. Hicks. As far as records reveal, the school was erected in 1894 and the site of the of the early school was generally located where the present school is now situated. The old part of the present structure was first erected in 1949. Mayne Island School continued to operate as a single teacher school until it was incorporated into School District #64 (Salt Spring) in 1945.

The Department of Education recognized the following students:

Year	Deportment	Punctuality	Proficiency
1885	Francis Hick	William Trustworthy	William Deacon
1886	Francis Hick	Andrew Deacon	Dalton Deacon
1887	Mary Bennett	Andrew Deacon	James Heck
1888	John Wessel	Billie Trustworthy	William Cox
1889	Donna Heck	Mary Bennett	Emma Robson.
1892	David Bennett	Nellie Patterson	Stanley Robson
1893	Stanley Robinson	Alice Heck	George Rudd
1894	Elizabeth Jack	Stanley Robson	George Rudd
1895	Elizabeth Georgeson	Leland Berrow	Walter Norton
1896	Dave Bennett	Gertrude Sinclair	Alice Heck
1897	Dave Bennett	Maud Sinclair	Mary McDonald

The Pender Island Schools.....

"In 1893, Washington Grimmer, James Auchterlonie and Andrew Davidson applied to Victoria for a teacher for the 8 children on the island. The first classes were held in the hall which had recently been built on the Grimmer property at the site of the present gravel pit, midway between Hope Bay and Port Washington.

Of the 13 applicants for the \$40/m post, Miss Franny Lawson was hired, later to become the wife of Mr. Evan Hooson. Boarding with the Davidsons above the beach at Clam Bay, Mrs. Lawson took the trail over the hill to arrive at the school from the rear. Her first pupils were Clara Albert, Victor Menzies, Tom Isa, Andrew Davidson, Navy Neptune Grimmer and his sister Nellie. Appointments were simple; a blackboard, tables and benches; the curriculum basic, the teaching excellent. Pupils provided their own textbooks.

In 1894, a small separate building was erected close by for the exclusive use of the school. It was provided with desks! To augment the roll, Gordon Macdonald started attendance at four years old and trudged with his elder brothers and sisters from the old Macdonald house. A wood shed stacked with split wood at \$2.50 a cord stood behind the school and stocking was carried out by Malcolm for \$1.50/m."

from A GULF ISLANDS PATCHWORK pp 105

Pender Island School was formally opened in August 1896 with teacher Miss E. Dalby. The first elected Trustees were W. Grimmer, E. Hoosan and R. Hope. A school house was erected in 1903 on the north island. A school was erected on the south island in 1923 and remained until 1941 when the Pender Island Rural School District was created. This school is now the Community Centre and Seniors Centre.

The following is a list of teachers:

E. Dalby 1896
 G. Brethour 1900-01
 M. Springer 1902
 L. Abercrombie 1905
 J. Matheson 1908
 M. Hamilton 1910-11
 M. Nickerson 1914
 E. Moscrop 1916
 M. Hamilton 1918-19
 I. Tait 1921
 V. Geldart 1922

A. Johnston 1897-99
 F. Hart 1901
 M. Bradley 1903-04
 J. Anderson 1905-07
 M. McEwan 1909
 A. Hooper 1912-13
 B. Millins 1915
 M. MacDonald 1917
 O. Alexander 1920
 C. Thompson 1922

At this time the Penders were growing rapidly and with the increased enrollment, a school was established on South Pender Island.

North Pender Island

I. Murto 1923
 M. Shiell 1924
 G. Owen 1925
 V. Simpson 1926
 E. Dee 1927
 J. Graham 1928-9
 A. Mc Intyre 1928-9
 M. Locke 1930-32
 M. Dickson 1930-35
 F. Hand 1933-35

Pender Island South

V. Corbett 1923
 L. Haywaed 1924
 H. Boyd 1925-26
 K. Ballow 1927

 A. Campbell 1928
 K. Tobin 1929-30
 M. Cornwall 1931-34

 C. Morgan 1935-36

In 1935, **Pender Island Superior School** was formed with students enrolled in the north school continuing their education to Grade 11.

Pender Island Superior

W. Sones 1936-40
 F. Hand 1936-39
 V. Farber 1940

 G. Greenwell 1941-42
 R. Linksay 1941-42
 M. Burbridge 1943
 M. Adams 1943
 F. Reddyhoff 1944
 D. Grimmer 1944-45

Pender Island South

D. Ralfs 1936
 G. Wirens 1937
 M. Taylor 1938-39
 E. McNamee 1940
 J. Jewkes 1941
Closed 1942

In 1941, the **Pender Islands Rural School District** was formed. In 1942 45, the Penders must have lost a considerable number of students as the schools showed declining populations. The first casualty was the closure of Pender Island South in 1942, followed by a reduction of staff at the Pender Island Superior School. In 1945, D. Grimmer was the only teacher and the enrollment had declined to 23 pupils for the entire island. In 1946, Pender Island School became a part of School District #64 (Salt Spring).

Galiano Island Schools.....

