

A History of Ganges, and Remaining Old Buildings
2018

Greetings.

- Firstly, I've carefully stated that this will be "a" history of Ganges, not "the" history. (For one thing, that would take a whole book. And even then, it would be incomplete. Besides, what is "history"? Experts may say it is taking place right now, every day).
- Secondly, I won't be going into First Nations history, pre settlement in 1859. An expert on that is Chris Arnett, who gave a presentation here a few years ago.

I'll be talking about:

- 1) Where the name Ganges came from,
- 2) An incident that happened at the end of Ganges Harbour in 1860,
- 3) Salt Spring's original main settlement being at Central in the 1800's, and its shift to Ganges in the early 1900's,
- 4) My hypothesis that Ganges wouldn't exist in its present form if current regulations had been in place "back then",
- 5) Aerial views of Ganges, as developments took place,
- 6) The origin of remaining old buildings (plus a few that don't exist anymore).

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*** Feel free to ask questions as we go.**

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(A) For those of you who don't know Frank:

- * He lived on Saturna for 30 years before he came to Salt Spring 15 years ago.
- * He's a real "techie", when it comes to computers. He is heavily involved with our SS Historical Society, and with it's Archives section in particular.
- * He is their webmaster.
- * Go to www.saltspringarchives.com and you'll find a vast amount of historical material he has uploaded about our Island history, in the way of old photos and audio tapes. Check it out sometime.

Again, that's www.saltspringarchives.com

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- As a **benchmark date**, we'll use 1859
 - That's when the first settlers arrived on Salt Spring.
 - That's not really a long time ago, when put into perspective. If you were born in 1938 (or earlier), and if we were to go backward in time for the same number of years that we have come forward, you would be greeting the first settlers on their arrival.

Settlement was scattered. One of the first was at Fernwood... Beggs Settlement.

- {photo looking up the harbour}

-If you were one of those settlers in 1859, you may have seen the HMS Ganges coming down the harbour. (Photo)

“ HMS GANGES”

* Ganges was named after HMS Ganges...a flagship that served in these waters from **1857 to 1860 (just a year or two before and after the first settlers arrived).**

- Built in Bombay, 1821. Sold out of the service in 1929, and broken up in 1930.

- It was the last **wind-powered** British naval ship to carry an admiral’s flag. (Rear Admiral Sir Robert Lambert Baynes. (Pacific Squadron, Esquimalt)

- (The Royal Navy started moving their Pacific Squadron headquarters north from Valparaiso, Chile, to Esquimalt in **1854**).

-Many of our place names came from ship’s officers of HMS Ganges

- **Baynes Peak** (on Mt. Maxwell), was named after the Admiral, Robert Lambert **Baynes**.

- **Fulford** was named after the Captain, John **Fulford**.

- **Burgoyne** was named after the Commander, **Hugh Talbot Burgoyne** (Victoria Cross, Crimean War).

- **Southey Point** was named after the Admiral’s secretary, **Richard Southey**.

- **Parminter Point** was named after the ship’s chaplain, **W.G. Parminter**.

* Model at the Bittancourt Museum (by Cole Harvey) **PHOTO**

* Transom from the captain’s gig: **PHOTO**
Original in Mouat’s store (plus much other Salt Spring history).

A replica in a cairn in Centennial Park.

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1860. Now for the incident that happened at the end of Ganges Harbour:

You may have heard of the “Ganges massacre”, when two “Indian” bands battled at the end of Ganges Harbour.

1) I first heard of it when I was a kid growing up here in the 1930s. I had heard that Walter Norton, an older employee at Mouat’s store, had witnessed it, from up a tree.
So one day I asked him if that was true. He said “**No, that was my father**”.

2) Many variations of this event have been told. But the most authoritative one was written by Mr. Lineker, one of the few witnesses. It was in his letter of July 9, 1860 to Governor James Douglas. He recounted that:

“On the 4th of July, at noon, a canoe with nine men, two boys and three women of the Bella Bella tribe came in here with a person named McAuley who had business with some of the settlers. While he was talking to me, the Cowichans numbering some fifty, who were encamped here & who on arrival of the Bella Bellas manifested an unfriendly spirit, but afterwards appeared friendly, a general fight ensued which lasted about an hour, and ended in the Cowichans killing eight of the other, and carrying off the women and boys as prisoners”.

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1864 100 ACRES WERE SET ASIDE FOR COMMUNITY USE AT CENTRAL

* In 1864 (5 years after the first settlers arrived) "the government" set aside 100 acres for community use at Central.

