



Cowichan Valley Forest Museum

An Adventure Into the Rugged Past of the Cowichan District

One mile north of Duncan, in a beautiful natural setting, on the shores of Somenos Lake, the early history of Cowichan comes alive for you.

Here in a remnant of the virgin forest which once covered most of the Cowichan District, and what is now the City of Duncan, can be seen Douglas Fir trees, five feet in diameter and 180 feet tall. These trees were 100 years old when Capt. James Cook made his first voyage to Vancouver Island in 1778.

From the station, NORTH COWICHAN, excited passengers are hauled by some of the few remaining steam logging locomotives. The mile-long, narrow-gauge railway winds through the trees, over fills and under bridges, and crosses a bay on Somenos Lake upon a 300-foot trestle.

An outdoor exhibit of heavy machines, now being assembled, recalls the hectic days of skid-road and steam-age logging in the Cowichan Valley.

A log-museum building is being built to house historic old records and photographs, close to the site of the first public building which was erected in the Cowichan District 100 years ago.