In the early 1890's, many of the outer islands were being settled. These communities had their foundations mainly in logging or fishing. The communities that sprang up as a result of these industries were located along the shore such as Retreat Cove or the communities moved from location to location as was the case with logging camps.

Galiano School was first reported to be opened in November 1892, with an enrollment of 13 boys and 7 girls. The teacher, Domitian Gallant, was paid an annual salary of \$500/year. The Trustees at the time of opening were E.G. Winstanley, C. Groth and R. Grubb. However, beginning enrollment was only just sustainable and when two families moved, the school temporarily closed to reopen in March 1895. Mr Gallant stayed just two years in this isolated community before moving to teach at Vesuvius. He was succeeded by Miss E. Crockford from 1895-98. The Superintendent of Schools for British Columbia in his annual report states in 1896:

"The School in this comparatively new district continues to maintain a very good record. Thus for the present year, the percentage of actual daily attendance has been over 90(%)". The exact location of this first school is uncertain, but it was probably in the Georgeson Bay area.

The Department of Education recognizes this **Galiano School** by issuing the following Diplomas:

Year	Department	Punctuality	Proficiency
1893	Eliza Georgeson	Robert Georgeson	Oliver Winstanley
1894	Emma Gray	John Groth	Fred Gallant
1895	Ernest Winstanley	Clara Gray	Robert Georgeson
1896	Edward Georgeson	William Groth	George Rudd
1897	Federick Rudd	Edward Georgeson	William Cockford

The **Galiano School** continued to operate until 1908 when it was **closed** for one year. Galiano South School amalgamated with Galiano in 1906. The following is a list of teachers having taught at Galiano School.

D. Gallant 1892-94	E. Cockford 1895-98
A. Wallace 1899-02	J. Sinclair 1903-07 , closed 1908
M. Clark 1909	E. Protherose 1910
E. McMullen 1911	M. Holman 1912
C. Gyves 1913	F. Hick 1914-15 and 1917-21
J. Hands 1916	G. Verrinder 1922
E. May 1923-25	E. Hill 1926
M. Pellow 1927	E. Ambrose 1928-29
L. Moore 1930	A. Mills 1931-36
B. Grant 1937-39	E. Wright 1940
E. Duncan 1941- 44	P. Spragee 1943
F. Penrose 1944-45	

The **Galiano School** was united with the Galiano South School in 1906. It was further united with the North Galiano School in 1955 to become the Galiano Superior School which had an enrollment of 59 students in 1956. The Superior School offered courses to Grade 11.

The **Retreat Cove School** was built in 1905 on Lot 55 Galiano Island. Its first teacher, Miss Fitcher, opened the school on January 1 of that year. Lot 55 appears to be in the general location of McClure Road. The minutes state that the Trustees were J. Georgeson, J. Walker and F. Beale. Desks for this school were on loan from the South Galiano School. The School was moved to Lot 66 at Retreat Cove where it can still be seen near the road going to the Government Wharf. The Department of Education states that the school was opened in 1897 for one year with E. Johnston as teacher and Trustees E. Mc Croskie, John Walker and Jas Warnock. This early school was probably a house. The minutes of the Retreat Cove School confirms the re-opening of the school in 1905.

The history of the school is best told by its teachers:

E. Johnston 1897	closed 1898-1904
A. Fitcher 1905	H. Staves 1906-07
M. Clark 1908	L. Parrot 1909
closed 1910-11	J. Tittley 1912-13
F. Cooper 1914-15	G. Jones Evan 1916
E. Livingston 1917	H. Taylor 1918
F. Perry 1919	A. Olmsted 1920
M. Walker 1921	M. Jackson 1922-23
closed 1923-32	D. Shopland 1932-34
J. Mouat 1935-36	F. Lowe 1937-38
A. Hamilton 1939	

The **Retreat Cove School** was closed in June 1939 and was not to reopen until 1948, when it stayed open for just three years to close permanently in 1951.

The **North Galiano School** opened in 1916 on Lot 96 at the north end of the island. The school has a large number of Japanese students from time to time. The North Galiano School closed its doors in 1953 when the students were bussed to the Galiano School. The teachers were :

Dr. Hance 1916	M. Waugh 1917-18
H. Taylor 1919-32	E. Levy 1932-35
S. Flitcroft 1935-39 and 1941-50	1 L. Sutherland 1940
M. Youell 1951	R. Beloud 1952
M. Georges 1953.	

The school is the main section of the North Galiano Community Hall.

The **South Galiano School** had a short life. It started in 1900 with teacher G. Macfarlane and Trustees R. Grubbe, A Cayzer and F. Sturdy. The Georgesons walked over 5 miles from Montague Harbour to the Valley School (as it was called) and Mr. Grubbe built a new school (Galiano) near Georgeson's Store at Bluff and Georgeson Roads. In 1906 the Trustees lent the desks to the Retreat Cove School when the South Galiano School moved to Whalers Bay. The old school closed at this point. The students then became a part of the **Galiano School** which has a history as outlined above. The next move occurred in 1920 when the **Galiano School** moved to the present day lumber yard site on land donated by Finlay Murchison. In 1952 the **Galiano School** moved to its present site on 15 acres donated by the Robson Family.