* "The government wasn't the provincial government, nor was it the federal government. They didn't exist yet.

* "The government" at the time was the British "Colony of Vancouver Island".

* In 1866 (7 years after the first settlers arrived) the Colony of Vancouver Island was merged with the Colony of British Columbia on the mainland.

* In 1871 (12 years after the first settlers arrived) the Colony of British Columbia (and Salt Spring) joined the Canadian Confederation and became the Province of British Columbia.



CENTRAL

* Going back to the 100 acres that were set aside at Central, it became the "commercial" and "cultural" centre for the island.

* It was central to both the Vesuvius and Fernwood "ports of call", for the steamers that passed around Salt Spring on their way to and from Victoria, Sidney and the coal mines in Nanaimo.

(Ganges was a "**destination**" port).

* A school... the island's first. Built in 1864. PHOTO

* Two churches... St. Mark's (Anglican), and "Vesuvius Bay Methodist".

* Stevens Boarding House (One of only two on the Island. The other was the Akerman's "Traveller's Rest", in Fulford)

* Broadwell's store (Opened 1892. Sold to Malcolm & Purvis in Jan. 1901)

* Post office... opened in 1875

* The first lending library (in the post office)

* Jail (2 cells)

* Central Hall... built in 1896 PHOTO

* The first telephone line (1897, from Broadwell's store to Rev. Wilson's "Barnsbury").

SETTLEMENT SHIFTED FROM "CENTRAL" TO GANGES
~ 1900-1914

PHOTO

GANGES DEVELOPMENTS, 1900-1914:

First, though, I'll elaborate on **why I believe** that Ganges wouldn't exist in its present form if current regulations had been in place "back then".

Let's have a look at an aerial photo taken ~ 1930. PHOTO

* ALR (Agricultural Land Reserve)

* Archeological requirements (First Nations) (skeletons).

* Environmental

a) foreshore (land filling)

b) swamp

c) fish bearing streams, (plus those that feed into them) and setbacks therefrom

AERIAL PHOTOS, PROGRESSIVE

Boardwalk: 1939

GANGES DEVELOPMENTS, 1900 – 1914:

Go back to last aerial

(We'll talk about many of these more later... as we view their buildings)

- * 1900 Reid Bittancourt was operating a store up Ganges hill
- * 1901. Fall Fair moved to Mahon Hall grounds
- * 1902. Mahon Hall opened.
- * 1902. New wharf built.
- * 1904. Malcolm & Purvis opened a new store and blacksmith shop, close to the wharf.
Mr. Purvis was "reducing the stock in his store at Central, his main business being at Ganges". (Per Ivan Mouat's "Commerce" write-up, from Rev. Wilson)
- * 1904. Reid Bittancourt built store and residence downtown. ("The Maples").
- * 1904 (Jan.). Creamery opened.
- * 1907 Jane Mouat and son Gilbert bought the store from Malcolm and Purvis
- * 1910 Mouat's bought Reid Bittancourt's store
- * 1911 St. Paul's (Anglican) Church built
- * 1911 McAfee's blacksmith shop opened.
- * 1912. Mouat's **new** store opened
- * 1912 (April). Mr. Ward subdivided a large property, previously owned by Leonard Tolson.
This virtually created the core for a "downtown Ganges"
It **created** Jackson, Hereford and McPhillips Avenues.
 - **Hereford Avenue** was named after Herefordshire in England, where Mr. Ward came from.
 - **McPhillips Avenue** was named after Albert Edward McPhillips, a Victoria lawyer, who represented Salt Spring in the Provincial legislature from 1907 to 1913)
 - **Jackson Avenue** wasn't named until a little later. It was named after Malcolm Bruce Jackson. He was a lawyer in Victoria, elected to represent us in the legislature in 1916. Served until 1924. Served for awhile as the Attorney-General.

Purchasers of his lots included:

- The Salt Spring Island Trading Company
- The Merchant's Bank of Canada
- Mr. Taylor (who built a large hotel)
- The "Dominion Government Telegraph and Telephone Service, British Columbia Division"
- **Plus** one lot **donated** to the Ganges Social Club (who built a club house/ 130 McPhillips)

- * 1914 The telephone exchange (on Hereford Ave.) went into service.
- * 1914 The Ganges Water & Power Company was established by John Charles Lang (of Lang Road), and brought water into Ganges in 1915 (first from a spring near the intersection of Cranberry and Fulford-Ganges Roads... followed later by a wood-stave pipeline all the way from Maxwell Lake.

