



Vic High Archive 65



Coll Mark & Kathie Aitken



Parfitt Family Collection



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FERNWOOD THEN AND NOW



I-30804 RBCM, BC Archives



flowering currant
GOERT

Lekwungen-speaking Songhees people populated southern Vancouver Island prior to colonial settlement. Captain Vancouver, arriving in 1792 described the area as enchantingly beautiful, not realizing that the land was not wild but cultivated.



swamp lantern



fawn lily
GOERT



shooting star
GOERT



camas



PN08891 RBCM, BC Archives



T.Gregg Eligh/Belfry Theatre

COMMUNITY GREEN MAP

The Swengwhung family group migrated from an older village in Cadboro Bay after Fort Victoria was built in 1843. Land to the east of Spring Ridge was Chilcowitch territory. In 1850 both the Chilcowitch and Swengwhung signed treaties with Hudson Bay agent James Douglas for 30 and 75 pounds sterling respectively. Many now consider these treaties questionable and the land unceded.

Songhees women used seasonal burning and weeding to increase the blue camas bulb ('Kwetla'). Camas bulbs, their primary food starch, were harvested in early summer and baked in underground pits to be eaten fresh or dried for winter use or trading. Currently, camas cultivation is being revived.