SILVEY SCHOOL

There was a small school called SILVEY on Reid Island, named after the family that inhabited that section of the island. The school was officially incorporated into the SALTSPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT in 1945. SILVEY started as a shed on stilts on the waterfront. A former student, Mrs Harm, recalled that the students had to keep the logs away from the foundation otherwise the structure might collapse in a storm.

SILVEY SCHOOL was moved to a refurnished house near the cemetery where it just managed to stay open owing to its small enrollment. The school was open in 1941, closed in 1942-43, and reopened in 1944-45 when the incorporation took place. The teachers at the school included L. Williams, Mr. Levy, Miss Wiley, Miss Rosenberg, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. Windoor and Mr. and Mrs. Cooper. It is believed that the school operated as a correspondence school from time to time. SILVEY SCHOOL closed in 1947.

SATURNA ISLAND SCHOOL

The first school on **SATURNA ISLAND** was built in 1919, withr great difficulty as the lumber for it had to be hauled over rough ground by horse and wagon. Another problem was over the site for the school. It was solved by starting two persons to walk from either end of the island. Where they met was the chosen place. Now there is a modern two room school at Lyall Harbour.

from

Gulf Island Patchwork pp 60.

SATURNA ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was opened in 1919 with Mrs. H. W. Page as teacher. The teachers that taught at Saturna are in order:

Mrs. H.W. Page 1919-20
 Miss E Tarbuck 1921-22
 Miss L Burnett 1923-24
 Miss K. Chappel 1925-26
 Miss I. Harris 1927
 Miss A Wish 1928.
 Miss K Price 1929
 1930 **closed for one year**
 Miss E Currie 1931
 Miss A Morris 1932-35
 Mrs C Edison 1936-39
 Mrs M Narrowway 1940
 1941-45 **closed**

When the school was reopened in 1946 with 9 students, it was incorporated into SCHOOL DISTRICT #64 (Saltspring). The site of the old school was near the cemetery. The site of the new school is on land donated by Mr Jim Money who gave one lot. The second lot was purchased by the Board of School Trustees to complete the grounds.

The consolidation of the school district proceeded as follows:

1946

School District #64(Salt Spring)

Salt Spring United	245
Beaver Point	18
Galiano North	20
Isabella Point	15
Mayne Island	26
Pender Island	23
Saturna Island	9
Silvey	11
South Galiano	21

1949

	Students
Salt Spring Elem/Senior High	300
Beaver Point	11
Galiano North	20
Isabella Point	15
Mayne Island	23
Pender Island	23
Saturna	10
Retreat Cove	11
Galiano	40

	Student enrollment			
	1949	1950	1951	1952
Salt Spring Elem/Senior High	300	293	289	309
Beaver Point	11	12	11	closed
Galiano North	20	20	18	21
Isabella Point	15	17	16	closed
Mayne Island	23	33	33	28
Pender Island	23	25	27	21
Saturna Island	10	13	13	15
Retreat Cove	11	8	12	closed
Galiano	40	36	35	39

Galiano North was closed in June, 1953.

	Student enrollment			
	1957	1958	1961	1965
Salt Spring Elem/High School	331	375	382	449
Galiano Superior	59	51	50	29
Mayne Island	24	14	14	12
Pender Island	18	32	30	26
Saturna Island	8	13	26	20

In 1966, Salt Spring Elementary High School was split when the Gulf Islands Secondary School was opened.

	1966	1978
Gulf Islands Secondary School	226	360
Galiano Island	38	47
Mayne Island	17	72
Pender Island	23	67
Salt Spring Elementary	316	451
Saturna Island	26	21

The Ministry of Education reports the buildings officially opened in the following years:

Fernwood.....	September 1978
Fulford.....	September 1984
Salt Spring Elementary	September 1936
Gulf Islands Secondary.....	September 1966
Mayne Island	September 1949
Saturna Island.....	September 1951
Galiano Island.....	September 1952.
Pender Island.....	September 1978

Summary of school opening and closing dates:

1919 Saturna 1941-5 closed open

1864 Vesuvius 1940 closed

1864 Vesuvius North 1882-91 closed 1940 closed

1873 Burgoyne Bay 1941 closed

1905 Isabella Point 1951 closed

1911 Cranberry Marsh 1924-6 closed 1928 closed

1896-1911 closed 1911-13 Ganges/Divide closed 1918 1921 1940

1885 Beaver Point 1951 closed

1918 Ganges Harbour SSE/GISS

1883 Mayne Island open

1896 Pender Island open

18
Pender Island South

1923 1942 closed

1892 1908 closed Galiano open

1897 1898-1904 closed Retreat Cove 1910-2 closed
*** *****

1924-31 closed 1940-6 closed 1951 closed

1916 Galiano North 1953 closed

1900 Galiano South 1906 closed amalgamated with Galiano