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**1914 Lady Minto Hospital built*

ORIGIN OF REMAINING OLD BUILDINGS (AND SOME THAT AREN'T)

Harbour House Hotel:

- Originally the home of Fred Crofton and family, going back to around 1903
- In 1916 Mrs. (Nona) Crofton opened it as a hotel, helped by her brother Norman Wilson, while her husband was serving overseas in the WW1.
- Added onto in the 1920s
- Tennis courts built (clay).
- To Canadian championship standards
- Annual tournaments. Players came from all over. (Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle)
- Canada's #1 ranked men's player played here, as did the USA's #2 ranked player. One woman went on to play at **Wimbledon**.
Some commented that these were the **best courts they had ever played on**.
- Has been the scene of a murder (Herzog, the manager. Sept. 1973)
- Burned down in 1972.

* **All Saint's Church**

* **St. George's Church**

- Built 1939-40
- It replaced St. Paul's Church (built 1911) up at the corner of Dean and Fulford-Ganges Road, which burned down in 1938.

* **Mahon Hall**

- **1901.** The Farmers Institute (actually, **The Islands' Agricultural & Fruit Growers' Association**) purchased land from **Frank Scott**.
- Their Fall fair was held here in **1901**, opened by Premier Richard McBride. (previously held at Central, starting in 1896).
(Discontinued 1939 or 1940. Revived in 1976, by Mike and Bev Byron. Held there until 1982.)
- **1902.** Mahon Hall was opened.
 - Cost \$ 1,829 (one-half acre of land, \$40. Direct cost of hall, \$1122.98. Four acres of land for exhibition grounds,\$500. Survey, deeds, and lawyers fees, \$106.10. Total \$1,769.08, plus \$60 for paint in August
 - Borrowed \$1,000 from Ross Mahon on Dec. 18, 1901. (He was a bachelor, who arrived with his brother Henry in the 1880's. Sons of Ross Mahon, of Ladywell, Athlone, Ireland. Grandsons of Sir Ross Mahon, first Baronet of Castlegar, County Galway, Ireland. In 1901 Henry succeeded to the title held by his uncle, John King of

Ballylin, King's County, Ireland, and assumed the surname of King. Both brothers returned to Ireland. Ross returned almost immediately. **Ross died here on June 9, 1903**, at the age of 38. Buried in the Anglican Cemetery, on Baker Road.

- On Oct. 26, **1904** , at the 9th annual general meeting of the Association, a letter was read out by the Secretary, Rev. E.F. Wilson, from Messrs. Mahon, McFarland and Mahon of Vancouver, executors of the will of Ross Mahon, announcing that Ross's brothers & sisters would **return the mortgage** of \$1,000 if the association would place a **brass plate** bearing the words "**Mahon Memorial Hall**".

- Went "broke" in 1940, and sold (for \$1 ??) to the United School Board.

- Sheep sheds

* "**Chicken House**" high school (2 rooms. **Converted to a high school in 1925**)

* Aerial Photo of Farmer's Institute small property at the end of Rainbow Road (only **160 sq. ft.**) !

* Aerial photo showing log dumps, and the powder (dynamite) shed of Farmer's Institute.

*** Elementary School:**

- Opened April 1, 1940

- SSI CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

- Photo

- (Freda Mohrman died in 2014, age 101)

- Scattered schools throughout the island were closed, and students bussed to this new school. (**Burgoyne Bay, Divide, Ganges, Vesuvius-Central and Vesuvius North-Fernwood**). (Beaver Point and Isabella Point schools functioned until 1951).

- Financed one-half by "subscription". Gavin Mouat went around to various citizens, and said " I've got you down for X dollars"

* **Anderson's Bakery** building

* **Jam Factory** building

- A co-op

- Built **1922 - 3**

- Borrowed money from the government for 90 days. Couldn't repay. Struggled **until 1928**, when the directors were worried because there had been no strawberries produced for the past two years. (per Sidney Review, April 5, 1928).

- Property was up for sale in July 1929 (Per Sidney Review, July 11, 1929)

- Berry farmer suppliers weren't paid
- Berries delivered in wooden barrel halves. (25 lb. crates). Sugar added. Some men discovered that the juice was good for making wine.
- Cubs/scouts (I remember whispering a message around the circle)
- Later became the Island's first apartment building (Late 1940's ??)

* **Original telephone exchange** building

- **“Dominion Government Telegraph and Telephone Service, British Columbia Division”**
- Opened in **1914**. (Saanich Peninsula Review June 24, 1936 from a column “News Notes of Ganges-over 20 years before”)
- 130 subscribers in 1926.
- **Directory covered “ Ganges, Outer Islands and Sooke”**
- Elastic cords & plug-ins.
- Limited hours.
- Operators could track people down.
- Could ask them for the **correct time**. (Connected to the “outside world”. No CBC 10:00 A.M. time signal).
- **My favourite heritage building. Bought and restored a few years ago by Eddie Jang and his wife. Bless their hearts !**

* **Ex United Church** building

- Started off as the METHODIST CHURCH, at Central, in 1904.
- After the UNITED CHURCH was formed in 1926, it was dismantled piece by piece (by Reid Bittancourt) and re-assembled at this new location (in **1926**).
- Total cost \$ 300.
- Later became home to the Royal Canadian **Legion !**
- Then “et cetera”, and added onto

* **The “Manse”**

- Built for Reverend William Allen (1930)
(Daughter Ann married Colin Mouat, mother of Gil)

* **Assessor's old office** (Built for Mr. Speed, by Mr. Bullock, who thought he shouldn't have to climb stairs at his previous location)

- Moved into later by B.C. Tel (from their old building down the road), until 1964 when dial service replaced the switchboard.
- Currently House Piccolo.
- Glad's Ice Cream before that.

* **“Log Cabin”**

- Built late 1937, by Mr. Bullock.
- Built for one of his boys, who wanted to run a cafe (Alf Hougan)
- First cafe/restaurant on the Island
- Place where Mr. Bullock could have tea “out” in the mornings
- Second storey was added much later

* **Merchant’s Bank of Canada**

- Opened in 1913.
- Closed less than two years later. (“Operated from Oct. 22, 1913 to April 15, 1915” per Driftwood article 96-03-20, Pg. 25)
- Now the Stone Walrus

* **Hotel site** (across Hereford)

- Bought property from Mr. Ward in 1912.
- Hotel opened July 1913. Burned to the ground in October 1913.
- Site remained undeveloped until the present building was built (~1978).

- * Current building first occupied by Island Savings Credit Union.
- In the interim it was used by Mouat Bros. for their lumber yard.

* **Trading Company building**

- Built in 1912
- Investors included Mr. Bullock (Ivan Mouat has a storey on this)
- Shed for customer’s horses and carriages across the “alley”
- Gas pump in front
- Rolling ladders to reach high shelves (as late as 1956 or so)
- Reputation as serving Anglicans and Conservatives, while Mouat’s was considered as serving Methodists and Liberals.(See story re Mrs. Best on page 82 of Richard Toynebee’s “ Snapshots of Early Salt Spring”)
- Won a prize in 1995 for restoration of a heritage building (e.g. It’s the original chimney)

* **Bittancourt’s “ Shell” station (1935)**

(Started originally by Robert Justice, up the road, in 1932)

- Bert, and his father (Reid)
- Candies (Saturday allowance)
- Good place to get warm in the winter

* **Ganges Social Club**

- Land donated by Mr. Ward (who subdivided the area in 1912)
- Mr. McAfee (blacksmith) played a large part in this club.
- For men only
- Pool table
- In the 1930's it had become a residence, occupied by the Kingsburys

* **Ole Garner's** building

- Largely built in **1927-8**. This portion was never occupied by them. (They occupied a one-storey portion to the rear)
- Construction was completed by Mr. Henn for his family (Wife, 3 daughters and 2 sons) (We used to call it "the hen house")
- Rex Theatre. Operated by Mr. Henn. Friday & Saturday evenings, plus Saturday Matinee
- Format: A cartoon. Movietone news. Preview of next week's main feature. Then the main feature (often a serial)

* **Creamery:** (Ref. Mort Stratton, May 27, 1981 Driftwood, page 17 + Ivan Mouat's History of Commerce)

- Organized as a co-op.
- 500 shares at \$10 each
- By May of 1903 \$2,000 had been subscribed for, and a government loan of \$1,500 was available.
- Harry Bullock, Pres., Edward Walter, Sec., S.T. Conery, W.E. Scott, Geoff Scott, J. Harrison, J.R.P Legh, James Horel, Ed Lee
- Contractor was A.R. Bittancourt ("who was just completing construction of Mahon Hall")
- Cornerstone was laid by Mrs. W.E. Scott.
- Building opened in **1904**. (Got off to a good start, when the Victoria Creamery burned down. Processed here).
- Became a "Limited Company" in 1927
- Shafts; belts flapping; steam; mezzanine testing/office area
- Cordwood. Ice blocks buried in sawdust pits.
- Skimmed milk/ curds, picked up by farmers for their pigs
- In **May 1906** the SSI Creamery **made 6,300 pounds (3+ tons) of butter.**
(Ref. Farmers' Institute "Win Taste and Show" cookbook, after recipe # 76).
- World-renowned butter. Won many prizes, including one Canada-wide competition, at the Canadian National exhibition in Toronto.
- Served to royalty during their 1939 visit (as well as SSI lamb)
- Managed by Mr. Arthur Drake for 37 years, until he retired in 1949.

* **Our Lady of Grace (R.C.) Church**

- Ex Ganges Elementary school.
- Two rooms. Grades 1-4 in one. Grades 5-8 in the other.
- No running water. (Outhouse, boys on one side. Girls on the other)
- No electricity (until after it was brought to the island in 1937).

* **Original Lady Minto Hospital**

- Opened in 1914
- Moved to present location in 1958
- Built on land donated by Dr. Beech.

* **St. Paul's Church**

- Corner of Dean Road.
- Anglican
- Built 1911
- Burned down in 1938
- Replaced by St. George's church, in turn by All Saints

* **McAfee's Blacksmith Shop** 1911

- Glowing forge
- Shoeing horses
- according to press reports, "now carries a full line of ploughs, harrows, separators, fencing and other farm requisites."
- Deer hanging during hunting season
- Paid 5 cents apiece for golf balls he'd drive off a platform at the end of the building
- When we moved to Vancouver in 1943 I couldn't understand why none of my city friends had never seen a blacksmith shop.

* **Cenotaph**

- Relocated to Centennial Park
- 1917 Honour Roll (names of 140 Islanders who enlisted, including 14 those killed.
(That's a **huge** percentage, considering that the population of the Island was around 900 or so in 1912)..

* **Log Dumps:**

- Used by Reynolds, Howards, & others. (Leased from Frank Scott, who had earlier sold some of his land to the Farmer's Institute).

* **Log booms**

(All water , back to the isthmus)

- Challenge was to go entirely on floating logs, from the logs dumps, over to Mouat's.
- Periodically told not to by (school authorities?).

* **Powder shed:** Farmer's Institute
 Later for sacks of feed

* **Narrow isthmus (tombolo)**
 - Mud flats on harbour side, & narrow clamshell beach above high tide line.
 Octopodi.
 - Mud on the north side. (School of herring once got trapped by logs)

* **Bank of Montreal**
 - After WW11. Two staff two days a week in rented space in the Ganges Inn.
 - In 1950 purchased present site and established a permanent branch. (Per Ivan Mouat's "Commerce" write-up)

* **Toynbee's** machine shop

* **Ganges Inn**
 (Operated by Mr. & Mrs. Baker. Daughter was Nan Patterson, of Patterson's Store, in Fulford. Grandchildren are Bruce Patterson & Gladys Campbell). (Mrs. Baker was a sister of Dr. Lawson's)

* **Cars parked up the "Grace Point" hill,** for starting later. Blocks in front of wheels.
 Set choke and throttle levers. Turn crank. Dash back to controls.

MOUAT'S
 ("Centre of the Universe")

* **Store.**
 - Operated initially out of the Ganges Inn building
 - Bought in 1907 from Malcolm & Purvis, after Mr. Malcolm died suddenly (Joe Malcolm and Percy Purvis were cousins as well as brothers-in-law. Joe Malcolm married Percy's sister, and Percy married Joe's sister).
 - Purvis had previously had a store at Central. Malcolm was a blacksmith
 - Bought Reid Bittancourt's store business in 1910

- Present building opened in Sept. 1912.
- It was the main commercial centre of the Island.
- Provided a wide range of goods and services.

Groceries, hardware, work clothes, dry goods, shoes, sporting goods, guns, ammunition, stationery, Ford dealership, Imperial Oil agent...

- They also bought **logs** from various loggers, **eggs, farm produce**, and sold them on their behalf.

- They also sold **insurance** and **real estate**.
- Also looked after **funerals**.
- You name it, they had it. If they didn't have it they would bring it in for you.
- Closed two days a week. Sundays and Wednesdays. Later only ½ day

Wednesdays.

- Saturdays open until 8:00.

- Delivered groceries. (Great fun to go along on their delivery route, nestled in a corner at the back of their pickup truck. Experimented once to see if an object thrown upward while the truck was driving would fall back down into our hands, or be left behind where it was thrown up).

* Feed shed.

- Sacks and sacks and sacks, various kinds
- Egg candling. Glass cutting.

WHARVES

* Freight Shed

- For **in**-bound cargo.
- Freight going **out** included a variety of agricultural products. Sheep.
Some pigs.
Crates of apples, eggs, butter, chickens

* Government float

- PML (Police Motor Launch) No. 6 (Mr. Tweedhope)

* Imperial oil dock and tanks

BOAT DAYS

- "Boat" day was a major event.
- Princess Mary. Built in Paisley, Scotland, 1910
- 3 sailings per week to Vancouver... Tue., Thurs., Sat. (1931 - 1951)
Called in also on Monday's, with rolls of newsprint aboard, from Powell River, for Victoria.

- We kids would run to grab the lines, for tying up. Vied with Bill Page, who managed Mouat's feed shed, and who assumed the responsibility for tying-up and releasing the ship's lines.

- Brought mail ("Pop" Eaton was first one aboard).... and ICE CREAM ! (Mr. Simpson).

- Throwing "dry ice" (carbon dioxide?) "refrigerant" pads off the dock

- All freight unloaded on 2-wheel carts. Occasionally a car on slings from the deck

- Knew all passengers, or who they were, or who they were visiting.

- Aboard: Linen, silver, piano, snacks counter at the rear.

- In June 1899, Rev. Wilson wrote in his journal **"It is reported that the steamboats calling here are not to be allowed to retail liquor as has been the custom hereto.**

The bar is closed while the vessel is in port". (Ref. Farmers Institute "Win, Taste and Show" 1979 cookbook, after recipe #37)

- Later, circa 1907, **per E.R.Cartwright in his book "A Late Summer", wrote:**

"On boat days we congregated at Ganges wharf to meet the boat, supposedly to get the mail, but actually on the chance of getting the purser of the Iroquois to relent, to open the bar and let us have a drink. The said purser, when he was feeling his best, might even be persuaded to part with a bottle of whiskey".

Misc. Notes

* Captain Richards named Admiral Island, and Admiralty Bay when surveying these waters, and shortly after the base of the Royal Navy's Pacific fleet was moved to Esquimalt from Valparaso, Chile.

The names were officially changed to Salt Spring Island and Ganges Harbour by the Geographic Board of Canada in 1906

(e.g. As far back as the 1870s voters lists, they referred voters' residency as "Ganges Harbour")

* 10 years earlier, Britain had "officially" colonized Vancouver Island, but entered into an agreement with the HBC to "govern" it. In return for a payment of 7 shillings, and on condition that revenues from land sales be used to establish colonists. A Charter of Grant, dated Jan.13, 1849, was issued.

- On May 30, 1859, when the HBC "lease" expired, Britain assumed direct responsibility for the Colony of Vancouver Island.

* The first-hand write-up of the Ganges massacre in 1860 came from the Archives' "Book Project" pdf, page 33 of 103

* Settlers' properties were referred to as "ranches"

* Fred Howard applied for renewal of his log dump and storage at the head of Ganges Harbour in 1981 (Ref. May 27, 1981 Driftwood)

* **Mr. Ward's house** on the right (Charles Tolson's prior to that. Or was it Leonard Tolson?)

- Later a private school. Formby House. (Operated by Miss Ashley, who advertised in England for a headmaster. Mr. Oxenham came out . They later married ????)

- Operated by the Oxenhams
- Then by Mr. Cropper (1935-1940)
- "Guy Fawkes Day" (Nov. 5)
- Grades 1 - 8. Both boys and girls.

- **Donkersley residence** (Mrs. Donkersley was a Bellhouse)

- **Goodman Funeral Home**

* **Bittancourt's " The Maples"**

- Wide verandah
- Reid Bittancourt, and his brother Estalon, came to SSI in the 1880s. They built many buildings, including "The Maples, the original Vesuvius Inn, the Creamery.
- "The Maples", built for his family in **1904**, originally included a general Store. The store business was sold to Mouat's in 1910).
- His boats were the WINIMAC and the VICTOR, used for towing and carrying freight.
- Reid Bittancourt served as an officer in charge of Canadian Customs at Ganges, until the post was discontinued. (Was the only one who couldn't be "bought")
- Sons Bert & Lyndall
- Meeting place for Ganges Methodists.
- Provincial Police office, jail and magistrate's court.
- Reid later built & operated the Shell service station, with son Bert.
- **From 1945** until its demolition in **1965** it accomodated the office and nursing home of Dr. Arnold Francis.